



Parks Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 26th, 2026, 6:30 pm
Talbotville Sports Park, 51 Optimist Drive
Agenda

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

- a) July 15, 2025 Parks Committee
- b) March 26, 2026 Parks Committee & Keystone Complex Committee

Recreational Program Update

- a) Shedden Youth Soccer
- b) Shedden Adult Soccer
- c) Talbotville Member At Large
- d) Fingal Heritage Park
- e) Talbotville Optimist Club
- f) Ferndale Community Park

Businesses Arising From Minutes

New Business

Next Meeting and Adjournment



TOWNSHIP OF
Southwold

Parks Committee

**July 15, 2025
Corsley Park
9210 Union Road, Shedden
6:30 PM**

Present: Councillor Scott Fellows
Michelle Lackey – Shedden Adult Soccer
Ross Burgar – Fingal Heritage Park
Ruth Quennville – Talbotville Optimist Club
Jesse Walker – Shedden Soccer
Rod Hill – Ferndale Park Representative
Brittany Jessome – *Staff Resource

Regrets: Councillor Justin Pennings (Chair)
Janice Fisher – Talbotville Member at Large
Krista Ferguson – Talbotville Ladies Soccer
John Price – *Staff, Parks and Facilities Operator

1. Call to Order

Chair Scott Fellows called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Parks Committee hereby adopts the Agenda as presented.

3. Adoption of Minutes from May 20, 2025 Meeting

The Parks Committee hereby adopt the minutes of May 20, 2025, as presented.

4. Recreational Program Update

Scott Fellows provided an introduction to Charles Annett, the potential candidate to represent the Fingal Ball Park on the committee. Charles provided a quick bio on himself and his history with ball in the community. Each committee member introduced themselves and what organization they represent.

Talbotville Ladies Soccer – No Representative

Shedden Youth Soccer – Michelle Lackey and Steve Bushell

Only one night has been missed so far this season due to heat. There are four (4) weeks left for the youth leagues. The executives are busy preparing for the year end fun tournament on August 16th, 2025. They have been made aware that Dutton Minor Ball is hosting their year end tournament on the same day, so they do expect lower attendance.

At the end of the meeting, questions were raised about the storage solutions for the club. Brittany will follow up with senior management.

Shedden Adult Soccer – Michelle Lackey and Steve Bushell

The women's league haven't missed any dates this season. There are six (6) weeks remaining for the league.

Talbotville Member at Large – Submitted via email by Janice Fisher

Majority of trees planted last year have survived and are showing signs of growth

Walking trail around the Sports Parks is better but could use a bit of maintenance in a couple areas with weeds/uneven/loose surface material.

The new sidewalk connecting Shady Lane and Optimist Drive is great and getting lots of use. Perhaps some type of low focussed solar lights could be considered for the walkway as there is no natural or street lighting in that area.

Tree trunk over trail in Deer Ridge was previously reported, thank you Scott for forwarding that to KCCA

Neighbour living where entry to Heritage Park used to be has now put up a wooden fence alongside the old chain link fence. They also 'opened' what would have been the gate so it looks a bit strange. Should the township now remove the chain link? – Scott commented that the gate has been removed, and the fence will be coming down as well at a future date.

Fingal Heritage Park – Ross Burgar

Ross commented that John and his crew have been doing a great job with maintenance of the park. The final accessible picnic table has been installed. They are still wondering if the remainder of the maple tree can be removed. Brittany will follow-up as on the spreadsheet it lists under investigation.

At the end of the meeting, Ross questioned if there was an update from the Parks and Trails Master Plan. Scott commented that they expect to receive a compilation soon of all the feedback submitted as well as some suggestions from Pl.ural.

Talbotville Optimist Club – Ruth Quenneville

The family game nights are still well attended. The community comes out even with the significant heat. There haven't been any new requests for equipment replacement.

Ferndale Community Park – Rod Hill

Wood chips were placed in the washed-out areas at the south end of the trail. It's been a very dry summer but it should help with the water pooling.

Mulch is still needed for the playground. Brittany updated that it should be coming very soon.

Fingal Ball Park – Charles Annett

The league and community is very pleased that there were able to run five (5) full youth teams in their first season of operation. There is a U7, U9, U11, U13/15 and U20 team this year. The diamond is used most nights of the week between the youth league and other adult leagues that play there.

The U20 team has qualified for National Championships in Saskatoon this year. The Township will share on social media to provide encouragement from the community to the team.

Charles commented that the township crew has done well with the maintenance and ensuring the diamonds are prepared for games.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

a. Keystone Grounds and Parks Maintenance Concerns Spreadsheet

Corsley Park Concerns:

Michelle asked about the eavestrough that is still hanging from the Teetzel barn. In the spreadsheet it indicates that it will be a budget item next year, but it was questioned if that was to replace all of the eavestrough? In the meantime, the section hanging needs to be repaired/temporarily reattached to prevent it from falling on anyone. Brittany will follow-up.

There were also concerns with several of the outlets at the pavilion at Corsley. There is one outlet in particular that the Soccer club uses where the entire unit comes apart and exposes wires. This will be fixed immediately. Other outlets are loose and not properly secured to the posts. Brittany will follow up with Parks Operators to have this fixed.

They also asked if there is a plan for repair for all the various field condition concerns in the spreadsheet. It was advised that staff have inspected and that work can't be completed while the regular season is occurring.

Corsley often has broken glass bottles on the playground/pavilion area. Typically, soccer executives find it when they come to set-up the fields. The Township will monitor.

It was questioned if a park sign for Corsley would be installed. Brittany will follow-up with staff.

Fingal Ball Park Concerns:

Charles requested additional garbage cans placed at each 1st base dugouts.

The 1st base posts at the 60 ft mark need to be raised. The 2nd base post could also be raised.

Base plugs are still missing on the first diamond after the Canada Day celebrations.

The men's washroom door hasn't been locking automatically. It was requested if we could change the locking time to 11:30 pm to accommodate those staying after the game.

He also asked if there are any storage opportunities at the ball park for the minor ball equipment. Brittany will look into the options.

The Fingal Ball Park sign has been laying in the grass for some time.

b. Put Yourself in the Parks Contest

We have completed 4 weeks of the Parks contest. Typically have 25-30 entries per week. We have 16 photo entries currently for the bonus entries as well. This contest has been participated in much more than last year's.

Some of the photos submitted aren't of the featured park as noted in the requirements. The committee discussed this, as well as comments that didn't follow the directions as well. It was

determined that all photos would qualify for bonus entries, but if the comments weren't following the directions, they would not be included in the contest.

The committee discussed sending out formal thank-you cards to all the sponsors of the contest. Ross shared that he has already provided and delivered thank-you letters himself, but the committee felt that a formal card from the Township would be a good addition as well.

c. Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund

We were unsuccessful in obtaining this grant. Scott informed that it seems this will be a reoccurring grant and the Township will continue to take the opportunity applying.

6. New Business

a. Parks Inspections

Three parks were inspected this year, Corsley Park, Ferndale Community Park, and Keystone. A list of action items has been created (see attached).

Councillor Fellows suggested we create a separate spreadsheet for each park. He also suggested the committee complete an inspection of the park hosting the meeting, similar to the Keystone walkthroughs completed.

b. Fingal Ball Park Representative

MOVED: STEVE BUSHELL

SECONDED: MICHELLE LACKEY

That the Parks Committee hereby appoint Charles Annett to represent Fingal Ball Park.

DISPOSITION:CARRIED

7. Adjournment

That the Parks Committee hereby adjourn at 7:29 pm, to meet again on September 16th, 2025 at Fingal Ball Park at 6:30 pm.



Keystone Complex Committee & Parks Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 26, 2026, 7 PM
Southwold Keystone Complex
35921 Talbot Line

Attendance

Deputy Mayor Pennings – Chair

Councillor Fellows

Councillor Adzija

Janice Fisher – Talbotville Member-at-Large

Ruth Quenville – Talbotville Optimist Club

Ross Bugar – Fingal Heritage Park

Jesse Walker – Alternate Shedden Soccer

Charles Annett – Fingal Ball Park

Shirley Longhurst – Fair Board

Jim Carder – Optimist Club of Fingal-Shedden

Sandy Annett – Rosy Rhubarb

Keith Orchard – Rosy Rhubarb Alternate

Brian Rieger – Shedden Truck and Tractor Pull

Ken Wylie – Triple C Saddle Club

Aaron Van Oorspronk – Director of Infrastructure and Development Services

Allison Duncan – Communications & Community Services Clerk

Corey Pemberton – Director of Building & Community Services

Regrets

Michelle Lackey – Shedden Adult Soccer

Steve Bushell – Shedden Youth Soccer

Rod Hill – Ferndale Community Park

John Coleman – Ice Pad

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Pennings called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Deputy Mayor Pennings stated no decision of Council can be advanced at this meeting as there are 3 Council members present.

Agenda

Agenda passed by both committees.

New Business

A) Parks and Trails Master Plan

Aaron Van Oorspronk reviewed each section of the Master Plan.

Section 1 is the components that the agenda is trying to address. It is what the community would like to see.

Section 2 is the foundation of the demographics.

Section 3 highlights the community engagements.

Section 4 is the Planning Strategies; what should be considered when creating the plan.

Section 5 shares an assessment of each facility. Southwold has almost double the recommended amount of parkland.

Corsley Park

There is a proposed trail to connect the park to the Five Maples Conservation Area.

Jesse Walker would like to see more trees planted in the area. Corey Pemberton noted that almost 300 trees were planted across all the parks.

A question was raised about the soccer field layout. The layout in the Master Plan seemed to make more sense than the current layout. It was explained that the current layout was put into effect after consultation with Shedden Soccer.

Mr. Van Oorspronk noted that the addition of the looped trail in the plan is common, as they are popular for users.

Ferndale

A bench program has been started, and the sidewalks have been added.

It is recommended to add a crosswalk to allow connection to other trails.

Fingal Ball Park

Stormwater Pond introduced into the low-lying area, which provides a popular walking path.

The pond area would feature a recoverable slope for anyone who happened to fall down the hill.

The park would be connected to neighbouring lands, as seen in *Figure 35: Fingal Ball Park Improvement Demonstration Plan*. If the area were ever to develop, they must connect to the sidewalk in the parkland.

A question was received about parking at the Fingal Diamond.

Ross Burgar would like educational signage and interactive spots for learning across the trails in each park.

Keystone Complex

Elements shown in *Figure 37: Keystone Complex Improvement Demonstration Plan*, are not exact locations for elements. The image is a conceptual idea based on the ideas consultants received from the public.

The map shading covers the ball diamond and Tractor Pull Lane. The features are not being removed, and the shading will be fixed by Township staff.

The pavilion was shaded over. The Master Plan show the pavilion is a different area. Relocation of the pavilion would be assessed only at the end of the facility's life cycle.

Sandy Annett noted that in the design, there needs to be event parking, a pavilion with a kitchen, and an extension of the parking lot.

Concern was raised about the trail coming out by the open barn at the equestrian ring.

Members would like to see the loop trail go into the memorial forest behind the Complex.

A concern was raised that the track must be able to handle traffic and be at least 3 meters wide. Additionally, there needs to be one-way traffic.

Mr. Van Oorspronk said that considerations about operations will be taken into account during the detailed design phase. If an element in the Master plan were to move forward, it would be done in a way that works logistically for park users.

Talbotville Optimist Heritage Park

Ruth brought to attention that a baseball diamond is still listed in the inventory and needs to be remedied. Mr. VanOorspronk to remove from inventory.

Recommendation to reconfigure and pave the parking lot.

Talbotville Optimist Sports Park

Figure 40: Talbotville Optimist Sports Park Improvement Demonstration Plan does not show the multi-use sports pad previously put forward. Mr. Van Oorspronk to add to the map.

Fingal Heritage Park

Janice Fisher would like the park in the report. Fingal Heritage Park is not featured. Ms. Fisher says it should be listed as one of the parks, even if there does not need to be improvements made to it.

Additional Comments

Talbotville to Ferndale Connection, pg. 123 requires coordination between the Township and the City of St. Thomas.

Appendix C provides Council with the estimated costs. The estimations allow Council to make more informed decisions at budget time.

Sandy Annett raised a question about what is needed from user groups. Mr. Van Oorspronk stated to continue as usual with committees, staff will make the changes, and Council will adopt the Master Plan in roughly a month.

Mr. Van Oorspronk noted that this is the last step for feedback. Details will be decided at their respective stages, following the budget deliberations and community desires.

Adjournment

Moved by: Sandy Annett

Seconded by: Jesse Walker

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.