

# **East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes February 27, 2014**

The February regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board) was held on February 27, 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 Hatzipavlides, Vice Chair  
Dave Baxter  
Michael Colley  
Sheila Fleming  
Bob Hawkes  
Maria Kenny  
Betsey Mehl  
Fred Rothman  
Andy Schaum

**Committee members absent:**

Mose Cornwell  
John Hagens  
Josie Parman  
Jacob Singer  
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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ORGANIZATION FOR 2014**

All current members were reappointed at the Supervisors organization meeting. In 2013, John Spangler served as Chair, Harry Hatzipavlides served as Vice Chair, and Mandie Cantlin served as Recording Secretary.

Ms. Cantlin assumed the role as Temporary Chair for the purpose of taking nominations from the floor for Chair. The Committee unanimously agreed to re-appoint John Spangler as Chair.

Mr. Spangler took nominations from the floor for Vice Chair. The Committee unanimously agreed to re-appoint Harry Hatzipavlides as Vice Chair.

Mr. Spangler took nominations from the floor for Recording Secretary. The Committee unanimously agreed to re-appoint Mandie Cantlin as Recording Secretary.

The 2014 meeting dates for the Committee will remain the same – fourth Thursday of each month with the exception of November and December. The November and December meetings will be held on the third Thursday in observation of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Spangler made a motion to approve the minutes from January 23, 2014, as presented. Mr. Schaum seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Brandywine Trail; Phase 2 – Last month there was discussion about RAM-T's use of the land that is adjacent to the southern segment of the Brandywine Trail. The RAM –T property is located in West Bradford Township. West Bradford investigated RAM-T's use of the property and found no code violations. In addition, Township Manager Tommy Ryan visited RAM-T and spoke to the owner. Mr. Ryan concluded from his conversation that, barring any code violations, RAM-T would not be doing anything to improve site aesthetics. East Bradford Code Enforcement Officer Brenden Beaumont is investigating alternative options.

Ms. Cantlin will be visiting the Sugar's Bridge Nature Area in March to try and locate a natural surface trail that would function as an alternative to the paved trail for some hikers and mountain bikers.

2. Brandywine Trail; Phase 3 – The project is complete. The final release will take place once snow cover is gone and the few remaining items can be re-inspected.
3. Brandywine Trail; Phase 5 – The feasibility study kick-off meeting for this project occurred on February 24. Representatives from McCormick Taylor, Parke Farm, NLT, Brandywine Conservancy, and Chester County were in attendance. McCormick hopes to complete the initial evaluation in 6-8 weeks.
4. 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 the trail; West Bradford does plow. Ms. Cantlin followed-up on several questions raised at the last meeting.
  - a. The Committee asked whether plowing and/or de-icing the trail would impact the lifespan of the trail. Plowing or snow blowing should not affect the lifespan of the surface. If anything, it may add to the lifespan of the pavement by reducing the amount of moisture left on the surface and what could seep under the surface.
  - b. The Trails Committee asked 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. Public Works would use the same salt or beet juice / salt combination they use on the roads depending on the residual snow and ice left on the trail after plowing / snow blowing. Public Works does not foresee a negative environmental impact. Public Works would use a limited amount of any product on the trail. In a worst case scenario, it would be no more than what the Township would use on any of its roads that run along Valley Creek or the Brandywine.
  - c. The TC asked whether the trail users have a preference. Ms. Cantlin sent an email to a group list that uses the paved trail and the Harmony Hill Nature Area. She shared the input she received, but noted that the majority of the people on the email list are hikers and mountain bikers. The email group is not reflective of the paved trail users. Signage would have to be posted at the trail to seek input from a broader population of trail users.
  - d. The Committee asked whether the County or Township advertise locations for cross-country skiing. The Township does not list cross-country skiing as a permitted or prohibited use, but four of the County's six parks allow skiing:
    - Black Rock Sanctuary in Phoenixville = 1.17 miles
    - Hibernia Park in Wagontown = 5.5 miles
    - Springton Manor Farm in Glenmore = 6.55 miles
    - Warwick Park in Pottstown = 3 trails (mileage unknown)
    - There are no skiing trails in Nottingham or Wolf's Hollow
    - The County's multi-use trails (Struble, Chester Valley, Schuylkill River) do not list uses on the trail maps; these trails are plowed

- e. The Committee asked whether West Bradford had a maintenance policy for their portion. West Bradford has a separate Parks Department that maintains the trail. Plowing the trail is a lower priority – the department cleans walkways and parking lots before trails. There is a level of expectation because people will call the Township when trails are not plowed promptly. Mr. Snook suggested that the Township could reach out to West Bradford to see whether they would extend their plowing through the East Bradford portion to Harmony Hill Road. The southern portion (phase 2) would remain snow covered. Ms. Cantlin will contact West Bradford.
5. Paradise Farm Camps (PFC) Trails – Once the weather moderates, the Camp and Township will work towards completing and opening the trail.
6. Paradise Valley Nature Area Ravine Road Trail – The Camp and Township will work to set up a site visit date once weather moderates.
7. Harmony Hill Nature Area – Maintenance work on the yellow trail (at the paved trail) has been postponed until the spring.
8. 2014 Trail Blazer Race – Members from the race committee are scheduled to meet with representatives from Run the Day and Victory on March 4.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. SD #628 Pennington Auto Body Land Development – The applicant, Richard Pennington, is proposing to place a storage shed on his commercial property. Even though this is a minor improvement, it still constitutes a land development under the MPC. The site is located in the C-2 zoning district and is surrounded by other non-residential uses. The property is not identified on the Official Map. The Committee had no comment.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

1. Member's Trail Inspections – Mr. Hamel noted that one of the P&R members said that the Blue Rock segment needs clearing.
2. 2014 Ethics Statements – Ms. Cantlin collected ethics statements from:

John Spangler, Chair  
Harry Hatzipavlidis, Vice Chair  
Dave Baxter  
Michael Colley  
Mose Cornwell  
Maria Kenny  
Betsey Mehl  
Sheila Fleming  
John Hagens  
Bob Hawkes  
Fred Rothman  
Andy Schaum  
Jacob Singer

Statements are due from:

Josie Parman  
Jim Wakefield

3. Bike Bells / Trail User Communication – No discussion. Ms. Cantlin suggested that this topic be discussed in several months (summer).
4. Stewardship Planning – Natural Lands Trust will facilitate stewardship planning discussions for Copeland Park, Sugar's Bridge, and Shaw's Bridge on March 27 at 1 pm and on April 8 at 5 pm.

5. XL Global Day of Giving – XL Group has again reached out to the Township to coordinate a volunteer work day. Mr. Hatzipavlidis suggested that the volunteers work on the Trail Blazer Race group. Others agreed this was a good idea. An alternative might be a new trail loop in the northern portion of the Harmony Hill Nature Area. Mr. Schaum will walk the race loop and determine how much work is needed.
6. Brandywine Creek Greenway – Ms. Cantlin shared an article on the Brandywine Creek Greenway in the November 2013 issue of County Lines Magazine. Ms. Fleming provided an update on the Greenway Action Plan. She expects that a draft of the Action Plan will be complete in March. She also noted that they received William Penn Funding to work towards implementing a number of the plan goals. William Penn projects include a 16 mile extension of the Struble Trail, securing the Brandywine Trail corridor (and shifting road portions towards the Creek) between Brandywine Park and the Struble Trail, and realizing key trail intersections in Chadds Ford.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is March 27, 2014 at 12 noon.

**ADJOURNMENT / CONTINUANCE:** At approximately 1:05 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	Feb 2014 – Blue Rock needs clearing
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