

East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes May 21, 2015

The May regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee (TC) (subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation (P&R) Board) was held on May 21, 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
Tony Blanco
Michael Colley
Joseph Hamel
Bob Hawkes
Maria Kenny
Josie Parman
Andy Schaum
Jacob Singer
Jim Wakefield

Committee members absent:

Harry Hatzipavlidis, Vice Chair
Mose Cornwell
Sheila Fleming
Betsey Mehl
Fred Rothman

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

Staff/Professionals absent: None

Others in attendance: There were two guests in attendance

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: Ms. Parman made a motion to approve the minutes from April 17, 2015, as presented. Mr. Schaum seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

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 – Invitations 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:
 - Cody Jones, District Representative, Office of Congressman Ryan Costello
 - Andrew E. Dinniman, PA Senator
 - Chris Ross, PA Representative
 - Nathan Flood, Deputy Secretary, Conservation and Technical Services, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 - Leslie Richards, PA Transportation Secretary

- Michelle Kichline, Chester County Commissioner

2. Paradise Farm Camps Trails –

- a. Skelp Level Road Public Trail – There was discussion about the trail name during last month’s meeting. The majority of the Committee favored South Valley Hills. However, after doing some additional research, Camp representatives are recommending a different name – Hogs’ Hollow Trail at Paradise Farm. Mr. Colley explained that when the Camp acquired the properties in the late 1950’s/early 1960’s, camp staff found abandoned farm ruins near Valley Creek. The farm ruins included intact pigsties. That area of the property – through which the public trail passes – became known as Hogs’ Hollow. Ms. Cantlin distributed the proposed rules for the trail, which would be posted along with the map. Ms. Parman suggested clarifying that cycling and equestrian uses are prohibited.
 - b. Chapel Trail – PennTrails submitted the proposal for design and planning. Ms. Cantlin reviewed the proposal and forwarded it to Mr. Schaum.
3. Naturalist Walks – On Thursday May 14, Janet Ebert and other volunteers led a walk through the new Hogs’ Hollow Trail. Mr. Hawkes shared his comments and critiques about the event. The group discussed possible guides for future hikes (e.g. William Ryan, naturalist; Tim Lutz, geologist; Winfield Fairchild, ecologist). It is important that hike leaders are both knowledgeable and able to guide, teach, and lead others. Ms. Cantlin confirmed that there is funding available in the trails budget to compensate guides in the future. The group will reach out to potential hike leaders to discuss future opportunities.
 4. Eagle Scout Projects – Ms. Cantlin reported that two Eagle Scouts are going to be working on trail projects. A. Moreno is planning to construct a new trail in the northern section of the Harmony Hill Nature Area. L. Larson will be working on a natural surface trail through the Sugar’s Bridge Nature Area. He has a work day scheduled on May 30.
 5. 2015 Trail Blazer Run – The race group will meet after this meeting. Ms. Cantlin noted that the group could use help distributing yard signs. Volunteers also are needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. SD 631 Ice Museum – The applicant, Peter Stack, submitted a land development plan to complete minor improvements at the Ice Museum located on Scennelltown Road. The Official Map shows a proposed trail along Scennelltown Road in front of the Ice Museum. Mr. Spangler made a motion to recommend that the Township seek a 25’ easement along Scennelltown Road for a possible pedestrian/cycling improvement in the future. Mr. Schaum seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Creek Greenway and Plum Run Green Corridor – Representatives from the Brandywine Conservancy, Township, and University visited portions of the greenway corridor yesterday. They learned that the HOA trails through Chesterdale Farms were never constructed (or, if constructed were not maintained). The golf course also poses a challenge.
2. Comprehensive Plan – The Comprehensive Plan update process began last month. A survey will be distributed in the near future. Links to the on-line survey will be sent to all advisory board/committee members. It will be important for committee members to forward the survey link to other Township residents.
3. Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway – Ms. Cantlin noted that the Township is seeking a volunteer to serve on the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Committee. Fred Rothman will be stepping down from that committee to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Task Force.

4. Member's Trail Inspections –

- a. Blue Rock Trail (Fred Rothman) – No comment
- b. Brandywine Trail (Andy Schaum) – Mr. Blanco reported that the drainage on the north segment of the Brandywine Trail remains problematic. Ms. Cantlin will discuss with Public Works.
- c. Copeland / East Bradford Park Trail (Harry Hatzipavrides) – No comment
- d. Harmony Hill Nature Area; red and yellow trails (John Spangler; Tony Blanco) – No comment
- e. Harmony Hill Nature Area; green trail (Sheila Fleming; Maria Kenny; John Spangler; Tony Blanco) – No comment
- f. Harmony Hill Nature Area; blue and black (John Spangler; Tony Blanco) – No comment
- g. Historic Brandywine Trail – Mr. Redmond reported that the historic corridor was cleared for the end-to-end hike.
- h. Jane Reed Park (Harry Hatzipavrides) – No comment
- i. Paradise Valley Nature Area (Michael Colley; Bob Hawkes; Andy Schaum) – No comment
- j. Shaw's Bridge (Fred Rothman) – No comment
- k. Starr Farm Park (Michael Colley) – No comment
- l. Timber Top Farm (Jacob Singer) – No comment

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is June 18, 2015 at 12 noon. However, that is the day of the Trail Blazer Run. The meeting will be canceled; however, members are encouraged to assist with the Race set-up.

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 Scanneltown Road (Mt. Bradford to Scanneltown 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