

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

The East Bradford Township Trails Committee convened on Thursday, October 26, 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, Andrew Schaum, Jane Scriptunas, Jacob Singer, Rebecca Smith, John Spangler, Jim Wakefield

**Committee members absent:**

Maria Kenny, Betsey Mehl

**Staff/Professionals present:**

Rich Phifer, Director of Property & Recreation  
Ryan Staiber, Property Steward  
John Snook, Supervisor Liaison

**Others in attendance:**

William Wood

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Singer, Acting Chair, at 12:05 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the September 28, 2023 meeting was motioned by Mr. Spangler. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Barchet, with all in favor.

**TRAIL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES**

**Plum Run Trail:** Mr. Phifer provided grant status updates concerning the Plum Run Trail construction project. Earlier this month, the Pennsylvania DCNR notified the Township of a \$500,000 C2P2 grant award for the Plum Run Trail project. This brings the total grant funding secured to date to \$1,000,000, with a \$250,000 DCED grant request still pending review. The DCED has informed the Township that grant awards will not be announced until at least November. Mr. Phifer added that there is also \$100,000 secured through a PHMC grant for the Strode's Barn restoration. Mr. Schaum asked about the status of the private/non-profit fundraising efforts being conducted through the Friends of Strode's Mill. Mr. Phifer shared that the Friends of Strode's Mill may be planning a Spring 2024 fundraiser and had also recently made progress towards securing the support of a few private foundations.

**Brandywine Trail:** Mr. Phifer informed the Committee that PECO has recently communicated to the Township that it was still reviewing the conceptual plan to extend the Brandywine Trail south of Route 322 and has potential concerns about the trail intersecting the PECO substation driveways too closely to the Route 322 right-of-way, where sight lines and road curvature, coupled with pedestrian trail traffic, could create increased difficulty for their service trucks entering and exiting the highway. Mr. Phifer reported that he is now waiting for PECO to provide additional clarity on how far off the highway they would want the trail to be located at their access drives and how close the trail can get to the substation fencing.

**Starr Farm Park Trails:** Mr. Phifer reported that the Eagle Scout tasked with installing the new wooded trail on the western tract of Starr Farm Park had run into project approval delays from the Scouts and would need to postpone trail construction to the Spring of 2024.

**Mercer's Mill Trail:** Mr. Phifer reported that the Township and Mercer's Mill HOA are finalizing review of the trail easement survey work and are beginning to draft a trail easement document for 2024 execution. Unfortunately, funds to complete design, engineering and permitting for the

needed pedestrian bridge crossing of the Blackhorse Run could not be allocated in the draft 2024 budget and would therefore likely not be allocated until 2025. Nonetheless, the Township will proceed in working to obtain the trail easement for this project.

### **2024 TRAIL BLAZER RUN**

The Committee members shared in a discussion on ways to continue improving upon the Trail Blazer Run and increasing its appeal and participation. Mr. William Wood, a local running coach and frequent participant in the run attended the meeting by invite to participate in the discussion. Several Committee members and Mr. Wood agreed that the challenge of the 5-mile distance and course makes this run an attraction and unique experience as one of the best runs in Chester County. Inclusions such as increasing the number of vendors to capture the appeal of a community day type of event were discussed. Ultimately, the Committee members and all in attendance felt that the most impactful and beneficial change that could be considered would be to add in a 5k run option that would effectively cater to the youth runners that are numerous in the area but are only training for sub-four mile runs. The Committee endorsed having a sub-group of members conduct a site analysis in November and return at the next meeting with a recommended 5k course alignment for consideration. Additionally, another change that the Committee felt should be considered is adjustment of the run start time to 6:00 pm. This would potentially create more time on the back end of the run for participants to stay for the post-run awards and after party.

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR PECO GREEN REGION GRANT**

On motion of Mr. Spangler, seconded by Mrs. Barchet with all voting in favor, the Trails Committee endorsed signing a letter of support for the submission of a grant application to the 2023 PECO Green Region Grant program for the fabrication and installation of wayfinding signage at Shaw's Bridge Park, in support of the effort to establish, brand and demarcate the new Brandywine Creek Water Trail.

### **HILLSDALE / WINDON TRAIL**

Mr. Phifer reported that a site visit to the Township's property along Hillsdale Road had been conducted with several of the Windon HOA officers to discuss the interests of formalizing a mown pedestrian trail that would connect the CCAA trails to Windon's community pathway. All parties involved have endorsed the concept and, consequently, Mr. Phifer notified the Principal of Hillsdale Elementary School about the effort and received an encouraging response. As a next step, Mr. Phifer will work with the Committee to prepare a conceptual plan that can be shared with Windon, the CCAA, and school district personnel, so that these neighboring property owners have the ability to review and contribute to the plans before a trail is formally established.

**ADJOURN:** On motion of Ms. Scriptunas, seconded by Ms. Smith, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm with all in favor.

**NOTICE:** The next meeting of the Trails Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Phifer  
Secretary