

East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes January 23, 2014

The January regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board) was held on January 23, 2014 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
Sheila Fleming
John Hagens
Bob Hawkes
Maria Kenny
Andy Schaum
Jacob Singer

Committee members absent:

Dave Baxter
Michael Colley
Mose Cornwell
Betsey Mehl
Josie Parman
Fred Rothman
Jim Wakefield

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

Staff/Professionals absent: None

Others in attendance:

John Snook, Board of Supervisors Member
Marianne Bausinger, P&R Board Chair
Joe Hamel, P&R Board
Tony Blanco, P&R Board
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 November 21, 2013 and December 19, 2013 (no business), as presented. Mr. Spangler seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Trail; Phase 5 (Ingram's Segment) – The feasibility study kick-off meeting for this project is scheduled for late February. Representatives from Parke Farm, NLT, Brandywine Conservancy, PennDOT, and Chester County are expected to attend.
2. Brandywine Trail; Phase 3 (Skelp Level Segment) – The project is complete. The final release will take place once a few minor items are resolved. The Trails Committee agreed that a spring ribbon cutting ceremony would be appropriate. Dr. Hagens expressed concern that the parking lot is too small for the use the trail gets. The Township was unable to expand the parking lot size under the constraints of the conservation easement (the land is owned by PECO and the Brandywine Conservancy holds an easement on the property).

3. Brandywine Trail Winter Maintenance – The question of whether or not the Township should plow the Brandywine Trail comes up from time to time. To date, East Bradford has not plowed trail; West Bradford does plow. The Committee discussed the topic and raised several questions:
 - a. Would plowing and/or de-icing the trail impact the lifespan of the trail?
 - b. What type of de-icer would be used on the trail (if any) and what environmental impact would it have (if any) given the trail's close proximity to the Brandywine?
 - c. Do the trail users have a preference?
 - d. Does the County or Township advertise locations for cross-country skiing?
 - e. What is West Bradford's maintenance policy and do they de-ice the trail?

The group agreed that the Township's maintenance policy for the trail needs to be consistent. There was also agreement that if the Township plows the trail it should plow the full width (as opposed to leaving half of the trail unplowed for skiing). There was concern that the limited width would force more users into a narrower area, which could result in more user conflict.

4. Paradise Farm Camps (PFC) Trails – Once hunting season is over, the Camp and Township will work towards completing and opening the trail.
5. Paradise Valley Nature Area Ravine Road Trail – The Camp and Township will work to set up a site visit date (depending on weather).
6. Harmony Hill Nature Area – Maintenance work on the yellow trail (at the paved trail) has been postponed until the spring.
7. 2014 Trail Blazer Race – Meeting at 1 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Member's Trail Inspections – No comments.
2. 2014 Ethics Statements – Ms. Cantlin collected ethics statements from:

John Spangler, Chair
Harry Hatzipavlidis, Vice Chair
Sheila Fleming
John Hagens
Bob Hawkes
Fred Rothman
Andy Schaum
Jacob Singer

Statements are due from:

Dave Baxter
Michael Colley
Mose Cornwell
Maria Kenny
Betsey Mehl
Josie Parman
Jim Wakefield

3. 2014 Budget – Ms. Cantlin reviewed the list of parks/trails/land projects planned for 2014:
 - a. Brandywine Farm North – Minor improvements to the field (per the agricultural use plan)
 - b. Brandywine Farm South – Dog park planning, design, construction

- c. Brandywine Trail Phase 1 – Port-a-potty installation, bridge maintenance (per inspection report), drainage improvement investigation (plan/budget for 2014-2015)
- d. Brandywine Trail Phase 2 – Investigate RAM-T use of property adjacent to Brandywine (in West Bradford)
- e. Brandywine Trail Phase 3 – Ribbon cutting and new kiosk sign (Eagle Scout candidate)
- f. Brandywine Trail Phase 5 – Feasibility study
- g. Brookworth Trail – Possible construction (volunteer)
- h. CCWA Trail – Finish and open (including connection to HHNA)
- i. Copeland Park – Complete stewardship assessment (in progress), basketball court improvements, swale restoration
- j. HHNA – Yellow trail drainage, possibly green trail drainage, widen Skelp Level driveway
- k. Jane Reed Park – Kiosk and trail sign (Eagle Scout candidate), possible removal/improvement of picnic area and/or exercise course
- l. M. John Johnson Nature Center – Transfer lease to Township
- a. Mt. Bradford – Pond inspection, parking lot construction, tree assessment/pruning, meadow restoration
- a. Paradise Valley Nature Area – Ravine Road trail bridge or survey and stream improvement
- b. Sconnettown Park – Increased field maintenance, NPDES permit for trail expires in December
- c. Shaw’s Bridge Park – Complete stewardship assessment (in progress), replace trail gravel, possibly replace/repair staircase
- d. Sugar’s Bridge Nature Area – Complete stewardship assessment (in progress), consider natural surface trail parallel to paved trail
- e. Timber Top Farm – Review lease (15-year term expires 2015), summer monitoring (Mr. Singer noted that dog use has resumed)
- f. 2014 Trail Blazer Race
- g. Etiquette/rule signage

In addition to the parks/trails projects listed above, the Township also will be working on the construction of a new public works building at the Township Campus, which will be a significant undertaking in the coming year.

- 4. Bike Bells / Trail User Communication – Dr. Hagens asked that the topic of bike bells and/or multi-use trail communication/education be discussed again during upcoming meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is February 27, 2014 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	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)
2. PFC-CCWA trails & easement
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 feasibility
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