

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

The July regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation (P&R) Board) was held on July 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
Harry Hatzipavlidis, Vice Chair
Dave Baxter
Mose Cornwell
John Hagens
Bob Hawkes
Josie Parman
Andy Schaum

Committee members absent:

Michael Colley
Sheila Fleming
Maria Kenny
Betsey Mehl
Fred Rothman
Jacob Singer
Jim Wakefield

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

Staff/Professionals absent: None

Others in attendance:

Marianne Bausinger, P&R
Joe Hamel, P&R

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: Dr. Hagens made a motion to approve the minutes from May 22, 2014 as presented (there was no meeting in June). Mr. Schaum seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Trail; Phase 5 – Ms. Cantlin distributed the draft feasibility study to the Committee. The Supervisors reviewed the plan earlier in the month and had no comment. Last month, Dr. Hagens noted that Parke Farm still had concerns relative to parking on Copes Lane, liability, and trespassing. Ms. Cantlin contacted the HOA president in June to talk about these topics:
 - a. Liability – Parke Farm HOA has concerns about the liability they might be assuming as a result of the Brandywine Trail. Ms. Cantlin shared a sample trail easement agreement and information about the Recreational Use Act that limits the legal liability of landowners who make their land available to the public for recreation. Both of these documents address liability and immunity. She also advised the HOA to consult with its attorney and/or insurance agent.
 - b. Parking – The HOA has concerns about trail users parking their cars along Copes Lane. This is a private road. The Township does not foresee heavy use of this trail and there are parking lots at either

end. However, Ms. Cantlin will be looking into what the Township's abilities are to post/enforce parking regulations on this roadway should it be warranted.

- c. Use – Parke Farm desires to limit the use on this trail to pedestrians and to require that pets be leashed. The Township can handle specific uses/rules via a memorandum of understanding that would accompany the trail easement agreement. Dr. Hagens emphasized that the HOA is opposed to equestrians and is likely to reject any proposal that includes (or implies) equestrian use.
- d. Trespassing – The HOA has concerns about trail users trespassing onto private/HOA property. Both the Township and HOA will consider various methods to create parameters/boundaries to keep public use on the trail to the greatest extent possible (e.g. signs, fencing, landscaping).

Mr. Hawks asked why the bridges proposed by the engineer are so substantial. The Township directed the engineer to plan for all possible uses (pedestrian, equestrian, and cyclists). In addition, the bridge would be on NLT property and NLT may wish to use the bridge to transport mowers and other equipment to maintain the trail. The Committee noted that the Township could phase the construction of the trail by building Alternative 1A first; Alternative 1 (which requires a new bridge to be built over Taylor Run) could be constructed when the funds are available. The TC observed that Alternative 1A proposes to use the Creek Road bridge to cross Taylor Run. The TC expressed concerns about the safety of pedestrians and vehicles sharing the bridge. Mr. Hatzipavlides asked if the engineer had evaluated whether vehicular stacking at the trail crossing could result in reduced sight distance.

2. Trail Signage/Rules/Etiquette – This past spring, 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 (e.g. West Bradford permits skateboards and rollerblades; East Bradford does not). The permitted uses should be consistent. It was decided that the P&R Board, in cooperation with Trails, will begin to develop an ordinance to govern the use on the paved trail. This matter is on the P&R Board's August 27 meeting agenda.
3. 2014 Trail Blazer Run – The event committee is scheduled to meet after the TC meeting. The Trail Blazer Run took place on June 19, 2014. Approximately 200 runners and 50 walkers participated in the event. The race was staffed by roughly 50 volunteers; Victory Brewing Company hosted the post race party. Twelve sponsors supported the event, committing \$2,500 in funding. The event generated a gross revenue of \$8,500; the Township projects a profit of \$3,500.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2015 Budget – The Township is working on the 2015 budget and has asked advisory boards and commissions for input. Ms. Cantlin distributed the 2014 Trails Committee proprieties along with a listing of projected maintenance projects. She advised that new projects may be limited in 2015 as the Township staff focuses on internal operations and the maintenance of existing facilities. In addition, the Comprehensive Plan update will take place next year, which is a time consuming process.

Several members suggested priorities such as:

- a. PFC-CCWA trails and easement
- b. Paradise Valley NA Ravine Road/Chapel Trail repair
- c. Brandywine Trail Phase 5
- d. Brandywine Farm North subdivision/trail layout/disk golf concept
- e. Sugar's Bridge NA natural surface trail
- f. HHNA northern trail loop
- g. Complete two dog parks (Brandywine and Starr Farms)

Ms. Cantlin asked other members to submit their feedback as soon as possible.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Shaw's Bridge Park Trail Improvements – Public Works re-stoned the trail at Shaw's Bridge Park. Ms. Cantlin distributed before/after photographs. A new kiosk sign is posted at the park.

2. Brandywine Trail Phase 3 Kiosk and Parking Lot – The new kiosk sign at the Skelp Level Road/Rt 322 parking lot is complete. The Township is working to address complaints about the tar/chip surface of this parking lot. Ms. Cantlin reminded the Committee that this parking area cannot be expanded due to the restrictions contained in the Brandywine Conservancy conservation easement.
3. Comprehensive Plan Update – The Comprehensive Plan update process is moving forward. The Township is in the process of reviewing proposals for the planning work and intends to select a consultant team in August. The planning process is expected to take roughly 20 months to complete.
4. Brandywine Creek Greenway – The Draft Strategic Action Plan for the Brandywine Creek Greenway is available for review on the Township Website (<http://www.eastbradford.org/specialinterest/BrandywineGreenway/BrandywineGreenway.asp>). The Conservancy is asking for comments – particularly on Part 2 – by September 30.
5. Member’s Trail Inspections – No discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is August 28, 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)	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