

East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes April 16, 2015

The April regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation (P&R) Board) was held on April 16, 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
Tony Blanco
Michael Colley
Sheila Fleming
Bob Hawkes
Maria Kenny
Josie Parman
Andy Schaum
Jacob Singer
Jim Wakefield

Committee members absent:

Mose Cornwell
Joseph Hamel
Betsey Mehl
Fred Rothman

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

Staff/Professionals absent:

Mark Lucas, P.E., Township Engineer

Others in attendance: None

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Chair Spangler.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: Mr. Schaum made a motion to approve the minutes from March 19, 2015, as presented. Mr. Blanco seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cantlin noted that she reached out to Viktor Ohnjec, Susan Mrugal, and Martin Mrugal about serving on the Committee. Ms. Mrugal responded that she is not able to commit; responses from Mr. Ohnjec and Mr. Mrugal are pending.

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. The group has not met; this effort will be explored after more pressing projects are completed (late summer / early fall).
 - b. Brandywine Trail Networking Event – Save the Date notices were distributed for the May 29 Brandywine Trail Networking Event earlier this week. The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a meet-and-greet period, followed by words from key funders/stakeholders.

2. Paradise Farm Camps Trails –

- a. Chapel Trail – PennTrails submitted the proposal for design and planning. Ms. Cantlin will review it soon and will likely distribute it to the Committee for consideration next month.
- b. Skelp Level Road Public Trail – Mr. Schaum distributed a list of potential trail names for consideration:
 - Skelp Level Loop
 - Peaceful Place
 - Peaceful Place at Paradise Farm
 - Peaceful Place at Paradise Farm Camps
 - South Valley Hills (historic name for area)
 - Deep Hollow
 - Deep Hollow at Paradise Farm
 - Deep Hollow at Paradise Farm Camps

The majority of the Committee favored South Valley Hills. There were two votes for Skelp Level Loop and one for Peaceful Place at Paradise Farm.

Mr. Schaum also drafted rules and regulations for the trail, which he and Ms. Cantlin will refine in the coming weeks.

3. 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. The group will be meeting at the Camp on April 17 to discuss the event in more detail. The tentative date discussed was Thursday May 14 at 6:00 pm. The Committee noted that it is important to include the distance and duration of the walk in marketing materials. Mr. Spangler feels it is important for Collin Keogh, the Eagle Scout who constructed the connector trail from Harmony Hill Nature Area, to be available.
4. 2015 Trail Blazer Run – The race group will meet after this meeting. Ms. Cantlin noted that the group could use help distributing posters and registration forms.

NEW BUSINESS: None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Creek Greenway and Plum Run Green Corridor – Ms. Fleming noted that the State approved the Greenway Strategic Action Plan. She also reviewed the historic Brandywine Tail corridor with members of the Committee in an effort to understand alignment options north of Shaw's Bridge Park.
2. Comprehensive Plan – The Comprehensive Plan update process will begin in earnest next month. The entire process likely will take 12-18 months. The following people have agreed to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Task Force
 - Tony Biacchi
 - John Spangler
 - Kathryn Deaville
 - Sheila Fleming
 - Harry Hatzipavrides
 - Mark Bedwell
 - Fred Rothman
 - Andrew Schaum
 - Kathy Bergmann
 - Scott Bohn
 - Jo Anne Yarnall
 - John Johnson
 - Ken Cavanaugh

The comprehensive plan will revolve around 4 general themes:

- Route 322/Downingtown Pike corridor between West Chester Borough and the Timber Top Farm trailhead.
- Bradford Avenue/Lenape Road between Route 322/Downingtown Pike and Birmingham Road.
- Bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and circulation.
- Means to coordinate land use planning and regulation with West Chester Borough for the mutual benefit of both municipalities.

3. Member's Trail Inspections – The following people are assigned to Township parks/trails:

- Blue Rock Trail – Fred Rothman
- Brandywine Trail – Andy Schaum
- Copeland / East Bradford Park Trail – Harry Hatzipavlidis
- Harmony Hill Nature Area; red and yellow trails – John Spangler; Tony Blanco
- Harmony Hill Nature Area; green trail – Sheila Fleming; Maria Kenny; John Spangler; Tony Blanco
- Harmony Hill Nature Area; blue and black – John Spangler; Tony Blanco
- Jane Reed Park – Harry Hatzipavlidis
- Paradise Valley Nature Area – Michael Colley; Bob Hawkes; Andy Schaum
- Shaw's Bridge – Fred Rothman
- Starr Farm Park – Michael Colley
- Timber Top Farm – Jacob Singer

The following people have no specific assignment:

- Mose Cornwell
- Joseph Hamel
- Betsey Mehl
- Josie Parman
- Jim Wakefield

4. Motor Bike Use at Harmony Hill – Mr. Spangler reported that there have been several reports of motor bike use at the Harmony Hill Nature Area. He saw two motor bikes on April 12. The Committee suggested erecting signage to ask the public to report motor bike sightings to the Police.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is May 21, 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 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