

East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes August 28, 2014

The August regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation (P&R) Board) was held on August 28, 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:

Harry Hatzipavlidis, Vice Chair
Michael Colley
Sheila Fleming
Bob Hawkes
Maria Kenny
Josie Parman
Andy Schaum
Jacob Singer
Jim Wakefield

Committee members absent:

John Spangler, Chair
Dave Baxter
Mose Cornwell
John Hagens
Betsey Mehl
Fred Rothman

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

Staff/Professionals absent: None

Others in attendance:

S. Damon Kletzien
Dave Redmond

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm by Vice Chair Hatzipavlidis.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: Ms. Parman made a motion to approve the minutes from July 24, 2014 as presented. Mr. Schaum seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Farm North – Last month, the members of the Committee expressed interest in installing the trail through Brandywine Farm North. The P&R Board also mentioned that they were interested in a disk golf course on this property. The Supervisors were scheduled to discuss the various options last month, but they did not get to it. This topic is on their agenda for discussion in September. Regardless, the farming lease on the property expires in March 2016.
2. Brandywine Trail -
 - a. Trail Rules/Signage – The P&R Board discussed creating distinct trail rules/regulations for the paved trail during their meeting on August 27. The Board agreed that East Bradford and West Bradford Township regulations should be consistent. The P&R Board feels that roller blades should be permitted. Ms. Cantlin will get West Bradford Township's regulations for comparison. In the interim, she said that additional rule/regulation signage is on order. When the signs come in, they will be posted in a few additional locations and the sign at the bridge will be turned around.

- b. Stop signs – Mr. Hawkes inquired whether there are stop signs on the paved trail where it comes to a road crossing. Ms. Cantlin will check.
 - c. Rain gardens – The rain gardens along the Brandywine Trail have not done well. Members of the EAC, P&R Board, and staff are working with North Creek Nurseries to come up with a workable and maintainable solution.
 - d. Ribbon cutting – Ms. Cantlin has begun to coordinate the ribbon cutting event for Phase 3.
 - e. Phase 5 – McCormick Taylor is wrapping up the feasibility study. Ms. Cantlin is working with the Police Department to learn what the Township's abilities are to post/enforce parking regulations on Copes Lane.
3. Harmony Hill Nature Area – The spring/summer work days at the Harmony Hill Nature Area are complete. Attendance was very successful. The Township and volunteer groups will schedule a few more days this fall for clearing and blazing.
 4. Mt. Bradford Preserve – The vegetation removal part of the meadow restoration is complete. The Township will be working with NLT to monitor, treat, and plant the meadow over the next year or two. Mr. Hatzipavlidis and others stressed the importance of providing trails in the southern end of the Township. Ms. Cantlin indicated that once the parking lot is in (target – this fall), the Trails Committee can begin to layout natural surface trails in the wooded portion of the property. Public Works will continue to mow around the field area. Mr. Wakefield noted that Windon is converting an area of its property to meadow, too.
 5. Chapel Trail / Paradise Valley Nature Area – The Township solicited a proposal for a trail assessment from Penn Trails to assist in narrowing down the options for the trail repair (\$975). Mr. Schaum made a motion to recommend that the Supervisors authorize Penn Trails to perform the work outlined in the proposal. Mr. Colley seconded the motion noting that this work may help the Township save money in the long run. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.
 6. Sugar's Bridge Nature Area – Ms. Cantlin and several volunteers will flag the proposed natural surface trail this afternoon. Construction may begin as early as this fall.
 7. Timber Top Trail Easement – The 15-year term of the Timber Top easement expires next spring. Ms. Cantlin is working with Mr. Singer on an amended easement.
 8. 2014 Trail Blazer Run – The event committee is scheduled to meet after the TC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. 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.
2. Member's Trail Inspections – Mr. Colley noted that the Paradise Valley Nature Area meadow, which he has been mowing and maintaining, has come back beautifully. He encouraged the members to visit the property. He noted that it is possible to cross the Valley Creek from the parking lot on Valley Creek Road.
3. Nature Walks – Mr. Hawkes again recommended that the Township plan a series of nature walks to highlight the natural features present in a number of the properties. There are numerous experts in the area that could lead the hikes. Other Townships and/or the County might have programs East Bradford could model. Ms. Cantlin will connect the Spanglers, Mr. Hawkes, and Mr. Colley so that they can consider options.
4. Paradise Farm Camps Public Trail – Representatives from the Camp and Township are planning to meet in September to finalize the opening of the public trail (target – this winter).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is September 25, 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)	May 2014 (Starr, HHNA)
Michael Colley – Paradise Valley Nature Area & Starr Farm Park	August 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