

**East Bradford Township
Trails Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2023**

The East Bradford Township Trails Committee convened on Thursday, September 28, 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) prior to the meeting and on the front door at the Township Building.

Committee members present:

Linda Barchet, Maria Kenny, Jane Scriptunas, Jacob Singer, John Spangler

Committee members absent:

Betsey Mehl, Andrew Schaum, Rebecca Smith, Jim Wakefield

Staff/Professionals present:

Rich Phifer, Director of Property & Recreation

Others in attendance:

Don Knabb

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kenny, Chair, at 12:08 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the July 27, 2023 meeting was motioned by Mrs. Kenny. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spangler, with all in favor. No meeting was held in August.

TRAIL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

Plum Run Trail: Mr. Phifer providing grant status updates concerning the Plum Run Trail construction project. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's award of a \$250,000 grant in August brings the total amount of funds secured to date to \$500,000. The Township hopes to hear from the Pennsylvania DCED and DCNR within the next month. Additionally, the Township completed the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful grant project, installing six interpretive panels along the existing portion of the Plum Run Trail that flanks Tigue Road.

Brandywine Trail: Mr. Phifer updated the Committee on the Brandywine Trail extension alignment that PECO reviewed and approved of over the Summer. Mr. Phifer reported on his site walk through the PECO property and the several challenges encountered that will have to be navigated to bring the trail extension into realization: the Route 322 bridge underpass is being scoured away by the forces of the Brandywine Creek, there will be several stream/creek crossings, the need to traverse the trail through a wetland/floodplain, and several crossings of internal PECO service roads. Mr. Phifer opined that the effort would be a considerable undertaking in design and expense. Mr. Spangler opined that the installation of the trail could be expedited if it were installed as a hiking only natural trail, as opposed to a more improved multi-use pathway trail. Mr. Phifer agreed that could help to expedite installation, though there would still be a need to deal with some of the physical challenges, like the Route 322 underpass erosion.

Starr Farm Park Trails: Mr. Phifer reported that Public Works plans to do the parking lot expansion and installation of the pedestrian crossing this Fall. Mr. Lucas, the Township Engineer, is in the process of completing the stormwater sequestration designs. As soon as the pedestrian crossings are in, Parks & Recreation will move to mow in the new walking trails.

Mercer's Mill Trail: Mr. Phifer reported that staff from the Pennsylvania DEP have indicated that the pedestrian bridge for the Mercer's Mill trail crossing of the Blackhorse Run could be permitted under their General Permit (GP-7), instead of needing a Joint Permit. This comes as good news for the project since the General Permit process is a much less expensive and less complicated undertaking. The Committee indicated support for pursuing submission of the

General Permit application for the trail bridge so that this project can be advanced. Mr. Phifer stated that he would inform the Board of Supervisors of these developments at their October meeting and seek their approval to proceed in obtaining the trail easement from the Mercer's Mill HOA this year and budgeting for design and permitting in 2024.

FALL EVENT SCHEDULE

Mr. Phifer briefed the Committee on the upcoming Autumn Festival event that will take place at East Bradford Park on Sunday, October 22nd from 12:00 to 4:00 pm. While not a trail-centric event, the festival is being planned as an opportunity to provide family-friendly entertainment while also showcasing vendors from the local community. There will be an array of food trucks and beverage vendors, as well as kids' entertainment and live music. There will be a community tree give-away at the event and Committee members are encouraged to attend. Volunteers may be needed if anyone is interested in lending a hand to help set up or clean up.

2024 TRAIL BLAZER RUN PLANNING

Mr. Phifer shared prospective dates for next year's Trail Blazer Run with the Committee, both options being Thursdays on June 6th or June 13th. Mr. Phifer indicated that he would like to defer to Mr. Schaum and Paradise Farm Camps once their schedule is determined. Mr. Spangler reported that he had spoken with Will Wood, an avid runner who has run the Trail Blazer many times, and suggested that we invite Mr. Wood to a meeting to discuss ways to improve upon the event. Mr. Phifer agreed that was a good idea and will try to contact Mr. Wood and invite him to attend the next meeting of the Committee where afterwards the Trail Blazer Run subcommittee can discuss those matters with Mr. Wood.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Spangler reported on the efforts of the Chester County Art Association (CCAA) to construct a sculpture trail through their open space property on Hillsdale Road. Mr. Spangler would like the Trails Committee to consider the trail easement that the Township holds along Hillsdale Road, running between the CCAA property and the Windon community. If there is support from the Committee, Mr. Spangler would like to recommend to the Supervisors that the Township move to open a trail through that easement area which would bring more exposure to the CCAA property and enable better pedestrian movement along Hillsdale Road and to/from the Windon community. Mr. Phifer stated that he would walk that trail corridor before the next meeting to gain a better sense of what would be involved in clearing and opening a hiking trail. The Committee can then discuss it at their next meeting and decide if they would like to make a motion to pursue that project. Mr. Spangler and the Committee members concurred.

ADJOURN: On motion of Mrs. Scriptunas, seconded by Mr. Spangler, the meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm with all in favor.

NOTICE: The next meeting of the Trails Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Phifer
Secretary