

East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes May 22, 2014

The May regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation (P&R) Board) was held on May 22, 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
Sheila Fleming
John Hagens
Bob Hawkes
Maria Kenny
Betsey Mehl
Josie Parman
Andy Schaum
Jacob Singer
Jim Wakefield

Committee members absent:

Michael Colley
Mose Cornwell
Fred Rothman

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

Staff/Professionals absent: None

Others in attendance:

Dave Redmond
Sara Norman

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 April 24, 2014 as presented. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Trail; Phase 2 – Earlier in the spring, 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. Ms. Cantlin plans to begin work on the initial trail layout on May 30.
2. Brandywine Trail; Phase 3 – The Township is waiting for final paperwork from the contractor. Ms. Cantlin will begin to coordinate a ribbon cutting next month. An Eagle Scout Candidate submitted a proposal to redo the kiosk sign at the Skelp Level parking lot. He is planning to attend the P&R Board meeting on May 28 to present his proposal.
3. Brandywine Trail; Phase 5 – McCormick collected high speeds at the potential mid-block crossing location (>60 mph). The speed between the Creek Road curves was lower (45 mph), but still high for the location. McCormick talked to PennDOT about lowering the speed in this area. PennDOT indicated that they would consider it if the Township so requested. Once the draft report is complete, the Township will consider making this request to

PennDOT. Mr. Schaum suggested that the Township consider focusing the speed limit discussion in the area of the proposed crossing. A wetland professional from McCormick visited the Stroud Preserve to review wetlands earlier in the month. McCormick will investigate a bridge/crossing over Taylor Run. The draft plan is expected in the next few weeks. Dr. Hagens noted that Parke Farm had their HOA meeting last month. The members still have concerns relative to parking on Copes Lane, liability, and trespassing. Ms. Cantlin will contact the HOA president to discuss these concerns.

4. Harmony Hill Nature Area – Public Works completed the drainage work on the yellow trail earlier this month. Maintenance work days are scheduled for:

Saturday May 24 @ 9 am / Harmony Hill Rd Lot / Leaders: Scott Olmsted and Mandie Cantlin
Saturday June 21 @ 9 am / Harmony Hill Rd Lot / Leaders: Scott Olmsted and Mandie Cantlin
Monday July 21 @ 9 am / Skelp Level Lot / Leaders: Leslie Spangler and Mandie Cantlin
Thursday August 14 @ 12:30 pm / Skelp Level Lot / Leader: Leslie Spangler

5. Paradise Valley Nature Area; Ravine Road Trail – As discussed last month, Township and Camp staff would like to seek input from a geotechnical engineer to learn more about the feasibility of various repair options. The Supervisors were supportive, but welcomed input from a professional Trail Design/Construction firm before proceeding (e.g. Penn Trails). Mr. Schaum reiterated that the Camp is not interested in relocating the trail and said he was open to additional input.
6. Trail Signage/Etiquette – Last month, 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. Mr. Spangler examined the rules for the Chester Valley Trail, Struble Trail, and West Bradford's portion of the Brandywine Trail. There was extensive discussion about the pros/cons of permitting rollerblades and skateboards on the paved trail. In general, the majority of the members supported these uses on the trail; more people expressed concern about skateboards than rollerblades. The members generally agreed that this would be a good topic on which to solicit input from trail users via a questionnaire. Mr. Hatzipavlidis noted the usefulness of developing an email database of users for this purpose. Mr. Spangler found a forum link that discussed rollerblade use; Ms. Cantlin will share this link with the members. In the interim, the P&R Board, in cooperation with Trails, will begin to develop an ordinance to govern the use on the paved trail.
7. 2014 Trail Blazer Run – The event committee is scheduled to meet after the TC meeting. The Trail Blazer Run is scheduled for June 19, 2014 at 6:30 pm (rain or shine). Committee members are encouraged to participate in the event (run, walk, volunteer). On-line registration and volunteer sign up is provided at www.runtheday.com. Ms. Cantlin recognized guest Sara Norman (recent MPA grad) for her help marketing the event on line.

NEW BUSINESS: None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Member's Trail Inspections – Mr. Colley mowed the trail around the Paradise Valley Nature Area field and also mowed half the meadow.
2. Brandywine Creek Greenway – The Draft Strategic Action Plan for the Brandywine Creek Greenway was presented during a reception at the Downingtown Country Club on April 29. Ms. Fleming reported that the event was "electric." She anticipates that there will be a public meeting/open house at each municipality to present Part 2 of the Plan. The East Bradford meeting may occur in June or July.
3. XL Global Day of Giving – The XL Group Global Day of Giving took place on May 9 at Paradise Farm Camps. The turnout was great and a lot of work was accomplished.
4. Brandywine Farm Dog Park – Gilmore and Associates just finished the plans for the dog park. Once Township staff reviews the plans, they will be submitted to PECO for review/approval.

5. PALTA Seminar & PA Trail Design Manual – Mr. Schaum, Ms. Fleming, Ms. Cantlin, and EAC Member Jeff Cantwell attended different workshops presented at the PALTA Conference. Ms. Cantlin attended a workshop on sustainable trails. She shared the new PA Trail Design and Development Principles manual prepared by DCNR.
6. Meadow Workshop – There will be a meadow restoration/management workshop at Paradise Farm Camps on May 29. Ms. Cantlin distributed flyers.
7. Trail Blazer Run – Again, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is June 26, 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)	May 2014 (Starr, HHNA)
Michael Colley – Paradise Valley Nature Area & Starr Farm Park	May 2014
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	April 2014
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