

# East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes June 27, 2013

The June regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board) was held on June 27, 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 Hatzipavlidis, Vice Chair  
Dave Baxter  
Sheila Fleming  
John Hagens  
Bob Hawkes  
Betsey Mehl  
Josie Parman  
Andy Schaum  
Jim Wakefield

**Committee members absent:**

Michael Colley  
Mose Cornwell  
Maria Kenny  
Fred Rothman  
Jacob Singer

**Staff/Professionals present:**

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

**Staff/Professionals absent:** None

**Others in attendance:**

Dave Redmond

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:** Mr. Schaum made a motion to approve the minutes from April 25, 2013, as amended. Ms. Mehl seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously. (The Committee did not meet in May.)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Brandywine Trail; Skelp Level Segment – Several matters have occurred since the last Committee meeting:
  - a. PECO approved the project.
  - b. The Township was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the PECO Green Region program.
  - c. The project went to bid on June 3. Bids were opened on June 25. Six bids were submitted:

<b>Company</b>	<b>Total Bid</b>
Gessler Construction	\$106,984.00
Lechmanik, Inc.	\$107,283.75
DiRocco Bros., Inc.	\$114,323.26
Barwis Construction LLC	\$141,789.00
Flyway Excavating Inc.	\$143,123.00
Reybold Construction Group	\$145,471.00

Gilmore has reviewed the low bid and is in the process of contacting references. Construction could begin by August 1.

2. Brandywine Trail; Ingram's Segment – During the last meeting, the TC recommended that the Supervisors solicit engineering proposals to design the Rt 162 crossing so that engineering funds can be considered for the 2014 budget. The Supervisors authorized the staff to contact McCormick Taylor to discuss the project. Ms. Cantlin is in the process of arranging a meeting with Al Federico from McCormick Taylor.

Mr. Spangler will review the Parke Farm declaration and begin to draft a trail easement agreement for the HOA's consideration. Dr. Hagens suggested that this should be submitted to the HOA as soon as possible.

Once these two matters are resolved, next steps include:

- a. Begin to review the Brandywine Conservancy easement that regulates trail easement on the Stroud Preserve property.
  - b. Consider where and how the trail will cross Taylor Run.
3. Brookworth Trails – Ms. Cantlin asked whether the Committee would be interested in a July work day in lieu of a meeting to clear the trail she flagged with Mr. Monger in April. The Committee suggested that a fall work day would be preferable. Committee members also suggested engaging neighboring property owners to involve them in the process.
  4. Paradise Farm Camp (PFC) Trails – The community work day spearheaded by XL Group was canceled due to threatening weather. The rain date work day will occur on Friday July 26. In addition, there will be an advance work day on July 19 to do some prep work for the XL day.
  5. Harmony Hill Nature Area (HHNA) / PFC Skelp Level Road Crossing – The Eagle Scout trail project to facilitate the connection between the HHNA parking lot and the Camp trails is complete. The crosswalk and fencing will be added once the CCWA trails are ready for public use. The future crosswalk will be signed and stripped like the Harmony Hill Road crossing. Dr. Hagens asked if the crossing would include the pedestrian sign on the center line; Ms. Cantlin will find out.
  6. M. John Johnson Nature Center – West Chester Fish and Game formally requested that the Township take over maintenance responsibility of the Nature Center trails. WCF&G asked that the facility retain its name and that the trails remain open to pedestrians only. The Supervisors authorized Ms. Cantlin to engage PECO to facilitate the lease transfer.
  7. Paradise Valley Nature Area – The Board of Supervisors asked Ms. Cantlin to evaluate the reroute opportunities before they consider spending money to evaluate soils. Ms. Cantlin will be able to review the reroute options in the fall. She asked whether any Trails Committee members would be interested in learning more about designing trails. Mr. Schaum emphasized that the Camp (the property owner) would prefer to figure out a way to facilitate a safe crossing along the current trail.
  8. 2013 Trail Blazer Race – The Trail Blazer Race on June 13 went well from a logistical standpoint. However, bad weather and less-than-stellar marketing resulted in a lower turnout than expected. As such, the Township only netted \$767. The race planning committee will meet after this meeting to discuss this year's event and begin planning for next year.
  9. Mt. Bike Race Concept – There has been interest over the years in using the Harmony Hill Nature Area (and adjacent roads/trails) for a mountain bike race. There was no further discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. 2014 Budget / Trails Priorities – Township Manager Mike Lynch is requesting 2014 budget input. Ms. Cantlin asked the Committee to prioritize its top projects for 2014. The Committee prioritized the following projects:
  - a. Brandywine Trail – Phase 3 (South Segment to Skelp Level) (should be completed in 2013)
  - b. PFC-CCWA trails & easement (should be completed in 2013)
  - c. Widen the entrance to Harmony Hill Nature Area (at Skelp Level)
  - d. Provide a port-a-potty at the Brandywine Trail (Harmony Hill Rd); encourage W. Bradford to do the same
  - e. Brandywine Trail – Phase 5 (Ingram’s Mill to Stroud; Rt 162 crossing; Taylor Run crossing)
  - f. Paradise Valley Nature Area (trail improvements, washout, & Valley Creek fish habitat improvement)
  - g. Mt. Bradford Improvements (meadow restoration, parking area, paved trail, pond inspection)

Other projects that are not prioritized include:

- Bike/ped improvements along Sconnelltown Road (Mt. Bradford to Sconnelltown Park)
- Brookworth
- Brandywine Farm
- Brandywine Trail – Phase 4 (Skelp Level to Ingram’s Mill)
- Improve / repave trail between Copeland and East Bradford Park
- Construct off-road path to improve bike use at Allerton Road / Creek Road / Miner St intersection
- Plum Run Watershed
- Guthrie trail easement
- Ravine to Brandywine Road
- Sunset Hollow Road
- Sunset Hollow / Happy Creek / Harmony Hill

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

1. Trail Etiquette – Dr. Hagens expressed concern about the speed that bikes travel on the paved trail. Too often bikes go by without warning slower users. Some wear headphones. He has stopped cyclists and asked them to be courteous when passing other users. Mr. Spangler suggested contacting the Chester County Cycling Coalition and using this as an outreach opportunity. There was discussion about posting etiquette signs at the trail entrance points and having volunteers engage trail users. Mr. Hatzipavlidis described an etiquette sign he’s seen in Delaware at Alapocas Run State Park. Mr. Spangler talked about the use of bells. Ms. Cantlin will reach out to the CCCC and Mr. Hatzipavlidis will take a picture of the sign he sees in DE.
2. Brandywine Creek Greenway Strategic Action Plan – The Brandywine Conservancy recently completed the Brandywine Creek Greenway Concept Plan. The next step for the Conservancy is to prepare the Strategic Action Plan, which will focus on the implementation of the Concept plan. The BC is requesting a meeting with ABC representatives to discuss greenway tools and pilot projects. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the list of greenway projects that was included in the appendix of the Concept Plan. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 16 at 6 pm (prior to the ABC chair meeting). Mr. Spangler may not be able to attend the meeting. Alternatively, Mr. Hatzipavlidis, Mr. Schaum, and/or Dr. Hagens may be available to attend.
3. Ingram’s Mill Nature Area – Mr. Hawkes reported that the park sign needs to be replaced or repaired.
4. Members’ Trails Inspections – Mr. Schaum provided an update.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is July 25, 2013 at 12 noon.

**ADJOURNMENT / CONTINUANCE:** At approximately 1:15 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 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	June 2013
Jacob Singer – Timber Top Farm	
John Spangler – Harmony Hill Nature Area; blue and black	
Jim Wakefield – TBD	

**TRAILS COMMITTEE PRIORITIES (2013):**

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**