

**East Bradford Township
Trails Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2023**

The East Bradford Township Trails Committee convened on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 12:00 noon in the Copeland Schoolhouse, adjacent to the Township Building at 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:

Linda Barchet, Maria Kenny, Betsey Mehl, Andrew Schaum, Jacob Singer, Rebecca Smith, John Spangler, Jane Scriptunas

Committee members absent:

Jim Wakefield

Staff/Professionals present:

Rich Phifer, Director of Property & Recreation
Tenley Adams, Property & Recreation Assistant, Secretary

Others in attendance:

Sheila Fleming

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

2023 RE-ORGANIZATION

The Trails Committee re-organized for 2023 with the election of Chair and Vice-Chair.

On motion of Mr. Spangler and seconded by Ms. Smith, with all in favor, the Trails Committee appointed Maria Kenny as Chair for 2023.

On motion of Mr. Spangler and seconded by Ms. Barchet, with all in favor, the Trails Committee appointed Jacob Singer as Vice-Chair for 2023.

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 (11/16/23) and December which will be the 3rd Thursday (12/21/23). Meetings will be in the Township Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the November 17, 2022 meeting was motioned by Mr. Spangler. Ms. Mehl said that the meeting location needs to be changed as the Committee had met in the Copeland Schoolhouse that day. Mrs. Adams said that she would make that change. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barchet, with all in favor. No meeting was held in December.

PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR 2023

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 cover 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 expenses. A separate grant from the PHMC state program will be applied for to help with the restoration costs associated with the Strode's Barn. Mr. Phifer said that he needs a letter of support for the Chester County Preservation Partnership Grant from the Trails Committee that can be signed by the Chairperson. On motion of Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Singer, the Trails Committee recommends that the Township submit a grant application to Chester County and that a letter of recommendation be signed by the Chairperson Kenny. All were in favor of the motion.

Starr Farm – Mr. Phifer said that the trails on the west side of Skelp Level Road are planned to be established this year along with enlarging the existing parking area. He would like to hold a site walk in February to get feedback on the new trail concepts on the west side. He will send out a Doodle poll with dates.

East Bradford Park – Mr. Phifer said that during the second half of this year he will be commencing to engage design consultants for the replacement of the playground infrastructure. Replacement will take place in the next year to two. Ms. Smith commented that some type of trail lighting would be helpful for people who use the park at dusk.

Copeland School Park – The parking lot and the trail along Copeland School Road are due to be repaved this year. The Campus Connector Trail that goes from East Bradford Elementary and around the township storage building to the intersection and Copeland School Park has been completed. Line painting to demarcate the pedestrian way through the parking lot will be done this year.

Mercers Mill Trail – Mr. Phifer said he will be contracting with a survey company to delineate the trail easement area. Also, design of the bridge for the stream crossing and the permitting is targeted for this year.

Future Projects

Plum Run Trail - Master plan the next phase southwards of the Plum Run Trail from Birmingham Road to the Brandywine Creek.

Brandywine Trail - Extension of the Trail south towards Ingrams Mill Nature Area and Strasburg Road. Mr. Spangler commented that the Blue Rock Trail is in need of re-paving and that maybe it could be part of a future Township paving project.

CHESTER COUNTY TRAIL MASTERPLAN

Mr. Phifer said that he is on the Steering Committee for the new Chester County Trails Master Plan that includes the expansion of the Chester Valley Trail. The Norfolk Southern Railroad line has recently been sold to PennDOT, so it is anticipated that this will benefit the continuation of the Trail west towards Lancaster.

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 Trails Committee meeting for introductions.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Trail Blazer Run is scheduled for Thursday, June 8th. Run the Day, the race management and timing company, has merged with Eseo Sports. Mr. Phifer said that the same people will be handling support for the Trail Blazer Run.

ADJOURN: On motion of Mr. Spangler, seconded by Ms. Kenny, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm with all in favor.

NOTICE: The next meeting of the Trails Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Tenley F. Adams
Secretary