

East Bradford Township Trails Committee (Subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Board) Regular Meeting Minutes August 20, 2015

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 20, 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
Bob Hawkes
Betsey Mehl
Josie Parman
Andy Schaum
Jim Wakefield

Committee members absent:

Tony Blanco
Michael Colley
Sheila Fleming
Joseph Hamel
Maria Kenny
Fred Rothman
Jacob Singer

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager

Staff/Professionals absent: None

Others in attendance: There were four 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 May 21, 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 was postponed until more pressing projects could be completed. Mr. Spangler and Mr. Wakefield agreed that the fall would be a good time to revisit this effort.
 - b. Phase 5 Feasibility Study – The group revisited the Phase 5 Feasibility study that was completed last September. While it is unlikely that the Township will invest actual dollars in construction/engineering in 2016, there is other leg work that can be done – namely obtaining conceptual buy-in and/or input from key stakeholders/agencies, such as:
 - Natural Lands Trust
 - Parke Farm HOA
 - Milner
 - Brandywine Conservancy
 - PennDOT

- CCCD
- DEP/ACOE
- Fish and Boat (contact: Glade Squires)

Mr. Spangler suggested that Ms. Cantlin reach out to Sheila Fleming to see if an outreach effort could be coordinated in cooperation with Brandywine Conservancy (in light of the Greenway project) and NLT (given their role as one of the landowners).

Ms. Cantlin shared that Mr. Singer is concerned about the type of bridge McCormick Taylor suggested in the study because it would not be accommodating for horses. He suggested alternative crossings that would be better for equestrians.

2. Paradise Farm Camps Trails –

- a. Hogs' Hollow Trail – The rules/regulation signage for the trail is complete. The Camp and Township are working together to open the trail in the next 2-4 weeks.
- b. Chapel Trail – PennTrails, the Camp, and the Township have been working on the Chapel Trail on several fronts. PennTrails will be preparing a repair proposal to address the area of the washout. It is likely that they will propose a bridge structure. In addition, PennTrails will be conducting a 2-day trail construction training at the site on September 9-10. The first day will involve a combination of class room training and site work. On the second day, participants will serve as crew leaders to guide volunteers from XL Group. The work in September will focus on improving the corridor on either side of the washout area. The Township is hoping to receive funding from PRPS to cover this training.

3. Strode's Mill – In June, the Township acquired the former Strode's Mill Sausage Plant located at the intersection of Birmingham and Lenape Roads. East Bradford is working with a non-profit group, Friends of Strode's Mill, toward the restoration of portions of the structure. The property also has the potential to serve as a trail head for a trail along the Plum Run – between the Brandywine Creek and West Chester University. Mr. Schaum announced that the Friends of Strode's Mill has partnered with the Gallaghers to host the third fundraising event on September 12. More information is available at <http://www.friendsofstrodesmill.com/>. Mr. Schaum also commended Linda Kaat for spearheading this preservation effort.

4. Eagle Scout Projects – The Township has been benefiting from a variety of Eagle Scout projects this summer, including:

- a. Chapel Trail Kiosk – Aditya Kavuturu was present to present his project to the Committee. He is proposing to reconstruct the Chapel Trail kiosk sign along Ravine Road. He will replace the existing structure with a display box kiosk. Aditya plans to complete the project by late October. Paradise Farm Camps will cover the cost of the construction supplies; East Bradford will pay for the bulletin case. The Trails Committee is supportive of the project and commended Aditya for his professional presentation.
- b. Sugar's Bridge Nature Area – In May, Lars Larson began a very difficult bench cut trail through Sugar's Bridge. It was a very long segment – extending between the PECO power line and the M. John Johnson Nature Center. Bob Perna and other volunteers have continued to work on the project; it is nearing completion and in use.

Another Eagle Scout Candidate, Ryan Fasco, is proposing to complete the project that Lars started by constructing the segment between the PECO power line and the garage. Ryan will be attending the P&R meeting on August 26 to present the project.

- c. Harmony Hill Nature Area – AJ Moreno recently completed the construction of a new loop trail in the northern part of the property. This trail has been in the plan for some time. Ms. Cantlin will be inspecting the trail this afternoon. It is likely that this trail may be the route for the next naturalist walk.
- d. There are two other Scouts that may be working on projects associated with the proposed dog park. There was discussion about the dog park and whether or not construction in 2016 is likely. If the parking lot is constructed as a standalone improvement (without the dog park) care needs to be given to the type

and intensity of use a large parking lot could draw (picnicking, rest room needs, trash needs, Creek access). Consideration should also be given to whether horse trailer parking is permitted. Ms. Mehl reiterated that she would like to see horse trailer parking prohibited to protect the private trail network owned by adjacent horse farms. If the construction of the dog park is delayed, the Township might consider constructing a smaller temporary lot to control use.

5. Naturalist Led Walks – Bob Hawks, John Spangler, Andy Schaum, and Mandie Cantlin met with Geologist Tim Lutz earlier in the week to conceptualize the next naturalist walk. The group is considering a Sunday walk in October or November and will likely use the new trail constructed by AJ Moreno. A walk with Mr. Lutz is scheduled for this afternoon. Mr. Schaum and Ms. Fleming are in touch with Winfield Fairchild and Kendra McMillin about future walk opportunities. Ms. Cantlin will draft a flyer for marketing. Marketing options include:
 - a. Email blasts to East Bradford contacts
 - b. Facebook
 - c. Webpage
 - d. Flyer distribution (kiosks, Township office, hand delivery, WCU)
 - e. HOAs
 - f. West Chester Area School District

The group recommends pre-registration be required and that a fee of \$10 be assessed. Registration would be limited to 20 people. The fee would both cover the honorarium for the naturalist and would signify a level of professionalism and commitment.

6. 2015 Trail Blazer Run – The race group will meet after this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. SD 606 Ciccarone Final Subdivision/Land Development Plan – The applicant submitted final plans based on the preliminary application approved in 2014. While the TC had no comment, they recommended that Sheila Fleming be contacted to see if she had any input relative to the Brandywine Creek Greenway.
2. SD 632 Tigue Sketch Plan – The applicant, Toll Brothers, submitted two sketch plans for consideration – a 66 unit concept and a 91 unit concept. The applicant is proposing public water and sewer. The tract is identified on the Official Map as “land proposed for future conservation easement.” The OM also depicts proposed trails along Tigue Road and a cul-de-sac immediately east of the Tigue tract. Mr. Schaum made a motion to recommend that the trail identified on the Township’s Official Map (south of Tigue Road – between Strode’s Mill and WCU) be incorporated into the layout. In addition, there may be value to a trail along the northern boundary as conceptualized by the Brandywine Conservancy in their early visioning of the Plum Run Greenway Corridor. Mr. Schaum stressed that trail connections through Tigue are critical linkages in the Township trail network. Mr. Spangler seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Creek Greenway and Plum Run Green Corridor – No update.
2. Chester Valley Trail Extension – The Chester County Planning Commission is preparing to commence the Chester Valley Trail Extension Study. The Supervisors appointed Sheila Fleming and Mandie Cantlin to serve on this steering committee. The first meeting is in September.
3. Comprehensive Plan – The Comprehensive Plan continues to progress. A community workshop is tentatively scheduled for September 29 (time to be determined). More information will be available shortly. The survey results will soon be available on the website.
4. Member’s Trail Inspections –
 - a. Blue Rock Trail (Fred Rothman) – Mr. Rothman reported that the trail will soon need to be cut back
 - b. Brandywine Trail (Andy Schaum) – The Township will be working to address drainage issues in 2016.
 - c. Copeland / East Bradford Park Trail (Harry Hatzipavlidis) – _____
 - d. Harmony Hill Nature Area; red and yellow trails (John Spangler; Tony Blanco) – _____

- e. Harmony Hill Nature Area; green trail (Sheila Fleming; Maria Kenny; John Spangler; Tony Blanco) – _____
- f. Harmony Hill Nature Area; blue and black (John Spangler; Tony Blanco) – _____
- g. Historic Brandywine Trail – _____
- h. Jane Reed Park (Harry Hatzipavlidis) – The entrance to the trail (southern side of the loop) should be mowed.
- i. Paradise Valley Nature Area (Michael Colley; Bob Hawkes; Andy Schaum) – Mr. Colley mowed the field trail earlier in the month.
- j. Shaw's Bridge (Fred Rothman) – _____
- k. Starr Farm Park (Michael Colley) – _____
- l. Timber Top Farm (Jacob Singer) – _____

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is September 17, 2015 at 12 noon.

ADJOURNMENT / CONTINUANCE: At approximately 1:30 p.m., the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

Amanda "Mandie" Cantlin
Trails Committee Secretary

TRAILS COMMITTEE PRIORITIES (2015):

1. Hog's Hollow Trail
2. Paradise Valley Nature Area (trail improvements, washout, & Valley Creek fish habitat improvement)
3. 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