

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

The March regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board) was held on March 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 Hatzipavlidis, Vice Chair
Dave Baxter
Michael Colley
Sheila Fleming
John Hagens
Bob Hawkes
Maria Kenny
Josie Parman
Andy Schaum
Jim Wakefield

Committee members absent:

Mose Cornwell
Betsey Mehl
Fred Rothman
Jacob Singer

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

Staff/Professionals absent: None

Others in attendance:

Marianne Bausinger, P&R Board Chair
Joe Hamel, P&R Board
Tony Blanco, P&R Board
Dave Redmond
S. Damon Kletzien

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: Mr. Schaum made a motion to approve the minutes from February 27, 2014 as presented. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Trail; Phase 1 – One of the improvements planned for this year is the placement of a port-a-potty along the Brandywine Trail. Ms. Cantlin discussed several possible location options – at the new trail head on Skelp Level Road, by the kiosk on Harmony Hill Road, adjacent to the trail immediately south of Harmony Hill Road, or at the garage along the south portion of the trail. The Committee's preference was to place the port-a-potty at the garage, if feasible.
2. 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. Ms. Cantlin had conveyed RAM-T's position that, barring any code violations, they would not be doing anything to improve site aesthetics. However, RAM-T recently contacted West Bradford Township and told them that they planned to clean up some of the debris by the trail and install a buffer between the property and trail (e.g. landscaping, fence).

Ms. Cantlin visited the Sugar's Bridge Nature Area last week with P&R Member Tony Blanco and trail volunteer Bob Perna to investigate the feasibility of constructing a natural surface trail adjacent to the paved trail for use by mountain bikers and hikers. Ms. Cantlin distributed a map showing the approximate alignment. The trail would be very challenging to build, but very scenic. It would be primarily hand built by volunteers. The Trails Committee asked whether the natural trail could be extended further north to Harmony Hill. The Committee had no objections.

3. Brandywine Trail; Phase 3 – The project is complete. The contractor completed the remaining items this week. A final inspection is pending. Once the final inspection is done, Ms. Cantlin will begin to coordinate a ribbon cutting.
4. Brandywine Trail Winter Maintenance – There was discussion last month about whether or not the Township should plow the Brandywine Trail. Since then there has been some talk that plowing might actually make the trail more treacherous.
5. Paradise Valley Nature Area Ravine Road Trail – Representatives from the Camp and Township will examine the feasibility of realignment in the next two weeks.
6. Paradise Farm Camps (PFC) Trails – Once the Camp and Township address more pressing priorities (Trail Blazer Race, XL work day, and the Ravine Road Trail closure) they will revisit the opening of the public trail (maybe June).
7. 2014 Trail Blazer Race – The Race Committee updated the rest of the TC about Trail Blazer Race developments. The Race Committee is recommending that:
 - a. The race date will be moved back a week to June 19
 - b. Volunteers focus on a 5 mile trail run (no paved running events) and a family hike
 - c. The Township partner with Run the Day for marketing and timing

Next steps:

- a. Invite Tim Kruger out to review the courses; finalize course description
- b. Schedule meeting with Tim Kruger to discuss marketing
- c. Review the budget
- d. Prepare the registration form
- e. Consider sponsorships

NEW BUSINESS: None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Member's Trail Inspections – Mr. Singer called and reported that there are trees down across the Timber Top trail. Ms. Cantlin inspected Paradise Valley and suggested that the Township and Camp coordinate a work day. Dr. Hagens noted that a tree is down across the yellow HHNA trail, near the paved trail.
2. 2014 Ethics Statements – All ethics statements have been submitted.
3. Stewardship Planning – Natural Lands Trust will facilitate a stewardship planning discussion for Copeland Park, Sugar's Bridge, and Shaw's Bridge following this meeting at 1 pm. There will be a second planning discussion on April 8 at 5 pm.
4. Green Committee Tree Planting – The East Bradford Township Green Committee in partnership with Township Supervisors and Committees, West Chester Rotary, Brandywine Conservancy, and West Chester University is coordinating this important event to plant 300 tree seedlings at the Township's Brandywine Farm site on Saturday, April 12. The event will begin at 8:30 AM and end around noon. Volunteers are needed to dig holes, plant trees, attach stakes, and other activities necessary to plant 300 trees. Participants should wear durable clothes and bring gloves and heavy shoes/boots. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own shovels and hammers for the

stakes. Morning coffee, water, and snacks will be provided. More information is available on the Township website.

5. XL Global Day of Giving – The XL Group Global Day of Giving will take place on May 9. Other trail volunteers are welcome. The work will focus on clearing the Trail Blazer Race course at Paradise Farm Camps.
6. Brandywine Creek Greenway – No updates.
- a. Growing Greener Communities Award – Natural Lands Trust, in partnership with the Chester County Association of Township Officials (CCATO), honored East Bradford Township, during the CCATO conference on March 13 with the first annual Growing Greener Communities Award. The award recognizes a Chester County municipality that has engaged in a dynamic initiative designed to save land, steward natural resources, and connect people to nature. East Bradford's nomination was based on Township's comprehensive open space program, which spans almost 30 years.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is April 24, 2014 at 12 noon.

ADJOURNMENT / CONTINUANCE: At approximately 1:00 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)	March 2104 (PVNA)
Michael Colley – Paradise Valley Nature Area & Starr Farm Park	March 2014 – WORK NEEDED
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	March 2014 – WORK NEEDED
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	March 2014 – WORK NEEDED
Jacob Singer – Timber Top Farm	March 2014 – WORK NEEDED
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