

# **East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes February 28, 2013**

The February regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board) was held on February 28, 2013 in the McCardle Meeting Room of the Township Building, 666 Copeland School Road, West Chester, County of Chester, PA 19380-1822.

**Committee members present:**

John Spangler, Chair  
Michael Colley  
Mose Cornwell  
Sheila Fleming  
Bob Hawkes  
Betsey Mehl  
Josie Parman  
Fred Rothman  
Andy Schaum  
Jacob Singer

**Committee members absent:**

Dave Baxter  
John Hagens  
Harry Hatzipavlides, Vice Chair  
Maria Kenny  
Jim Wakefield

**Staff/Professionals present:**

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

**Staff/Professionals absent:** None

**Others in attendance:**

S. Damon Kletzien

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chair Spangler.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:** Ms. Parman made a motion to approve the minutes from January 24, 2013, as presented. Mr. Schaum seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Brandywine Trail; Skelp Level Segment – PECO approval is pending. To date, the Township has not received anything from West Chester Fish and Game about signing the M. John Johnson Nature Trails over to the Township. Mr. Colley reported that WCF&G is reviewing the license they have with PECO.
2. Brandywine Trail; Ingram's Segment – The site meeting with PennDOT is scheduled for tomorrow morning.
3. Brookworth Trails – Last month, Mr. Spangler offered to contact Charlie Myhre to discuss Boy Scout opportunities and Bob Struble to talk about options to improve the stream corridor. Mr. Spangler expects to see Mr. Struble in the near future. He talked to Mr. Myhre, but there did not seem to be much interest in having a troop participate in the property.
4. CCWA-Paradise Farm Trails – Chester County has located all of the Paradise trails and is preparing mapping.
5. Paradise Valley Nature Area – Ms. Cantlin is investigating two improvements relative to the Paradise Valley Nature Area:

- a. Pedestrian bridge along Ravine Road Trail – A 3-foot wide build-in-place fiberglass pedestrian bridge could cost between \$15k and \$40k (depending on the length of the span). Site and soil investigation is warranted to determine the span and method of anchoring. The initial assessments and geotechnical analysis could cost \$3,000-\$8,000 (depending on available site data and ability to access the site for testing). Depending on what the initial investigations reveal, the total cost for geotechnical and civil engineering could cost \$7,000-\$15,000+.
- b. Valley Creek access – Ms. Cantlin contacted PA Fish and Boat to discuss fish habitat (and pedestrian crossing) options within Valley Creek between the Valley Creek Road parking area and the Paradise field. There is an option to submit a GP1 permit for a boulder placement project (for fish habitat improvement). Boulders could be placed in an upstream “V” or arch formation that could facilitate pedestrian access.

The Committee discovered that the above projects are in some ways intertwined. For example, the Valley Creek Road parking lot experiences significant degradation from flooding and there has been talk about closing or reducing that parking area. Mr. Schaum indicated that the Camp might be willing to expand the public parking along Ravine Road. However, the Ravine Road trail would have to be able to function as a trail head. Alternatively, if the Ravine Road access is closed, the Valley Creek Road parking lot would have to function as the main access to the trail network. Mr. Schaum commented that the views from the Ravine Road trail are notable and should be preserved, if feasible. He also mentioned that Paradise Farm Camps might be willing to share in some of the investigation expenses. Mr. Colley expressed concern about the potential cost of the project. The Committee feels that the boulder placement project is desirable whether or not there's a formal parking lot on Valley Creek Road.

After much discussion, Mr. Spangler made a motion to recommend to the Supervisors that the Township proceed with the initial site assessments and geotechnical analysis (\$3,000-\$8,000) to refine the project costs associated with the pedestrian bridge on the Ravine Road Trail. Concurrently, he recommended that the Township and Camp explore alternative trail locations between Ravine Road and the Paradise Valley Nature Area and pursue the GP1 permit for the boulder placement across Valley Creek. Mr. Schaum seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Sunset Valley Farm Connectivity – This matter was tabled until March.
7. 2013 Trail Blazer Race – With several people absent, there will be no meeting this month. Ms. Cantlin will contact Mr. Wakefield and suggest that he include Kevin in the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

1. Members' Trails Inspections – Ms. Cantlin reviewed and updated the member assignments (as noted at the end of the minutes). She noted that when members visit properties they should provide the following information when reporting issues:
  - a. Describe the problem/issue to be addressed.
  - b. Describe the location of the issue as accurately as possible.
  - c. Assess the priority of the issue – e.g. a high propriety threatens safety or prevents use, a medium priority negatively impacts use, a low priority is a minor maintenance item or a recommendation to better the trail.
  - d. If possible, suggest a solution/repair.
2. Enforcement – Ms. Cantlin met with Police Chief Bohn and Lt. Iacono earlier in the month to discuss the growing problem with dog-related infringements. Several suggestions came out of the meeting:
  - a. Develop “friends of” groups for variety of parks/trails. Police would work with volunteers to educate them about how they can help police to respond efficiently to enforcement issues. The “friends” would simply be another set of eyes – they would call the PD to report infringements; they would not be expected to enforce rules themselves. The “friends” could also assist police in measuring usage so police could get a better idea about when peak usage occurs, which would enable them to efficiently target enforcement.

- b. Consider a dog park. The infringements in the parks indicate that there is a “need” for dogs to run free. Providing a location for this need would give credence to enforcement.
- c. The Township should make sure there are dog bags and trash cans so that people have a place to deposit waste.
- d. The Township should include an article about dog use in the newsletter (this occurred in the most recent edition).

The Trails Committee was very receptive to the “friends” concept. They suggested that the scope of “friends” involvement remain broad. For example, enforcement assistance would be only one component of involvement. “Friends” could also participate in stewardship projects, maintenance, providing information and assistance, etc. The TC recommended that the Township use a number of methods to solicit involvement – post notices at the parks, mail letters to nearby residents, word of mouth, etc.

The TC also thinks the dog park concept has merit. They asked whether the Skelp Level Open Space or the southern parcels of Brandywine Farm could be used to accommodate dogs. Shaw’s Bridge poses an interesting challenge in terms of enforcement because the informal “dog park” use has become entrenched over the years. This might also be a consideration for the comprehensive plan update.

3. Central Chester County Bike & Pedestrian Study – The final public open house is this evening.
4. National Trails Day (June 1) & National Hiking Week (May 25 – June 2) – No discussion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the Trails Committee is scheduled for March 28, 2013 at 12:00 noon.

**ADJOURNMENT / CONTINUANCE:** At approximately 1:20 pm, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

Amanda “Mandie” Cantlin  
Trails Committee Secretary

**TRAILS COMMITTEE INSPECTION ASSIGNMENTS:**

Dave Baxter – Harmony Hill Nature Area; red and yellow trails  
Michael Colley – Paradise Valley Nature Area & Starr Farm Park  
Mose Cornwell – (Floating)  
Sheila Fleming – Harmony Hill Nature Area; green trail  
John Hagens – Timber Top Farm & Brandywine Trail  
Harry Hatzipavrides – Jane Reed & Copeland / East Bradford Park trail  
Bob Hawkes – Paradise Valley Nature Area  
Maria Kenny – Harmony Hill Nature Area; green trail  
Betsey Mehl – (Floating)  
Josie Parman – (Floating)  
Fred Rothman – Shaw's Bridge & Blue Rock Trail  
Andy Schaum – Paradise Valley Nature Area & Brandywine Trail  
Jacob Singer – Timber Top Farm  
John Spangler – Harmony Hill Nature Area; blue and black  
Jim Wakefield – TBD

**TRAILS COMMITTEE PRIORITIES:**

**High**

Brandywine Trail – Phase 3 (South Segment to Skelp Level)  
Brandywine Trail – Phase 5 (Ingram's Mill to Stroud)  
CCWA trails & easement  
County Seat Corridor – Sconnettown Road (Mt. Bradford – Sconnettown Park)  
Paradise Valley Nature Area (trail improvements & washout)  
Brookworth

**Medium**

Brandywine Farm  
Brandywine Trail – Phase 4 (Skelp Level to Ingram's Mill)  
Copeland to East Bradford Park (AKA Recreational Use along Roads)  
Jane Reed Park (there was discussion about reaching out the school to encourage more use by the school)  
Miner Street Open Space – Allerton Road / Creek Road Bike / Ped Improvement  
Plum Run Watershed

**Low**

County Seat Corridor – All other segments  
Guthrie  
Ravine to Brandywine Road  
Sunset Hollow Road  
Sunset Hollow / Happy Creek / Harmony Hill (if applicable)