

East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes September 26, 2013

The September regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board) was held on September 26, 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
Bob Hawkes
Betsey Mehl
Josie Parman
Fred Rothman
Andy Schaum
Jacob Singer

Committee members absent:

Michael Colley
Mose Cornwell
John Hagens
Maria Kenny
Jim Wakefield

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

Staff/Professionals absent: None

Others in attendance: None

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 July 25, 2013, as amended. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Trail; Skelp Level Segment – Construction is underway. The contractor hopes to pave next week.
2. Brandywine Trail; Ingram's Segment – John Spangler, Township Engineer Mark Lucas, and Ms. Cantlin met with McCormick Taylor earlier in the month. The firm is working on a draft scope for a feasibility study to consider three route options. Ms. Cantlin anticipates that the scope will be ready for the TC's review in October. Mr. Spangler drafted a trail easement agreement, which Ms. Cantlin forwarded to the Board and Solicitor for review. Once the Township approves the format, Mr. Spangler will send it to the Parke Farm HOA. Ms. Parman noted that an alternative to Parke Farm approval might be to keep the trail north of Copes Lane to Creek Road. This option would require approval from the Scholl's. Ms. Parman offered to talk to the Scholl's to see if they would be willing to grant an easement.
3. Paradise Farm Camp (PFC) Trails – After several work days, including a community day with XL Group, the new CCWA trail is almost complete – limited clearing remains to be done. Mr. Schaum will be working with a group of Vanguard volunteers to finish clearing on September 28 for the United Way Day of Caring. Next steps include finalizing permitted uses, finishing the regulatory documents, and deciding on hunting season hours.

Mr. Spangler reported that there's an old refrigerator on the HHNA side of Skelp Level Road. This can be removed when Public Works has equipment on site to finish the fencing and crosswalk between the two properties.

Mr. Baxter asked about the status of the closed trail on PFC property off of Ravine Road. Ms. Cantlin intends to investigate possible reroutes in October. She will notify the TC before she visits the property.

4. Timber Top Farm – The Supervisors met with Jacob Singer earlier in the month to discuss the continued challenges relating to dog use. After much discussion and consideration, the Board decided to ban dogs from the property effective October 15, 2013. The Township is in the process of developing a more comprehensive approach to parks/trail monitoring and enforcement.
5. 2013 Trail Blazer Race – Mr. Schaum will discuss timing opportunities with Victory staff. There was general discussion about marketing partnerships. Mr. Hatzipavlidis asked whether Downingtown Running Store could be a partner.
6. Mountain. Bike Race Concept – Mr. Hatzipavlidis shared that his son's wrestling team at Rustin has facilitated a cyclocross race for the last two years. The race has been a successful fundraiser for Rustin and the cyclocross group has done the majority of the planning and marketing. Next year, the land on which the race has taken place may no longer be available and the cyclocross group may be seeking a new location. Mr. Hatzipavlidis will put the race coordinator(s) in touch with Ms. Cantlin.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Eagle Scout Candidate Projects – Two candidates have contacted the Township asking to construct and install kiosk signs (similar to the signs at the HHNA and Starr Farm) for their Eagle project. Ms. Cantlin asked the Parks and Trails groups to consider locations for two new kiosk signs. Placement options include:
 - a. Brandywine Trail
 - b. Ingram's Mill Nature Area
 - c. Jane Reed Park
 - d. Mt. Bradford Preserve
 - e. Timber Top Farm

The TC favored three possible locations – Brandywine Trail, Jane Reed, and Timber Top. The Timber Top location might warrant a larger bulletin area.

2. The Circuit – Today The Circuit consists of over 250 miles of walking and biking trails in the Greater Philadelphia Region. When complete, The Circuit will be closer to 750 miles trails connecting the region to communities, jobs, and parks. The Circuit Commitment Campaign's goal is to secure \$10 million for trail planning, design and construction. To accomplish this objective, the group is asking the nine regional counties who sit on the Board of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to approve allocating this \$10 million to the Region Trail Fund to keep building out The Circuit. The Chester Valley Trail (CVT) is part of the Circuit, so if/when the CVT extends into Downingtown, it could link up with the Brandywine Trail. Mr. Rothman made a motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution in support of this funding allocation. Mr. Schaum seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Member's Trail Inspections – Mr. Hatzipavlidis contacted the Township this week to report mowing and tree removal needs at PVNA. Mr. Colley finished the mowing yesterday and cut back a down tree. He also reported that he has been at HHNA several times and noted that it gets a lot of use. He mentioned that he has seen a lot of dogs off leash and that he has carried out a notable amount of trash. Earlier in the summer, Mr. Hawkes noted that the Ingram's Mill park sign was broken. A new sign will be installed in the next week or so. Mr. Rothman reported that Shaw's Bridge and Blue Rock Road are in acceptable condition.
2. Naturalist – Mr. Spangler has the name of a recent college graduate that may be interested in leading naturalist walks, etc. She may want payment to cover expenses. He will reach out with her to get more information.

3. Code Workshop – During the first ABC Chair meeting of the year (January 31), it was suggested that the Township staff organize a workshop/session for ABC members to review the Township Code. In July, staff distributed a questionnaire to ABC members in order to better understand more about the topics that members are interested in learning more about. Staff tallied the responses and found out that the top-scoring topics include:
 - a. Stormwater management / erosion & sediment pollution control
 - b. Protection of Township's natural features
 - c. Alternative energy

Staff will conduct a workshop on September 30 from 7:00-9:00 pm to discuss these topics. ABC members are encouraged to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is October 24, 2013 at 12 noon.

ADJOURNMENT / CONTINUANCE: At approximately 1:10 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	September 2013
Mandie Cantlin – (Floating)	July 2013 (Starr, HHNA Blue/Black)
Michael Colley – Paradise Valley Nature Area & Starr Farm Park	September 2013
Mose Cornwell – (Floating)	
Sheila Fleming – Harmony Hill Nature Area; green trail	July 2013
John Hagens – Timber Top Farm & Brandywine Trail	July 2013
Harry Hatzipavlidis – 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	September 2013
Andy Schaum – Paradise Valley Nature Area & Brandywine Trail	September 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; Rte. 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