

**EAST BRADFORD TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
January 25, 2023 Minutes**

The East Bradford Township Parks and Recreation Board convened on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the township building, 676 Copeland School Road, West Chester, PA 19380. The agenda was posted on the front door of the township building and on the Township website at <https://www.eastbradford.org> as required by the Sunshine Law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marianne Bausinger, Michael Colley, John Fidler, Harry Hatzipavlidis, Matt Maturani, John Spangler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Beaugard

STAFF/PROFESSIONALS PRESENT:

Rich Phifer, Director of Property & Recreation
Tenley Adams, Property & Recreation Assistant, Secretary
Pat Davis, Supervisor Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was called to order at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

2023 RE-ORGANIZATION

The Parks & Recreation Board re-organized for 2023 with the election of Chair and Vice-Chair. On motion of Mr. Fidler and seconded by Mr. Colley, with all in favor, the Parks & Recreation Board appointed Harry Hatzipavlidis as Chair for 2023. On motion of Ms. Bausinger and seconded by Mr. Hatzipavlidis, with all in favor, the Parks & Recreation Board appointed Mike Colley as Vice-Chair for 2023.

Mr. Phifer noted that meetings will continue to be on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. except November which will be the 3rd Wednesday (11/15/23) and December which will be the 3rd Wednesday (12/20/23) at 7:00 p.m.

As the P & R Board was aware, Judy Suska had to resign from the Board because of a conflict with the meeting dates. Her park liaison assignments must be reassigned to others; Ingram's Mill Nature Area will go to Mr. Maturani and Timbertop Farm Trail will go to Dr. Beaugard.

Mr. Phifer asked if the P & R Board wanted to stay at 7 members or grow back to 9 members. The Board recommends staying at 7 members as they have been down a member for several years. If in the future multiple interested candidates come along, the Board would be willing to increase their membership back to 9.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2022, meeting was made by Mr. Spangler. Ms. Bausinger asked that a correction be made to remove a typo in the line about the Shaw's Bridge Canoe Launch. Mrs. Adams said she would make that correction. The motion was then seconded by Ms. Bausinger and carrying with all in favor. No meetings were held in November or December.

PLUM RUN TRAIL

Mr. Phifer said that he is submitting a Chester County Preservation Partnership Grant application for the Plum Run Trail infrastructure. The \$250,000 grant would help with approximately ¼ of the cost to construct the Strode's Barn segment of the trail system. Other grants from the DCNR and DCED state programs will be sought to help cover the additional project expenses.

Mr. Phifer said that he needs a letter of support for the grant from the Parks & Recreation Board that can be signed by the Chairperson. On motion of Mr. Fidler and seconded by Mr. Spangler, the Parks & Recreation Board recommends that the Township submit a grant application to Chester County and that a letter of recommendation be signed by the new Chair, Mr. Hatzipavlidis. All were in favor of the motion.

TRAIL BLAZER RUN

Mr. Phifer announced that the Trail Blazer Run will be held on Thursday, June 8th, 2023, at Paradise Farm Camps. Planning for the event has begun.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Mr. Phifer said that he is in the process of planning the concert series for this summer. The 6 concerts will start on Thursday, June 15th running through August 24th. The concerts will be every other Thursday starting at 7pm. He is securing the line-up which will have some new groups playing this year.

2023 PARK PRIORITY PROJECTS

Mr. Phifer updated the P & R Board on the following projects that were placed in the 2023 budget:

Plum Run Trail – Grants and fundraising will be taking place to advance construction of the Plum Run Trail system. The restoration of Strode's Barn will have to be accomplished through pursuit of a separate set of grant and private funds.

Starr Farm Park – Trails on the west side of Skelp Level Road will be established this year, with help from volunteers as needed. The expansion of the parking lot is planned for this year and will need to be designed in such a way as to account for stormwater runoff.

East Bradford Park – Overhaul of the playground equipment and spaces is planned with the design work to be completed in 2023. Along with the playgrounds, new trash cans will also be added and other facilities that are starting to show their age will be replaced. Ms. Bausinger commented that the dugouts, amphitheater, storage building and other facilities need power washing as she is seeing mold on everything. She said that the park is showing a lack of maintenance causing the park to look rundown.

Copeland School Park – The parking lot is due to be repaved this year, as is the trail that runs parallel with Copeland School Road.

Mercers Mill – Acquire trail easement to connect to the existing easement on the 1st West Chester Fire Company property. Design trail and permit for bridge over Blackhorse Run.

Future Projects – The Brandywine Trail extension and Plum Run Trail extension both remain long term priorities for the Township.

MANAGER OF LAND STEWARDSHIP

Mr. Phifer announced that the position of Manager of Land Stewardship has been filled by Mr. Ryan Staiber, who is scheduled to start January 30, 2023. Mr. Phifer hopes to have him attend the February P&R Board meeting for introductions.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: None

ADJOURN: On motion of Mr. Colley and seconded by Mr. Spangler, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

NOTICE: The next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tenley F. Adams
Secretary