

**East Bradford Township
Trails Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022**

The East Bradford Township Trails Committee convened on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 12:00 noon in the Township Building, 676 Copeland School Road, West Chester, PA 19380. The agenda was posted on the website: www.eastbradford.org prior to the meeting and on the outdoor bulletin board at the Township Building.

Committee members present:

Sheila Fleming, Chairperson, Maria Kenny, Betsey Mehl, Andrew Schaum Jacob Singer

Committee members absent:

John Spangler, Jim Wakefield

Staff/Professionals present:

Rich Phifer, Director of Property & Recreation
Tenley Adams, Property & Recreation Assistant, Secretary
Mandie Cantlin, Township Manager

Others in attendance:

Mrs. Linda Barchet
Ms. Rebecca Smith

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Ms. Fleming.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

2022 RE-ORGANIZATION

The Trails Committee re-organized for 2022 with the election of Chair and Vice-Chair. On motion of Mr. Schaum and seconded by Ms. Kenny, with all in favor, the Trails Committee appointed Sheila Fleming as Chair for 2022. On motion of Ms. Kenny and seconded by Mr. Schaum, with all in favor, the Trails Committee appointed Jim Wakefield as Vice-Chair for 2022.

Mr. Phifer noted that meetings will continue to be on the 4th Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m. except November which will be the 3rd Thursday (11/17/22).

Mr. Phifer said that both Mrs. Barchet and Ms. Smith are interested in being appointed to the Trails Committee. The Committee currently has two openings and Mr. Phifer said that one other person might be interested in filling a vacancy. He asked if Mrs. Barchet and Ms. Smith would introduce themselves to the Committee for consideration.

Mrs. Barchet said that she and her family have been residents for 20+ years. She actively walks on the trails and now that she is retired from being a veterinarian, she has the time to become involved in her community.

Ms. Smith said that she has been a resident of the township for 18 years. She is passionate about trails and open space. She said that she is a semi-retired sports psychologist, but still does occasional work with non-profits.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting was motioned by Mr. Singer, seconded by Ms. Fleming, with all in favor. No meeting was held in December.

MERCER'S MILL / 1ST WEST CHESTER FIRE CO. TRAIL

Mr. Phifer displayed a possible trail alignment for the proposed public trail from Mercer's Mill through the adjacent Fire Company property. He said that the existing trails within Mercer's Mill are currently private, but that the Township would need to obtain rights for the public to use at least certain sections of the existing trails, if not all sections, to allow public access to West Miner Street. Also, Mr. Wakefield had previously asked if it would be possible to connect to Windon and Mr. Spangler had suggested connecting to the Art Association property. Mr. Singer suggested that a connection through Meadow Lane might be a good idea. Mr. Phifer intends to invite the Mercer's Mill HOA board members to the February Trails Committee meeting to further discuss trail alignments. Mr. Phifer reported having reviewed the HOA's governing declarations and requested the Mercer's Mill board's confirmation that they have the authority to convey a public trail easement to the Township, which the board did via submission of a letter from their solicitor. Mandie Cantlin suggested the Township have that interpretation reviewed by its own solicitor prior to next month's meeting, as a matter of due diligence.

STARR FARM PARK

Mr. Phifer presented a concept plan for the east side of the Starr Farm property showing possible trails to be constructed. He would like the trails on this portion of the property to be completed prior to the sale of the farmhouse and barn, so that potential buyers will know how the public trails will relate spatially to the private property. It was suggested that a marked 5K trail course be constructed around this section of the property. As a next step, a site walk will be scheduled with the Committee.

SHAW'S BRIDGE PARK – BRANDYWINE CREEK WATER TRAIL

Completed design plans for the canoe launch were presented. A 20' long by 10' wide concrete pad will connect to concrete planks that will lay out onto the creek bed. Necessary permits have been applied for with installation planned to occur in the early summer. Ms. Mehl said that she has concerns about the people using the Brandywine Creek Water Trail, which traverses her property, causing issues with landowners.

PLUM RUN TRAIL PLANS

Mr. Phifer said that the plans are in final draft form and will be presented at a public Open House scheduled for February 24th from 6 to 8pm in the Township Building. The draft plans will also be placed on the Township's website for review, and people will have the ability to submit feedback.

HARMONY HILL NATURE AREA – STATUS OF MOU

Mr. Phifer said that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Chester County Trails Club, the West Chester Cycling Club, and the Township will expire this year. The MOU originally was created when the Township did not have the volunteer base that it does now. With the current Adopt-A-Trail program and volunteer base, the Township feels that it is no longer necessary to extend the MOU.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Schaum said that XL Insurance, who has helped with trails work before, will be doing trail improvements at the Paradise Farm Camps property through a grant program.

ADJOURN: On motion of Ms. Fleming, seconded by Ms. Kenny, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm with all in favor.

NOTICE: The next meeting of the Trails Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Tenley F. Adams
Secretary