

# East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes April 24, 2014

The April regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation (P&R) Board) was held on April 24, 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  
Michael Colley  
Sheila Fleming  
Betsey Mehl  
Josie Parman  
Andy Schaum  
Jacob Singer  
Jim Wakefield

**Committee members absent:**

Harry Hatzipavlidis, Vice Chair  
Dave Baxter  
Mose Cornwell  
John Hagens  
Bob Hawkes  
Maria Kenny  
Fred Rothman

**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

**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 March 27, 2014 as presented. Mr. Spangler seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Brandywine Trail; Phase 2 – Last month, Ms. Cantlin visited the Sugar's Bridge Nature Area 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. The TC was supportive. Ms. Cantlin shared the concept with the Supervisors; they too were supportive. Ms. Cantlin hopes to begin construction work days later this spring.
2. Brandywine Trail; Phase 3 – The final inspection was performed earlier in the month. The few remaining items have been satisfactorily addressed. Ms. Cantlin will begin to coordinate a ribbon cutting. Mr. Schaum noted that it would be nice for a number of TC members to attend the event to show the Township's appreciation for the funding support it received for this project.
3. Brandywine Trail; Phase 5 – Ms. Cantlin asked McCormick Taylor for a project update.

4. Harmony Hill Nature Area; Yellow Trail Maintenance – Public Works plans to do the drainage work on the yellow trail on Tuesday April 29 beginning at 8:00 am.
5. 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).
6. Paradise Valley Nature Area; Ravine Road Trail – Representatives from the Camp and Township visited the trail earlier in the month. They examined the feasibility of a reroute and considered options to improve the trail in its existing condition. There are three options under consideration: 1) “cut” the trail into the hill further to achieve a stable bench, 2) construct a bridge to span the washout area, or 3) reroute the trail upslope to go around the washout. Mr. Schaum briefly discussed some pros, cons, and considerations of each option. Township and Camp staff would like to seek input from a geotechnical engineer to learn whether options 1 and 2 above are feasible. Ms. Cantlin will discuss this matter with the Supervisors. Mr. Schaum noted that geology staff at WCU might be able to help, too.
7. Trail Signage/Etiquette – The topic of trail user communication/etiquette has been discussed from time to time. The Committee talked about posting additional rules/regulation/etiquette signage along the paved trail. Dr. Hagens discovered that the paved trail rules/regulations in East and West Bradford are different (West Bradford permits skateboards and rollerblades; East Bradford does not). The permitted uses should be consistent. The P&R Board discussed this matter during their meeting on April 23; P&R members did not have a strong opinion as to whether skateboards and rollerblades should be permitted on the trail. Ms. Bausinger recalled that the rules/regulations were crafted for the Township’s active parks; uses on the paved trail were not considered. Mr. Spangler offered to examine the rules for the Chester Valley Trail, Struble Trail, and West Bradford’s portion of the Brandywine Trail for discussion next month.
8. 2014 Trail Blazer Run – The event committee is scheduled to meet after the TC meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. SD #627 Taraschi Subdivision (Lot Line Change) – The applicant, Stephen Taraschi, is proposing several lot line changes (impacting 3 lots – 1416, 1424, and 1426 Highland Road) to bring several existing features into compliance (a shed and driveway are not located on the properties they serve). The site is located in the R-2 zoning district and is surrounded by other residential uses. The property is not identified on the Official Map. The Trails Committee had no comment.
2. SD #629 Nastase Subdivision – The applicant, Orazio (Jake) Nastase, is proposing to divide his 3.859-acre property located at 823 Miner Street into 2 lots. The site is located in the R-4 zoning district and is surrounded by other residential uses and one institutional use (Geriatric & Medical Services). The Official Map depicts proposed east-west trails along the Miner Street frontage and very close to the rear property line (on Windon open space). Mr. Spangler made a motion to recommend that the Supervisors request trail easements along the front and rear of the property, as well as a side easement to connect the front to the back (if/when the trail(s) come to fruition). Mr. Schuam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

1. Member’s Trail Inspections – Mr. Redmond reported that the (historic) Brandywine Trail is clear. Mr. Colley visited the Paradise Valley Nature Area. The wet seep along the northeast edge of the field makes mowing the perimeter difficult. This year, he will shift the mowed path into the field to avoid this wet area. Ms. Cantlin reported that Mr. Rothman visited Shaw’s Bridge and Blue Rock Trail; he reported that both locations are in good condition. Mr. Singer noted that there is a tree limb at Timber Top that needs to be removed.
2. Brandywine Creek Greenway – The Draft Strategic Action Plan for the Brandywine Creek Greenway was recently completed and sent to the participating municipalities. The document is published in 3 parts: Part 1 - Strategies; Part 2 - Municipal “To Do” Packet; and Part 3 - Implementation Tool Kit. Ms. Cantlin forwarded this information to the TC for their review. Ms. Fleming announced that the Draft Plan will be presented during a reception at the Downingtown Country Club on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. This is only the first step in reviewing the Draft Plan.

Brandywine Conservancy staff will coordinate a public meeting in each municipality to discuss the Plan during May through September.

3. 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.
4. Meadow Workshop – There will be a meadow restoration/management workshop at Paradise Farm Camps on May 29. Ms. Cantlin will distribute more information soon.
5. Trail Blazer Run – The Trail Blazer Run will take place on June 19, 2014. On-site registration opens at 5:00 pm; the race begins at 6:30 pm. This year's events are a 5 mile trail run and a 1.5 mile family fun hike. Ms. Cantlin will distribute more information soon.
6. Stewardship Plans – Natural Lands Trust facilitated two stewardship planning discussions for Copeland Park, Sugar's Bridge, and Shaw's Bridge. Members from the P&R Board feel strongly that the Plan for Sugar's Bridge should not rule out the construction of a pond. Ms. Cantlin will review the Plan in draft form to make sure it recognizes the pond as an option.
7. Sunoco Pipeline – There was some brief discussion about the possible Sunoco pipeline construction through Chester County. East Bradford is posting information on the Township website as it becomes available.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is May 22, 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 Hatzipavlidis – 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