

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

The Township of Melancthon Parks and Recreation Board held a meeting on January 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Chair Bill Neilson, Vice-Chair David Thwaites, Members Darren White, Ruth Plowright, Jessica Plowright, Lynn Hodgson and Doug Read, also present was Becky Cunnington, Parks and Recreation Board Secretary. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair (Conducted by Secretary)

Moved by R. Plowright, Seconded by Hodgson that Bill Neilson be appointed as the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board of the Township of Melancthon. Carried.

Moved by R. Plowright, Seconded by Hodgson that David Thwaites be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board of the Township of Melancthon. Carried.

Land Acknowledgement

Chair Neilson shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Additions/Deletions/Approval of Amended Agenda

None.

Deletions

None.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Read, Seconded by Hodgson that the agenda be approved as presented. Carried.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

No declaration declared at this time.

General Business

1. 2026 Meeting Dates & Location

The Board discussed the frequency of meetings and determined they would meet once per month for now and then discuss again after Melancthon Weekend Celebrations. Meeting Dates have been set for the fourth Monday of the month except for June which will be the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in person at the Township of Melancthon Municipal Office.

Meeting Schedule:
February 23
March 23
April 27
May 25
June 15

2. Riverview Park Update

Member Plowright advised that after a site visit with a contractor it was determined that the proposed location would not be suitable for a walking trail as it was much smaller than anticipated and had a significant slope to the river. The Board discussed the possibility of going out to do an on site visit of both properties in Riverview in the spring. It was decided that the Board would like to keep the Riverview Park on the agenda for further discussion.

3. Horning's Mills Park – Backstop Netting/Screen

At the last meeting Members were directed to check out other ball diamonds to see what types of backstop/screens were used to get ideas for the Horning's Mills Diamond. No diamonds observed had anything other than the chain link fence, however the material used on the diamond surface may have been a different mix than what is currently used. The Board then discussed looking into grants or funding from the Blue Jays foundation to facilitate upgrades to the diamond. Member R. Plowright advised that she had a brief conversation with the Township Treasurer regarding this and that the deadline had been missed. Vice-Chair Thwaites volunteered to reach out to the Township Treasurer and get more information.

4. Corbetton Park – Slide, Trees, Community Message Board & Library Box

Slide – Member R. Plowright advised that an estimate had been obtained by Member J. Plowright which included the slide and installation and has been given to the Township Treasurer. Township Staff advised that the current amount allocated for the Parks & Recreation Budget was based on the operating and event costs from the previous year and the original amount estimated for the slide.

Trees – A discussion was had about the feasibility of planting trees at the Corbetton Park for shade, there were concerns that the Park may be too wet in areas to support growth as well as the time it would take for the trees to mature to provide shade. Member R. Plowright suggested looking into shade sails or something similar be installed. The Board agreed this would be a good option and something they would like completed in 2026. Member White volunteered to assist with creating and installing shade covers.

Community Message Board – Member White advised that he would be donating the materials and time to complete this project.

Library Boxes – Member R. Plowright advised the Board of a project she has initiated to have small Library Boxes installed at the Horning’s Mills Hall and would like to also have installed at the Corbetton Park. She is looking for student volunteers to build boxes, one for Adult books and one for Children’s books at each location. The Library has agreed to donate books for the boxes.

5. Letter for Funding

Member R. Plowright advised that she had reached out to some local places but found they had already donated to other events and causes in the area. The Board discussed putting this on hold as they felt there were no projects for 2026 that needed funding. It was decided that the canvassing for funding be placed on hold for now.

6. Melancthon Day Theme & Timing

The Board discussed plans for the 2026 Melancthon Weekend Celebrations. As part of the discussion, the Board talked about the possibility of reaching out to an Indigenous group to see if they would be interested in participating by offering a cultural education and learning opportunity for residents, such as storytelling or dance. Member White will reach out to a contact to see if there is any interest in them participating.

The Board also discussed adjustments to the event schedule, it was recommended that the event start later, at 5:00 or 6:00 p.m.

Dufferin County Line has reached out to Member R. Plowright as they are interested in playing at the event.

The Board confirmed the weekend would continue as a three-day event, consisting of:

- **Friday:** BBQ in Corbetton
- **Saturday:** Melancthon Day at Horning’s Mills Park
- **Sunday:** Breakfast in Riverview

The event budget was reviewed, and the board decided they would like to increase the food and fireworks budget this year.

7. 2026 Projects & Events

The Board discussed the proposed projects and events for 2026, as well as additional initiatives they would like to consider. In addition to the projects and events already discussed, the Board expressed interest in hosting a Touch a Truck event at Horning's Mills Park, potentially in July. The event would include inviting an ice cream truck and coffee truck vendors, as well as local fire departments, Public Works vehicles, car collectors, and similar participants. The event would be free to attend but donations accepted if people wish.

The Board also reviewed the estimated costs and overall budget for the proposed events and projects. It was determined that an increase to last year's budget would be required, and that a recommendation would need to be brought forward to Council for consideration.

8. Other/Additions

None.

Recommendations to Council

The Parks and Recreation Board discussed the projects and community events it would like to see completed in 2026.

As a result of the discussion the Board recommends that Council consider including the following items in the 2026 budget:

- **Corbetton Park Slide** – \$32,387.33 (inclusive of installation and HST)
- **Corbetton Park Shade Sails / Shade Structure** – \$1,500
- **Melancthon Weekend Celebrations** – \$7,000
- **Replacement of the Horning's Mills Park Sign** – \$1,000

Public Question Period

None.

Confirmation Motion

Moved by Hodgson, Seconded by J. Plowright that all actions of the Members and Officers of the Parks and Recreation Board with respect to every matter addressed and/or adopted by the Board on the above date are hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed; and each motion, resolution and other actions taken by the Board Members at the meeting held on the above date are hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed. Carried.

Adjournment

7:20 p.m. - Moved by Hodgson, Seconded by J. Plowright that we adjourn this Parks and Recreation Board meeting to meet again on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. or at the call of the Chair. Carried.

CHAIR

SECRETARY