

# East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes July 25, 2013

The July regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board) was held on July 25, 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  
Michael Colley  
Sheila Fleming  
Bob Hawkes  
Betsey Mehl  
Josie Parman  
Andy Schaum  
Jacob Singer  
Jim Wakefield

**Committee members absent:**

Mose Cornwell  
John Hagens  
Maria Kenny  
Fred Rothman

**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 June 27, 2013, as amended. Ms. Parman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Brandywine Trail; Skelp Level Segment – The Supervisors awarded the construction contract to the low bidder, Gessler Construction (\$106,984.00). The contracts were signed last week. The next step is scheduling the preconstruction meeting.
2. Brandywine Trail; Ingram's Segment – Ms. Cantlin is in the process of arranging a meeting with McCormick Taylor to discuss the road crossing. The Committee talked about improving the floodplain as part of the stream crossing process. Ms. Fleming reported that Chaddsford Township is working on a bridge detail using telephone poles that could be applicable to this crossing. There was no update about the HOA document review. After discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Supervisors budget approximately \$14,000 to investigate the stream and road crossings (approximately \$7,000 each).
3. Paradise Farm Camp (PFC) Trails – The XL Group work day is scheduled for tomorrow July 26 from 9 am to approximately 3 pm. Ms. Cantlin thanked John Spangler, Andy Schaum, Dan McGaughey and Tony Heck (from CCWA), and Bob Perna (volunteer), for braving the hot and humid weather last Friday to do preparation work for the XL work day.

4. Harmony Hill Nature Area (HHNA) / PFC Skelp Level Road Crossing – Last month, Dr. Hagens asked if the crossing would include the pedestrian sign on the road centerline. The Township does intend to use a centerline sign.
5. Starr Farm Park – An Eagle Scout just completed the construction of a new kiosk sign and several bluebird houses. Township staff will remove the stand alone sign and put new signage in the kiosk.
6. Etiquette Signage and Incentives – Last month, there was discussion about trail etiquette. Ms. Cantlin distributed several examples of etiquette signs for trails. The Committee generally agreed that simple is better when it comes to signage. The Supervisors asked the Parks and Recreation Board to consider etiquette signs relative to park use. The Committee talked about the benefits of a forum to discuss widespread parks/trails issues (e.g. multi-use trail management, etc.).

Last month, the Committee also talked about encouraging the use of bike bells on trails. There was discussion about whether the Township could/would purchase a large quantity of bike bells for free distribution to trail users. The Committee decided not to pursue a bike bell incentive program at this time.

7. 2013 Trail Blazer Race – There was no meeting this month.
8. Mt. Bike Race Concept – For several years, there has been interest in using the Harmony Hill Nature Area (and adjacent roads/trails) for a mountain bike race. The TC members were generally interested in the concept of a mountain bike race, but stressed that another entity should take ownership of planning, marketing, etc. to limit the workload on the Committee and staff.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

1. Member's Trail Inspections – Several committee members offered reports about trails:
  - a. Brandywine Trail / Harmony Hill Nature Area
    - i. Install a port-a-potty at the Harmony Hill Road parking area – Ms. Cantlin recommended a port-a-potty in the 2014 budget.
    - ii. Fix the yellow trail erosion – The lower portion of the yellow trail erodes onto the paved trail. Ms. Cantlin intends to gather a group of Township personnel and volunteers to work on this problem area in late summer/early fall.
    - iii. Install trail etiquette signage – Discussed above.
    - iv. Install doggie bag dispensers at the new Skelp Level parking lot – New dispensers will be installed as part of the trail construction.
    - v. Green trail drainage – The green trail is in need of drainage work and clearing. Ms. Cantlin will schedule a work day.
  - b. Timber Top – Dogs off leash continue to be a problem at Timber Top. Earlier in the spring, there was a period of increased enforcement and the problem improved, but as the demand for police presence at other parks increased through the summer, the off leash use has returned. Property owner Jacob Singer stressed that he doesn't have a problem with dogs; it is the dog owners that violate the rules and regulations of the property. As an example, Mr. Singer noted that people sometimes bag dog waste and then leave the bag by the trail or toss it in the bushes rather than carrying it to a trash receptacle. Mr. Singer also has been cursed by trail users when he asks them to keep their dog on the leash. Mr. Spangler made a recommendation to ban dogs from the property until the Township has the ability to effectively and routinely police dog use at the property. Ms. Parman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

In addition, members reported that various arrow signs need to be replaced, new rules/regulation signage is needed at the kiosk, and a branch needs to be removed from the trail.

- c. Jane Reed – Mr. Hatzipavlidis inspected Jane Reed Park and found it in decent condition. He removed several branches. The park will not experience much use during the school's construction project.
- d. Paradise Valley Nature Area – Mr. Hawkes and Mr. Schaum walked the trails. The trails need maintenance, but Mr. Schaum will ask his son to do some clearing work. Mr. Colley mowed the field.

Ms. Cantlin thanked the Committee members for their input and maintenance efforts.

2. Chester County Ride Guide – The Chester County Planning Commission, in partnership with the County Department of Human Services, the Department of Community Development, and the county transit agencies, has developed a Ride Guide to educate residents about public transportation services – rail, bus, taxi, and paratransit. For more information, visit [www.ChescoRideGuide.org](http://www.ChescoRideGuide.org).
3. Ingram's Mill Nature Area – Last month, Mr. Hawkes reported that the park sign needs to be replaced or repaired. Ms. Cantlin is getting a quote for replacement.
4. Brandywine Creek Greenway Strategic Action Plan – Sheila Fleming facilitated a meeting on July 16 to discuss greenway tools and pilot projects. Several ABC chairs/representatives were in attendance. She will be circulating drafts in the coming months.
5. Nature Hikes – Mr. Hawkes approached the committee about having a naturalist lead educational hikes on the Township trails. The TC was supportive. Mr. Spangler will follow-up with Mr. Hawkes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is August 22, 2013 at 12 noon. Ms. Cantlin will be on vacation that week. The Committee decided to cancel the August meeting and reconvene the following month (September 26, 2013 at 12 noon).

**ADJOURNMENT / CONTINUANCE:** At approximately 1:30 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	
Mandie Cantlin – (Floating)	July 2013 (Starr, HHNA Blue/Black)
Michael Colley – Paradise Valley Nature Area & Starr Farm Park	July 2013
Mose Cornwell – (Floating)	
Sheila Fleming – Harmony Hill Nature Area; green trail	July 2013
John Hagens – Timber Top Farm & Brandywine Trail	July 2013
Harry Hatzipavrides – Jane Reed & Copeland / East Bradford Park trail	July 2013
Bob Hawkes – Paradise Valley Nature Area	July 2013
Maria Kenny – Harmony Hill Nature Area; green trail	
Betsey Mehl – (Floating)	July 2013 (Timber Top)
Josie Parman – (Floating)	
Fred Rothman – Shaw’s Bridge & Blue Rock Trail	
Andy Schaum – Paradise Valley Nature Area & Brandywine Trail	July 2013
Jacob Singer – Timber Top Farm	July 2013
John Spangler – Harmony Hill Nature Area; blue and black	July 2013
Jim Wakefield – TBD	

**TRAILS COMMITTEE PRIORITIES (2014):**

1. Brandywine Trail – Phase 3 (South Segment to Skelp Level) (should be completed in 2013)
2. PFC-CCWA trails & easement (should be completed in 2013)
3. Widen the entrance to Harmony Hill Nature Area (at Skelp Level)
4. Provide a port-a-potty at the Brandywine Trail (Harmony Hill Rd); encourage W. Bradford to do the same
5. Brandywine Trail – Phase 5 (Ingram’s Mill to Stroud; Rt 162 crossing; Taylor Run crossing)
6. Paradise Valley Nature Area (trail improvements, washout, & Valley Creek fish habitat improvement)
7. 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 Trails (and connection to WCB)
- Brandywine Farm
- Brandywine Trail – Phase 4 (Skelp Level to Ingram’s Mill)
- Improve / repave trail between Copeland and East Bradford Park
- Fire Company trail
- 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