

**East Bradford Township  
Trails Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
July 27, 2023**

The East Bradford Township Trails Committee convened on Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 12:00 noon in the Township Building at 676 Copeland School Road, West Chester, PA 19380. The agenda was posted on the website ([www.eastbradford.org](http://www.eastbradford.org)) prior to the meeting and on the front door at the Township Building.

**Committee members present:**

Linda Barchet, Jacob Singer, Rebecca Smith, Andrew Schaum, John Spangler

**Committee members absent:**

Maria Kenny, Betsey Mehl, Jane Scriptunas, Jim Wakefield

**Staff/Professionals present:**

Rich Phifer, Director of Property & Recreation

Ryan Staiber, Property Steward

John Snook, Supervisor Liaison

**Others in attendance:**

None

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Singer, Vice-Chair, at 12:15 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the May 25, 2023 meeting was motioned by Mr. Schaum. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spangler, with all in favor. No meeting was held in June.

**2023 TRAIL BLAZER RUN REPORT**

Mr. Phifer provided a report on the Trail Blazer Run event that took place in June, thanking the Committee and the many volunteers who helped deliver another successful event. Despite participation numbers being down due to the smoke from Canadian wildfires, net proceeds were on par with the previous two events, totaling \$11,008.80. Ms. Smith provided a summary of her outreach and marketing efforts in the weeks leading up to the event. The entire Committee thanked Ms. Smith for the amount of time and work that she spent advertising the event. Ms. Smith and Mrs. Barchet offered to assist with outreach for the 2024 event. The Committee discussed several ideas for improving the event in 2024 and want to continue the conversation at the next Committee meeting in August.

**TRAIL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES**

Mr. Phifer provided status updates on several trail projects:

Plum Run Trail – The Township has obtained needed municipal approvals from the Zoning Hearing Board and the Historical Architectural Review Board and is now waiting on the last of the two permits needed from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, hoping to begin construction in 2024.

Brandywine Trail – Township staff recently met with PECO representatives to discuss the next extension of the Brandywine Trail through PECO's Bradford substation property. PECO has recently increased restrictions on allowances for new Trail Licenses but would be able to allow the Brandywine Trail to navigate through their Bradford substation property along a certain alignment that keeps maximum distance between the trail and the substation infrastructure. Mr. Phifer plans to walk PECO's preferred alignment in August.

Starr Farm Park Trails – The Board of Supervisors has endorsed two pedestrian crossings of Skelp Level Road to serve the new trails at Starr Farm Park. The location of the mid-block

crossing is still being reviewed and staff will attend the August meeting of the Supervisors to advocate for the safest possible location.

Mercer's Mill Trail – After additional discussions with professional engineers, it still appears that a pedestrian bridge crossing over Blackhorse Run would require a Joint Permit from the Pennsylvania DEP. This aspect would drastically increase the complexity and cost of the project. The Township will have to discuss this with the Mercer's Mill community and determine how best to proceed.

#### **OFF LEASH DOG POLICY**

Mr. Phifer indicated the need to discuss dog policies for the soon-to-be-opened Plum Run Preserve and the Plum Run Trail that is going to be constructed through that property and operated like the Brandywine Trail. Mr. Phifer requested that the Trails Committee make a recommendation as to what the leash policy should be for the new property and trail. Given that this property is going to be managed for passive recreation and maintained as a preserve, coupled with the fact that there are locations nearby that accommodate off leash dogs, Mr. Phifer advocated for adopting leash requirements for the entire Plum Run Preserve, including the Plum Run Trail. The Trails Committee members agreed that off leash dogs should be prohibited at the Plum Run Preserve. Mr. Schaum made a motion recommending that the Plum Run Preserve and Plum Run Trail be regulated to require all dogs be kept on leash at all times. Mr. Spangler seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The recommendation will be taken to the Board of Supervisors meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURN:** On motion of Mr. Singer, seconded by Mr. Spangler, the meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm with all in favor.

**NOTICE:** The next meeting of the Trails Committee is scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Phifer  
Secretary