

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

The March regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board) was held on March 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
Harry Hatzipavrides, Vice Chair
Dave Baxter
Michael Colley
Mose Cornwell
Sheila Fleming
John Hagens
Bob Hawkes
Betsey Mehl
Josie Parman
Fred Rothman
Andy Schaum
Jim Wakefield

Committee members absent:

Jacob Singer
Maria Kenny

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

Staff/Professionals absent: None

Others in attendance:

Andrew Monger

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: Mr. Colley recommended a change to the February 28, 2013 minutes – he suggested that a sentence be added to the Paradise Valley discussion to clarify that he had concerns about the potential costs associated with the pedestrian bridge concept. Ms. Parman made a motion to approve the minutes from February 28, 2013, as amended. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Brookworth Trails – Neighboring property owner Andrew Monger discussed several topics relating to the Brookworth Plaza open space and trail network that is adjacent to his house:
 - a. Trash – Mr. Monger has coordinated with BVA and neighbors to schedule volunteer trash clean-up day on Saturday April 27 at 9 am. He commented that a lot of trash is deposited on the property via Taylor Run from West Chester Borough, particularly from Hoopes Park. He asked whether the Township would contact the Borough about the trash from the Park and he suggested that the Borough install a fence to catch the trash before it flows off the Hoopes Park parking lot. In addition, he praised the litter collection service provided by AJ Blosenski. Dr. Hagens suggested Mr. Monger voice his concerns to West Chester Borough during a public meeting. Ms. Cantlin will share Mr. Monger's thoughts with the EAC & Green Committee.

- b. Trails – Mr. Monger would like to move forward with the construction of two trail segments: one from the pond to the Rt 322/Ashbridge intersection and another from Dunkin Donuts to the Rt 322/Ashbridge intersection. He would like to at least have the corridors cleared prior to April 27. Ms. Cantlin will review her schedule and offer some dates to flag and clear the corridor. The construction of the Dunkin Donuts portion could be scheduled for a later date.
- c. Vines – Mr. Monger wants to remove vines that are impacting the trees. Ms. Cantlin will refer him to NLT's Stewardship manual for information about vine removal.
- d. Taylor Run – Taylor Run continues to erode portions of the open space and Mr. Monger expressed interest in stream restoration. The Committee suggested he reach out to BVA, CCCD, and Stroud Water Research Center for guidance on stream restoration.
- e. Sykes Property – Mr. Monger stated that the ~6-acre Sykes property across from his house will be going up on the market. The Committee talked about the trail potential of the lot, which is very constrained by flood plain.

The Committee praised Mr. Monger for his efforts to improve the open space.

2. Paradise Farm Camp (PFC) Trails – The Camp and Township have taken forward steps to open the PFC trail loop to the public this spring. Some of the route details are still being ironed out, but a community work day spearheaded by XL Group is scheduled for Thursday May 23.
3. Paradise Valley Nature Area – The Parks and Recreation Board discussed the pedestrian bridge along Ravine Road Trail. P&R Board recommended that the Township first explore the alternative trail locations between Ravine Road and the Paradise Valley Nature Area before putting funding towards geotechnical analysis (\$3,000-\$8,000). Mr. Colley voiced his concern about the cost potential and asked whether there is a simpler solution. Mr. Schaum stressed that the trail traverses Camp property, and for that reason the Camp has a role in decision making about the trail. Mr. Schaum expressed a strong preference for maintaining the trail in its current location because of the views and the history associated with the trail. In addition, this is the trail location established via the conservation easement and a reroute could necessitate an amendment to the conservation easement. Mr. Schaum reiterated the Camp's offer to assist with funding. There was discussion about using the mini-excavator to cut further into the bank. However, until the Township and Camp know more about the stability of the slopes, no one will know whether excavation or bridging is a viable option. Ms. Cantlin will do a preliminary review of the mapping to estimate the feasibility of a reroute. Based on the mapping, a site visit may be scheduled. The Committee can discuss the issue again in April. Ms. Cantlin also shared that there is \$5,000 in the PVNA budget for bridge/trail improvements.
4. M. John Johnson Nature Center – 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. There was no discussion.
5. Brandywine Trail; Skelp Level Segment – PECO approval is pending. There was no discussion.
6. Brandywine Trail; Ingram's Segment – Several members from the Trails Committee, along with representatives from NLT and the County, met with PennDOT at the sight on March 1. PennDOT indicated that no approval would be required to install a crossing at an intersection (because crossing is implied). The preferred intersection appears to be the Rt 162/Creek Road intersection that is closest to Copes Bridge.
7. Sunset Valley Farm Connectivity – No discussion.
8. 2013 Trail Blazer Race – Ms. Cantlin will send dates out to schedule a marking meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Enforcement (Dogs) – No discussion.

2. Central Chester County Bike & Pedestrian Study – Mr. Rothman and Mr. Wakefield read the plan and praised the County’s work. The Committee had no suggestions/comments. There was some discussion about liability and comprehensive planning recommendations.
3. Members’ Trails Inspections – No discussion.
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 April 25, 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:

Date Last Inspected

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 Hatzipavlidis – 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)

Bold items in 2013 budget