

Parkman Township Trustees

Regular Meeting October 21st, 2025

The regular meeting of the Parkman Township Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Joyce Peters, township trustee chairperson.

In attendance were Trustees – Joyce Peters, Henry Duchscherer, and Lance Portman, Fiscal Officer – Denise Villers, Administrative Assistant – Stacey Urbanowicz, Assistant Zoning Inspector – Mark Strumbly, Fire Chief – Mike Komandt, Community House Coordinator – Lynn Schiffbauer, Road Superintendent – Eric Mathews, and residents – Matt Yutzy, Robert Miller, Mark Byler, Marty Yutzy. Joe Keough, John Augustine, Brandon Reed, Roger Anderson, David Payne, Dave Kurtz; Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand, Trooper J. Santiago of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, and Ann Wishart from the *Maple Leaf*.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and an agenda was made available.

Presentation by Joe Keough and others about buggy safety on 422:

Joe Keough was approached after a Zoning BZA meeting recently about what could be done for buggy safety on Route 422. Joe Keough contacted Ken Ashba about the possibility of an access route through his property. There were also representatives from the Geauga County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand) and Ohio State Highway Patrol (Trooper J. Santiago) to answer any questions anyone may have about buggy safety and what can possibly be done. There was supposed to be a representative from ODOT, but they didn't come. Matt Yutzy (a member of the Amish community) said that he would first like to thank the law enforcement that is here showing concern for the Amish Community. Mr. Yutzy would like to ask the state and local government for help in providing an alternate route to traveling on Route 422. He said that the Amish feel that when they drive their buggies down Route 422, they're becoming more of a hinderance to the motoring public. Mr. Yutzy also said that the trigger to wanting to come up with an alternative way to travel on Route 422 was the fatal accident that recently occurred along with other accidents that have happened. The Amish are asking the trustees for help to provide an alternate to traveling on Route 422 and if permissible, to try to get away from the intersection of Routes 422 and 88/528. Mr. Yutzy said that they would have to ask to use private property to achieve this. The buggy path that Mr. Yutzy suggested would be two lanes. He also spoke of different alternatives to making the buggy paths. This would also take a lot of work and planning with ODOT. Joyce Peters asked Mr. Yutzy if he had any of his plans written down. Mr. Yutzy said that he could jot them down and share it with Mrs. Peters. Mr. Yutzy asked if it was possible to get more warning signs about the Amish buggies being on the road (422). Mark Byler (another member of the Amish community) said that he wanted to thank everyone for their time for being here and helping with what they could. Mr. Byler said that he grew up around Parkman and used to train horses on Route 422 but wouldn't even think about it now. He said that he realizes that the Amish are the minority and they want to be respectful in what they ask for. They can help in many ways, including financially. They just need to know in what way and that he has been in

contact with other people about this as well. Joe Keough said that in his communication with ODOT, they told him that they were going to do a traffic study, but not when. Joyce Peters said that an expedited one needs to be done. Joyce Peters said that she appreciated them coming to the trustees and that the trustees are the ones that have to contact ODOT. Joyce Peters said that there's a lot to this, but they're going to get started. Joyce Peters asked for clarification on the buggy path on 422 and asked how they would get on to Farmington Road. Mr. Yutzy said that they mean a two-lane buggy lane on the north side on 422. Mr. Yutzy said that it took him around three minutes to get walk across Route 422 to come to the meeting tonight from Farmington Road. Mr. Yutzy mentioned a possible bypass road to get to 528. Joyce Peters asked if the law enforcement representatives had anything to add. Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand said that the Amish community has done a great job of having safety equipment on their buggies with flashing lights. The Sheriff's Office will support whatever they come up with. Sheriff Hildenbrand said that maybe the state has some "Share the Road" signs with a picture of an Amish buggy on it that can be put up. He did say that it takes ODOT a long time to get anything done. Ohio State Trooper J. Santiago said that at this time they are down to 7-8 troopers at the Chardon post. He said that they will soon be doing something called a "crash patrol" where there is a group of troopers that go out and do crash prevention measures. Joyce Peters asked if the Ohio Highway Patrol has any influence on ODOT or if they think that caution lights or decreased speed limits should be put in place. The trooper said that he would ask his lieutenant. Joyce Peters asked if she could get a report of all the accidents in an area without having an address. The trooper said that he would ask his sergeant. Joyce Peters asked Joe Keough if he would speak to the property owners about the possibility of needing their property for a proposed buggy lane. Mr. Keough said that he doesn't have anything planned at this time, but Mr. Ashba is enthusiastic about this. Mr. Keough also said that there is an Amish Safety Committee. Mike Komnadt said that ODOT hasn't done a traffic study west of 282, but that they do yearly traffic studies. Roger Anderson said that when he was a trustee, they asked ODOT for a speed limit change down to 25mph, but they only changed it from 45mph to 35mph.

Meeting's Motions and Resolutions:

Lance Portman made a **motion** to approve the October 7th, 2025, regular meeting minutes and Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. All voted yes, and the motion carried unanimously.

Lance Portman made a motion to approve the Bank Reconciliation for September of 2025, and Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. All voted yes, and the motion carried unanimously. (**Resolution #96-2025**)

Joyce Peters made a **motion** to sign a three-year contract with Stryker to be paid in three annual installment payments of \$5,614.25 for a total payment of \$16,842.75, and Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. All voted yes, and the motion carried unanimously.

Henry Duchscherer made a **motion** to award the contract to KICC Services to repair the Community House basement leaks at a cost of \$10,885.00, and Lance Portman seconded the motion. All voted yes, and the motion carried unanimously.

Joyce Peters made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:25pm. Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. It is necessary to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Lance Portman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Joyce Peters – Yes, Henry Duchscherer – Yes, Lance Portman – Yes. All voted yes, motion carried unanimously. They came back into regular session at 8:27pm. (**Resolution #97-2025**)

Joyce Peters made a **motion** to hire Hunter Randolph as a firefighter/EMT to the Parkman Fire Department at \$15.00/hour, and Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. All voted yes, and the motion carried unanimously.

Lance Portman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m., and Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. All voted yes, and the motion carried unanimously.

Departmental Reports

Fiscal Officer

- Approve the minutes for the October 7th, 2025, regular trustee meeting. (*See Motions & Resolutions*).
- Approve Bank Reconciliation for September 2025. (*See Motions & Resolutions*).
- Do we want to continue our OTA Education subscription for 2026? (\$250.00)
- “Attended” BWC webinar on October 14th.
- James Duber (Envelope Consulting Services, LLC) reported that the structural engineer now has all of the information needed to complete his report for the Community House. They anticipate having a final report the week of November 3rd.
- Per resident’s request, I have asked our County Engineer’s office to look into extending the length of the school zone (Amish school on Bundysburg Road between Reeves & Swine Creek Roads) – *Response received from Tim Woodcock: The state sets the distance for school zone signage. This school zone is set to the maximum distance allowed (300’ in each direction from the school).*
- Continuing my search at the Geauga County Recorder’s office for copies of the deeds for properties owned by Parkman Township. (need to go further back on a couple parcels)
- I still have a Cemetery deed from 2017 that I can’t seem to find an address to send it to (Richard Owen – anyone know the family?)

NOTE: The 2026 OTA Conference in Columbus is scheduled for February 4-6, 2026. Would anyone like to attend?

Zoning

- A permit was issued to parcel #25-190906 on Rutland Rd. to Mr. Byler for new home construction. The resident will obtain an address along with a building permit on 10/11/25.
- Met with Dave Dietrich concerning an email request sent from John on a party interested in purchasing the Herman's Pickle warehouse (Wachs Electric) to operate as proposed use as Geauga Highway paving and construction. I responded to Geauga Highway and have not received an email back (10/15).
- Also discussed with Dave Dietrich (Gauga County Planning Commission) along with Henry on what Zoning could do for property owners on Doty Road. We learned that Zoning cannot provide any relief. Relayed this information to Kyle Wagamon on 10/20 and he was appreciative of us looking into this.

Zoning Discussion – Mark Strumbly said that he had a few letters to send out.

Fire

- Annual SCBA and SCBA compressor scheduled for annual certification and flow testing in November
- Purchased year end – first quarter consumable supplies via Amazon
- Contacted Windstream about a phone line that appears to have been disconnected or having connectivity issues. This has been causing a communications trouble alarm with the fire alarm system. Windstream is scheduled for Wednesday the 22nd.
- Jeep warning device installs and the new mobile radio for station alerting is scheduled for Wednesday the 22nd.
- Will be posting additional items on GovDeals prior to the end of the year. Will have a list for approval at the next meeting.
- Please approve service contracts for Stryker patient transport (stair chair, power cot, and power load). This is a 15% discount for group purchase through the Geauga County Chiefs. (See *Motions & Resolutions*).

Fire Department Discussion – Asked for an Executive Session for hiring. (See *Motions & Resolutions*).

Roads

- We have been working on mowing and have been putting up markers on the road edges where needed for plow season. As the weather permits, we will be working on Hosmer.

Roads Discussion – Any discussion was held during each section.

Community House/Parks

Community House:

- We have the Chamber of Commerce's Halloween Party on Sunday, October 26th. We have one booking for November.
- Liberty Welding will be giving us a quote on fire escapes for the front of the Community House.
- Lance is getting quotes to fix the drains behind the Community House and fix the wall.

Overlook Park:

- The Park is very quiet.
- DK Masonry will be fixing the chimney in two weeks.
- We're having the Porta Potties removed November 1st. *Lance Portman suggested leaving the porta potties for the people fixing the chimney. Discussion was held on how many porta potties to have next year.*

Community House/Parks Discussions – Lynn Schiffbauer said that she did a “soft close” at the park.

Cemetery

- We were able to get the foundation footers completed this last week, it was tough, but we made it happen. We had 11 footers this year and took just about 10 yards of concrete. Thank you, Lance, for help with this. I think we would still be there pouring if it was just the 2 of us.

Cemetery Discussion – Any discussion was held during each section.

Old Business

- Overlook fireplace/chimney – Should be done in two weeks. Lynn Schiffbauer was told to leave the water on for the workers.
- Basement leak, new bid – A new bid was received from KICC Services in the amount of \$10,885.00. Joyce Peters said that there is plenty of detail in the

description. Joyce Peters asked if they could get to it this season. Lance Portman said that the hold up would be the concrete; it will take two weeks. Lance Portman described where the repairs need to happen and what retaining wall needs to be moved. (See *Motions & Resolutions*).

- C. Porch renovation, Liberty inspection-bid – Envelope Consulting said that the stairs were bad. Liberty sent a bid to replace the metal stairs with metal stairs. They won't weld the current ones. Joyce Peters asked if they could construct temporary wooden stairs until the metal ones are constructed. Eric Mathews asked if Ervin Miller could weld them. Joyce Peters said that she was concerned that welding them might not be safe to do.
- D. Basketball/tennis courts – It was mentioned to get a bid to crack seal and seal coat the courts. Eric Mathews said that when he called to try to get a price, no one would come out to price it and do it until spring. Lance Portman said that they could tell us if it's worth seal coating or not. Joyce Peters said that they will wait until spring.
- E. Technology grant/ADP update – Joyce Peters received an email from ADP. They are still in the running, but unfortunately, now the government is shut down.
- F. Nov. 4th mtg change reminder – This is another reminder that the next meeting has been changed to November 6th to avoid conflicting with the election at the Community House.
- G. Furnace at Community House – Henry Duchscherer said that the furnace will be serviced at a later time due to an illness with the person who is to service it.

Old Business Discussion – Any discussion was held during each section.

New Business

- A. Fiber optic line – Joyce Peters received an email from a company named “Bright Speed”. They will be putting in fiber optic cable into Trumbull County but will be working on Bundysburg Road in Geauga County. They wanted to let the trustees know in case there are questions from any of the residents.
- B. House Bill 96, auditor/commissioners rept – At a county meeting, the commissioners are able piggyback tax exemptions. The commissioners want the trustee's feedback on this.
- C. Legislative:
 - 1. HB 439: Application of Brine (Rader, Brennan) – HB 439 would prohibit the application of brine from oil and gas wells on roads. The House Natural Resources committee held its first hearing on the bill.

2. HB 335: Property Tax Relief Now (Thomas, D.) – The House Ways and Means committee held its fourth hearing on HB 335 this week. HB 335 would cap the assessment rates of homes at the rate of inflation for a period of three years.

New Business Discussion – Any discussion was held during each section.

Public Comment

- Lynn Schiffbauer asked about putting up flashing signs for Amish buggies on Route 422. Joyce Peters said that ODOT is responsible for that.
- Mike Komandt said that the 45mph sign is missing coming westbound into town on Route 422. So the speed limit appears to go from 55mph to 35mph.

Adjournment: Lance Portman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Henry Duchscherer seconded, all yes. Meeting adjourned.

Next Regular meeting on Thursday, November 6th, 2025, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared Stacey Urbanowicz, Administrative Assistant

Meeting Minutes submitted by Denise Villers, Fiscal Officer.

Meeting Minutes Approved by


