

**East Bradford Township
Trails Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2022**

The East Bradford Township Trails Committee convened on Thursday, March 24, 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 front door at the Township Building.

Committee members present:

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

Committee members absent:

Jim Wakefield

Staff/Professionals present:

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

Others in attendance:

Mrs. Linda Barchet
Ms. Rebecca Smith
Ms. Jane Scriptunas
Mr. Mike Graham
Mrs. Linda Graham

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the January 27, 2022, meeting. Ms. Mehl would like mentioned under the Shaw's Bridge Park – Brandywine Creek Water Trail topic, who would need to be contacted if there were issues with people coming onto one's private property from the water trail. Mr. Phifer confirmed that if in the Township, one would need to contact the West Chester Police Department in the case of an act of trespass onto private property.

Mr. Schaum made a motion to approve the minutes with the change that Ms. Mehl asked to be made to the January 27, 2022, minutes, the motion seconded by Mr. Singer, with all in favor. No meeting was held in February.

Mr. Phifer commented that he has received an email from Dave Redmond that he would not be attending the meetings going forward because of health issues. The Trails Committee wishes Mr. Redmond all the best and will miss his insight on the trails. A thank you letter will be sent to Mr. Redmond.

TRAILS COMMITTEE CANDIDATE

Ms. Jane Scriptunas is interested in one of the openings on the Trails Committee and was in attendance to introduce herself to the Committee. Ms. Scriptunas said that she has been a resident since 2005 and now that she is retired, she actively walks on the trails, and she has the time to become more involved in her community. Mr. Phifer said that the Trails Committee will meet at the end of the meeting in executive session to discuss the applicants.

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. Mr. Graham was in attendance representing the Mercer's Mill HOA. He said that the HOA is willing to work with the Township in allowing an easement over the section of the trail from where it connects to the Fire Company trail to West Miner Street, which is the eastern most section of the trail. The balance of the trails would remain private, and signage would be posted to notify non-residents of this. Mr. Graham said that they currently have non-residents who use the trail system in the community, and they are fine with this. The HOA has a membership meeting in April where this will be brought to the membership for consideration and comment.

STARR FARM PARK

Mr. Phifer presented an updated site plan for the east side of the Starr Farm property showing possible trails that were discussed at the site walk last month. One of the main questions now is how the trails would be used. Mr. Phifer said that he would like to enlarge the existing parking lot to allow for horse trailer parking and also create a 5k marked trails system for the cross-country runners that come from the schools to practice. Trails could be mowed to accommodate horses and walkers/hikers/runners. Ms. Kenny & Ms. Mehl had concerns about mountain biking on the trails as it may scare the horses. They said that leashed dogs are typically compatible with horses on trails. However, the current policy at Starr Farm Park allows dogs to be kept off leash so long as they are under owner control. There was debate on the effectiveness of the existing leash policy, and whether it would be appropriate moving forward if equestrians were allowed to share the trails.

The Trails Committee, on motion of Mr. Schaum and second by Ms. Fleming, recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the trail system on the east side of Skelp Level Road at Starr Farm be designed to serve predominantly walker/hikers/runners and equestrian uses. The motion passed with all in favor.

PECO TRAIL POLICY UPDATES

Mr. Phifer said that the new policy updates could affect some of the future trails that might be planned through PECO lands.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1:40pm to 1:45pm

The Trails Committee went into Executive Session to discuss the vacancies on the Trails Committee.

TRAILS COMMITTEE VANCANCIES

Ms. Kenny motioned that the Trails Committee recommends to the Board of Supervisors that Mrs. Barchet, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Scriptunas all be appointed to the Trails Committee. This would require an expansion of the Committee from its current 9-member format, to a 10-member format. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spangler with all in favor.

ADJOURN: On motion of Ms. Fleming, seconded by Ms. Kenny, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm with all in favor.

NOTICE: The next meeting of the Trails Committee is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Tenley F. Adams
Secretary