

East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes March 19, 2015

The March regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation (P&R) Board) was held on March 19, 2015 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
Sheila Fleming
Bob Hawkes
Josie Parman
Fred Rothman
Andy Schaum
Jacob Singer
Jim Wakefield

Committee members absent:

Tony Blanco
Michael Colley
Mose Cornwell
Joseph Hamel
Maria Kenny
Betsey Mehl

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

Staff/Professionals absent: None

Others in attendance:

Dave Redmond
Meredith Mayer, Brandywine Conservancy

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: Last month, the Committee noted that the January 15 minutes were not available on line. Both January and February minutes are now posted. Mr. Spangler made a motion to approve the minutes from January 15 and February 19, as presented. Mr. Singer seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cantlin announced that Dave Baxter resigned from the Commission. The TC thanked him for his dedication and service and asked whether Viktor Ohnjec or Susan or Martin Mrugal might be interested in serving on the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Trail –
 - a. Rules / regulations – A sub-group consisting of Mr. Spangler, Mr. Wakefield, and West Bradford staff, was developed with the purpose of crafting regulations to govern the use of the paved trail. Ms. Cantlin noted that the Township will be modifying and updating parks-related ordinance language in a few months. This would be the ideal time to incorporate regulations for the paved trail. Ms. Cantlin also mentioned that Planning Commission Member Bill Tritle suggested that the Township post a sign in the fall to inform users about the Township's winter maintenance policy.

- b. Brandywine Trail Networking Event – Ms. Cantlin continues to work on the May 29 networking event. A “save the date” announcement will be distributed by the end of the month. The following groups will provide information and displays during the event: PennDOT, the Chester County Planning Commission, the Brandywine Conservancy, Wilmington and Chester County Trail Clubs, and Bike Chester County (formerly the Chester County Cycling Coalition). The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a meet-and-greet period, followed by words from key funders/stakeholders. Mr. Schaum suggested reaching out to the William Penn Foundation, too.
2. Brookworth Trail – For several years now there has been limited interest in improving the small trail loop that is located between Highland Road and the Brookworth Shopping Center. There appear to be residents in the area that are interested in making this area more usable, but they need guidance in terms of trail construction. Mr. Spangler and Ms. Cantlin have drafted a letter to send to neighboring residents to gauge their interest in this effort. However, given other active projects (e.g. Trail Blazer Run, two Eagle Scout trail projects, trail rules and regulations), Mr. Spangler suggested that this effort wait until some of the other projects have been completed.
 3. Paradise Farm Camps Trails –
 - a. Chapel Trail – PennTrails is in the process of developing a proposal for the next phase of work.
 - b. Skelp Level Road Public Trail – The Township and Camp are making progress in their efforts to open the public trail this spring. Hazardous trees have been identified by an arborist and will be removed/pruned prior to opening; sign plaques have been ordered; and mapping has been prepared. Mr. Schaum asked for input from the Committee relative to the trail name. He suggested that there are three levels to consider in terms of naming the trail: 1) the Camp is the owner of the land, 2) emphasis on the passive and quiet nature of the walking trail, and 3) natural features that make the setting unique. Some name elements that have been recommended include:
 - Skelp Level Loop
 - South Valley Hills
 - Peaceful Place
 - Deep Hollow
- Mr. Schaum will generate a more extensive list and distribute it to the Committee for consideration and recommendation.
4. Timber Top Farm – Ms. Cantlin shared that Jacob Singer and the Township executed an amended trail easement agreement with 3-year (automatically renewing) terms.
 5. Naturalist Walks – Mr. Spangler, Mr. Hawkes, and Mr. Colley continue to work on the naturalist walks. The first walk is tentatively scheduled to occur in mid-May using the Skelp Level Road Public Trail at Paradise Farm Camps. There was discussion about limiting the number of attendees to 15. Mr. Spangler will talk to the naturalists and refine the event details.
 6. 2015 Trail Blazer Run – The race group will meet after this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Conservancy Bike Tour – Meredith Mayer and Sheila Fleming from the Brandywine Conservancy shared that they are contemplating a bike tour event to raise funds for the Brandywine Creek Greenway project. They are in the early brainstorming phase and collected input from TC members.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Chester County Municipal Grant – Last month, the TC supported a grant submission to Chester County for funding to acquire a 6.9-acre property adjacent to the Plum Run in the Strode’s Mill Historic District. The Township was awarded the grant in the amount of \$105,000.

2. Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point – Ms. Parman announced that the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point will take place on Easter Sunday. They are selling raffle tickets and seeking volunteers to assist with the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is April 16, 2015 at 12 noon.

ADJOURNMENT / CONTINUANCE: At approximately 1:00 p.m., the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

Amanda "Mandie" Cantlin
Trails Committee Secretary

TRAILS COMMITTEE PRIORITIES (2015):

1. PFC-CCWA trails & easement
2. Brandywine Trail Phase 5 feasibility
3. Paradise Valley Nature Area (trail improvements, washout, & Valley Creek fish habitat improvement)
4. Mt. Bradford Improvements (meadow restoration, parking area, paved trail)

Other projects that are not prioritized include:

- Bike/ped improvements along Scennelltown Road (Mt. Bradford to Scennelltown 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