

East Bradford Township Trails Committee Regular Meeting Minutes June 27, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee was held on June 27, 2019 in the McCardle Meeting Room of the Township Building, 666 Copeland School Road, West Chester, Chester County, PA 19380-1822.

Committee members present:

Andrew Schaum, Chairman, Sheila Fleming, Maria Kenny, Jacob Singer, Jim Wakefield

Committee members absent:

Joseph Hamel, Betsey Mehl, Josie Parman, John Spangler

Staff/Professionals present:

Rich Phifer, Director of Property & Recreation
Tenley Adams, Property & Recreation Assistant
Mandie Cantlin, Township Manager
Mike Lynch, Finance Director
John Snook, Supervisor

Others in attendance:

Dave Redmond
Katie Andrews, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the April 25, 2019 meeting was deferred until the July meeting.

PRESENTATION: FARMLAND RAPTOR PROJECT

Katie Andrews, a volunteer from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, presented the Farmland Raptor Project that Hawk Mountain is leading in an effort to reverse and raise awareness of declining raptor populations in Pennsylvania. The four species that are most affected are the Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Barn Owl and American Kestrel. Ms. Andrews suggested that larger properties with meadows make good areas to provide nesting boxes for the birds. Boxes can also be placed in trees, on the sides of barns/outbuildings and on poles. These make excellent Scout projects and are often incorporated into Eagle Scout projects. Ms. Andrews said that Hawk Mountain will also come out to review properties to see if they are good candidates for the raptor box placement. Mr. Phifer reported that the Township did have a potential Eagle Scout project underway to install raptor boxes on some of the Township open spaces and invited any Trails Committee members with viable properties who are interested to contact him to be added to the list of locations planned for raptor box installation.

PLUM RUN MASTER PLAN

Mr. Phifer updated the Trails Committee on the Plum Run Master Plan. The Plan has been approved by the Board of Supervisors and Mr. Phifer has applied for a grant for engineering and design funds through DCED; grant awards will be announced later this year. He is also looking into the creation of a formal Preservation Plan for the Strode's Barn. The Brandywine Red Clay Alliance is going to be starting the first phase of their stream restoration project on the Plum Run Preserve's Tigie Tract in early fall.

MERCERS MILL TO BRADFORD AVENUE TRAIL

Mr. Phifer updated the Trails Committee on the possible trail connection from the Mercer's Mill community to the trail easement across the 1st West Chester Fire Company property on Bradford Avenue. Residents of Mercer's Mill have asked about the possibility of the connection. The trail would require a stream crossing of the Blackhorse Run and would require at minimum a General Permit from DEP which would cost approximately \$5,000, in addition to the cost of constructing an adequate pedestrian bridge. It was suggested by the Committee that the Township could explore funding such a project in the future through a PECO Green Region grant if it was deemed a high enough priority for near-term attention.

BRANDYWINE TRAIL / FOLCHMAN PROPERTY

Since Mr. Spangler was not at the meeting this will be placed on the July agenda for further discussion.

2019 BIKE THE BRANDYWINE

The Brandywine Conservancy is holding the 2019 Bike the Brandywine on September 28th and has made changes to the bike routes this year. The Trails Committee had no comment on the new routes.

2019 TRAIL BLAZER RUN

Mr. Phifer updated the Trails Committee on the 2019 Trail Blazer Run which was held on June 13, 2019. The weather forecast for the day of the run included the potential for scattered, heavy pockets of rain which materialized midway through the run. Temperatures were comfortable, however, and the overcast skies and mid-run downpour pleased the participants who seemed to really enjoy the conditions. The total number of registered participants was 227 and the net funds raised for the Township's public trails was \$11,497. Great race support from over 50 volunteers yielded a very smooth and organized event that left participants very satisfied with the experience.

AUGUST JOINT MEETING

A joint meeting of the Trails Committee and Parks & Recreation Board will be held on Thursday, August 22, at 12:00 noon. At 1:00 pm both groups will meet together with the Board of Supervisors to discuss the status of the Prioritization Project and the future of both groups. Mr. Schaum requested an agenda for the BOS meeting be sent out in advance of the meeting.

SUBDIVISION / LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Phifer reviewed the following subdivision with the Trails Committee:

SD # 646, McFadden, located at the northwest corner of Lenape Road and Birmingham Road. The property is located in the Strode's Mill Historic District and encompasses roadside frontage that has been targeted for the placement of historic district signage (as per the recommendations of the Plum Run Master Plan). On motion of Mr. Schaum and seconded by Mr. Wakefield, with all in favor, the Trails Committee recommends that during the subdivision process, the Township should seek to secure the rights to two signage locations, by way of the subdivision plan, one being along Birmingham Road and the other being along Lenape Road, for the placement of signs noting that you are entering the Strode's Mill Historic District.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Ms. Fleming said that the Brandywine Conservancy is looking into the possibility of acquiring the Brandywine Picnic Park, which is currently for sale. It would make for an excellent trail head and parking for use of the Brandywine River. She will keep the Trails Committee updated if anything develops or when more information becomes available.

ADJOURN: the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

NOTICE: The next meeting of the Trails Committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tenley F. Adams
Secretary