

East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes October 23, 2014

The October regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation (P&R) Board) was held on October 23, 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
Bob Hawkes
Maria Kenny
Betsey Mehl
Josie Parman
Andy Schaum
Jacob Singer
Jim Wakefield

Committee members absent:

Mose Cornwell
John Hagens
Fred Rothman

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager
Mark Lucas, P.E., Township Engineer

Staff/Professionals absent: None

Others in attendance:

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 September 25, 2014 as presented. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Farm –
 - a. Brandywine Farm North – Township hopes to pursue the subdivision of the Brandywine Farm North property in 2015 and specify the locations for public trails. The Supervisors will consider whether they want to retain ownership of portions of the property.
 - b. Brandywine Farm South – PECO's review of the dog park parking lot is due this month. The Highway Occupancy Permit is a work in progress. Mr. Spangler and Mr. Colley reported that two guests attended the P&R meeting last night to discuss the proposed dog park at Brandywine Farm.
2. Brandywine Trail –

- a. Rules / regulations – A sub-group consisting of Mr. Spangler, Mr. Wakefield, and West Bradford staff, will soon begin to craft regulations to govern the use of the paved trail. In the interim, additional rules/regulations signs were delivered this week. The new signs will be posted at the trail entrance points and the existing sign at the bridge will be turned around.
 - b. Phase 5 – The Supervisors are scheduled to review the feasibility study for Phase 5 next month. Ms. Cantlin talked to the West Chester Police Department about Parke Farm HOA's parking concerns. (Several months ago, the HOA expressed concerns about trail users parking their cars along Copes Lane, which is a private road.) Because it is a private road, the HOA has the authority to post the road as "No Parking." The HOA could contract with a towing company to tow cars that are parked along the roadway. No tickets would be issued.
3. Harmony Hill Nature Area – There are two November work days scheduled at the Harmony Hill Nature Area:
- a. Sunday November 2 at 9:00 am – routine trail maintenance
 - b. Monday November 3 at 9:30 am – blazing and marking
4. Paradise Farm Camps Trails:
- a. Chapel Trail – The Supervisors approved a proposal from Penn Trails to assess the Chapel Trail washout. The assessment will be prepared this fall.
 - b. Skelp Level Road Public Trail – Township and Camp representatives met late last month to discuss the opening of the public trail that will access off of Skelp Level Road. The Township and Camp agreed to work together to achieve the trail opening by March 2015. The delay to spring is due in part to the hunting program and not wanting to confuse people with periodic openings/closings during the firearm season. In addition, the camp's fall season is busy and staff would have little time to work on the tasks required to open the trail. The camp feels strongly that the trail be open to pedestrian use only and does not want to permit dogs. Access would be limited during hunting season.
5. Naturalist Walks – Mr. Spangler, Mr. Hawkes, and Mr. Colley met to discuss the naturalist walk effort. They suggested coordinating the first walk with the opening of the CCWA-PFC public trail in the spring of 2015. The group has identified several WCU experts as possible guides.
6. 2015 Trail Blazer Run – The race planning group will meet after the Trails Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Creek Greenway – Ms. Fleming reported that the Conservancy received a lot of feedback on the Action Plan. They will begin compiling the final plan. A reception will be held on October 30 to celebrate the Action Plan and discuss how to plan and fund priority projects. The reception will be held at the Coatesville Country Club. In addition, there will be a series of regional holiday parties to discuss projects and priorities.
2. TC Meetings and Membership – The November and December meetings of the Trails Committee will be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month in recognition of Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is discussion about permanently moving the meeting back to the 3rd Thursday so that the Trails Committee meets before the Parks and Recreation Board. This would help in the flow of information between the subcommittee and "parent" board. The Supervisors will reappoint TC members in January; if any members are no longer interested in serving on the TC, they should notify Ms. Cantlin or Township Manager Mike Lynch. Dr. Hagens has indicated that he will step down from Committee at the end of the year. Beginning in January, a total of four seats will be designated for P&R members to further improve coordination between the two groups.
3. Member's Trail Inspections – No discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is November 20, 2014 (3rd Thursday) at 12 noon.

ADJOURNMENT / CONTINUANCE: At approximately 12:55 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 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	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