

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

The Township of Melancthon Parks and Recreation Board held a virtual meeting on February 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Chair Bill Neilson, Vice-Chair David Thwaites, Members Jessica Plowright, Ruth Plowright, Lynn Hodgson, Doug Read and Darren White, also present was Becky Cunnington, Parks and Recreation Board Secretary. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Chair Neilson shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Additions/Deletions/Approval of Amended Agenda

Additions

Winter Use of the Parks – Member J. Plowright

Deletions

None

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Thwaites, Seconded by Read that the agenda be approved as amended. Carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Hodgson, Seconded by J. Plowright that the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Board Meeting held on January 26, 2026, be approved as circulated. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes

None

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

No declaration declared at this time.

General Business

1) Addition

1. Winter Use of Parks

Member J. Plowright mentioned there currently wasn't access to the Corbetton Park due to the snow and wondered if this was the intention or if the parks could be utilized in the winter months. A discussion was had about the possibility of having access to both the Corbetton and

Horning's Mills Parks for the winter months. There was also discussion about the clearing of the parking lot at the Corbetton Park. It was noted that the current staff and resources may not support this at this time. Member White also suggested that community volunteers may need to be relied on to support initiatives depending on what they would like to see implemented. Staff were directed to reach out to the Public Works Superintendent to inquire what resources, equipment and staffing would be required to have access to the parks in the winter. The Board also discussed creating a survey to circulate to the public to inquire if they would like access to the parks in the winter and what other recreation needs, programs or initiatives they would like to see. Members are to work on questions that could be included in the survey, and they will be discussed at the April meeting.

1) Unfinished Business

1. Riverview Park – Deferred

2. Horning's Mills Park

i. Blue Jay Grant

Vice-Chair Thwaites will reach out to the current users of the ball diamond to discuss the possibility of a partnership and if they are willing to commit to a certain number of days or usage of the ballpark then the board would consider applying for the grant to facilitate improvements at the ball diamond.

ii. Rental Income 2025

The Board had no questions or comments regarding the 2025 Rental Income Report that was circulated.

iii. 2026 Confirmed Rentals

Township Staff advised that both the Men's League and Women's League that had rented the ball diamond last year have sent in their deposits and rental agreements for 2026. Mansfield Minor Ball had reached out but had not yet committed to specific dates.

3. Corbetton Park

i. Slide

ii. Shade Covers/Sails

iii. Community Message Board

iv. Library Boxes

Items i.-iv. were discussed, the slide and sunshade projects are on hold until the budget is passed. The community message board and library boxes will move forward once the weather turns nicer.

4. Melancthon Day

Member R. Plowright shared that OPP Officer McLean is interested in trying to organize and run a ball tournament for Melancthon Day. She also suggested that the park could be licensed again for alcohol and that the hours for the event may need to be adjusted again if the ball tournament does happen. She inquired if Blitzful Treats would be interested in serving food for lunch instead of just treats and then the Mulmur Melancthon Fire Department could run their BBQ for dinner. Chair Neilson will reach out to Blitzful Treats to see if the vehicle they will have at the event would be able to do both treats and food for lunch. Member Hodgson was asked if she would look after organizing the fireworks, bouncy castle and kids raffle baskets again this year which she agreed to. Member R. Plowright volunteered to look after the organization of the food needed for the events over the weekend.

5. 2026 Projects & Events

Touch a Truck Event

Further discussion was had about moving forward with the Touch a Truck Event to be held in early August. Chair Neilson will reach out to the Shelburne Fire Department to see if they would be interested in bringing out some equipment for the event. It was also discussed to reach out to Officer McLean to see if the OPP would be able to bring a cruiser. Member Read will reach out to the owner of a Tow Mater replica to see if they would be available to bring the vehicle to the event. Other suggestions for vehicles that were discussed were Farm Equipment, Township Roads Equipment and an Ambulance. A date will be set based on the availability of the Tow Mater vehicle.

2) Brainstorming

1. Partnership with the County to Promote the Trail

Member Thwaites suggested the Township consider a partnership with the County of Dufferin to help promote the rail trail and events or activities associated with it. A discussion was had and the Board decided to make a recommendation to Council to do so.

Recommendation to Council

The Parks and Recreation Board discussed partnering with the County of Dufferin to promote activities and events utilizing the Dufferin Rail Trail.

As a result of the discussion the Board recommends that Council support the Parks and Recreation Board's recommendation to explore a partnership with the County of Dufferin to collaboratively promote activities and events utilizing the Dufferin Rail Trail

That staff be directed to engage with the County to determine opportunities for joint marketing, community programming, and event coordination, and report back to Council with further details as appropriate.

Public Question Period

None.

Confirmation Motion

Moved by Read, Seconded by Thwaites 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

8:21 p.m. - Moved by Hodgson, Seconded by Read that we adjourn this Parks and Recreation Board meeting to meet again on Monday March 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. or at the call of the Chair. Carried.

CHAIR

SECRETARY