

# East Bradford Township Plum Run Task Force Meeting Minutes December 3, 2018

The 4th Meeting of the East Bradford Township Plum Run Task Force was held on December 3, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the McCardle Meeting Room of the Township Building, 666 Copeland School Road, West Chester, Chester County, PA 19380-1822. This meeting was rescheduled from November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 because of snow.

## **Task Force members present:**

Vincent M. Pompo, Esq. (Supervisor), Chairman  
Ms. Kathryn Deaville (Planning Commission)  
Ms. Elizabeth Bertheaud (Historical Commission)  
P. Andrew Schaum, Esq. (Trails Committee)  
Mr. John Spangler (Parks & Recreation Board)  
Ms. Sheila Fleming (Brandywine Conservancy)  
Mr. Jim Haigney (Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Commission)  
Ms. Jeannine Speirs (Chester County Planning Commission – Grant Management) [Non-Voting]

## **Task Force members absent:**

Mr. Ken Cavanaugh (Traffic Committee)  
Mr. Bob Struble (Brandywine Red Clay Alliance)  
Mr. Mark W. Hoopes (Strode's Barn Study Committee)

## **Staff/Professionals present:**

Rich Phifer, Director of Property & Recreation, Task Force Main Contact  
Tenley Adams, Property & Recreation Assistant, Task Force Secretary  
Jim Laird, Laird Recreation & Land Planning, LLC., Project Manager  
Colleen Meiswich, A. D. Marble  
Russ Stevenson, A.D. Marble

## **Others in attendance:**

None

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

## **MINUTES**

Mr. Schaum motioned to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2018 meeting, Mr. Haigney seconded the motion with all in favor.

## **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SURVEY RESPONSES**

Mr. Laird went over the responses that have been received so far. The Township will blast the survey out to the email addresses for the electronic newsletter and the ABC's so that it reaches as many people as possible. Survey responses will continue to be accepted until the final Task Force Meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## **HERITAGE INTERPRETATION DISCUSSION**

The Task Force would like to see the interpretative area have some type of central feature in the courtyard (statue, gazebo/pergola, millstone, tree). Reinforcement and repair of the stone walls to create a more defined courtyard were discussed. The Task Force would like to have added to the heritage theme list the subject of locally quarried serpentine stone utilized in the construction of the Strode's Barn and several nearby structures.

Signage locations were discussed for the trail corridor. Signs should be located at easily accessible points along the trail for ease of maintenance and for purposes of obtaining maximum viewership. Educational signage on the importance and function of riparian buffers and the stream restoration work that will/has been done along Plum Run should be included.

The employment of a Cell phone interpretive tour for the greenway corridor and other Township parks/trails was discussed as something to look into based on successful models utilized at other historic locations.

The Task Force briefly discussed the need to recommend tract and trail names for the project as a means to both identify the public properties and to assist in branding the corridor. Mr. Schaum suggested that the land owned by the Township could be designated the "Plum Run Preserve". Suggestions for the trail name included "Plum Run Greenway Trail", "Plum Run Heritage Trail", or "Plum Run Valley Trail"

#### **STRODE BARN RESTORATION / RE-USE DISCUSSION**

It was suggested by the Task Force that trying to reproduce the recognizable Strode's Scrapple & Sausage logo directly onto the historic Strode's Barn could be viewed negatively by the PHMC and have a detrimental impact on Township attempts to procure future grant funds for the structure's restoration. Mr. Stevenson validated this concern and suggested that in considering the Strode's Barn vision, the Township would need to determine whether or not the goal is to Preserve, Rehabilitate, Restore, or Reconstruct the historic barn. Mr. Stevenson then outlined the technical differences between these four approaches based on definitions adopted by the National Park Service and he recommended to the Task Force that Rehabilitate would be the option he would chose.

The Task Force reaffirmed support for the recommendation to conduct an architectural analysis on the Strode's Barn site, following completion of the Master Plan, that would provide the forensic evidence sought by the Township to effectively determine the restoration strategy and goal for the historic structure. Mr. Phifer clarified that if the Task Force decides to recommend the architectural analysis on the Strode's Barn, in hopes of determining a correct strategy for the barn's future disposition, that such an analysis would not take place until after the Master Plan is finalized and the Task Force disbanded. Such as would be the case, the responsibility to complete the architectural analysis and subsequently determine a final vision for the barn would likely fall upon the Township's Strode's Barn Study Committee.

#### **DRAFT MAP REVISIONS/EDITS**

The Task Force reviewed the draft maps and trail concepts of the corridor in consultation with the public comments and feedback that have been submitted to date. Several small revisions to trail alignments were suggested. Ms. Fleming asked if the additional proposed parking lot along Birmingham Road across from Riflery Drive could be added as discussed previously. The portrayal of the sewer line easement on the maps should be altered such that it is more visibly differentiated from the roads. Mr. Phifer updated the Task Force on the meeting held with and input received from West Chester University. The University is interested in having the public trail system connect to the Gordon Nature Area and the parties feel it would be most feasible to extend the multi-use trail onto the northern side of Tigue Road, through the University property to S. New Street. These updates should be added to the draft maps for presentation at the upcoming public meeting.

#### **FORMAT OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC MEETING**

The second public meeting should be similar to the first with a semi-formal, 15-minute presentation in the middle of the public open house meeting to provide an overview of the project and its purpose to those who are present. Individual stations showing maps, trails, and interpretative panel themes will be set up in order to engage the public and discuss individual concepts interpersonally with participants. The public survey will continue to be available for attendees to complete.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

On motion of Ms. Fleming and seconded by Mr. Haigney with all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

#### **Upcoming Task Force meetings:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting – Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

**Task Force Meeting #5 – Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> – 6 pm**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Public Meeting (Formal Presentation to Board of Supervisors) – TBD**

Respectfully submitted,  
Tenley F. Adams  
Secretary