

**East Bradford Township
Trails Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2017**

The April regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Trails Committee was held on Thursday April 27, 2017 in the East Bradford Township Building, 666 Copeland School Road, West Chester, Chester County, PA 19380-1822.

Committee members present:

John Spangler, Chairman	
Tony Blanco	Michael Colley
Sheila Fleming	Joseph Hamel
Bob Hawkes	Maria Kenny
Betsey Mehl	Josie Parman
Andy Schaum	Jacob Singer
Jim Wakefield	

Committee members absent

Harry Hatzipavlidis, Vice Chairman

Staff/Professionals present:

Mandie Cantlin, Trails Committee Liaison and Assistant Township Manager
Rich Phifer, Director of Property & Recreation
Tenley Adams, Property & Recreation Assistant

Others in attendance:

Bob Perna

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: Ms. Parman made a motion to approve the minutes from March 16, 2017, Mr. Blanco seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Note – new meeting day, 4th Thursday at 12 Noon. This has been advertised in the Daily Local News.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Brandywine Creek Greenway / Plum Run –The Committee met on April 3rd and talking points have been created for when landowners are contacted. Seven property owners have been identified in East Bradford and Birmingham Townships. A public gathering will be held in the summer of 2017 to float the idea with landowners.
2. Naturalist Guided Walks – is scheduled for Sunday June 11th at 2pm. The walk will be led by Will Ryan and take place on the Chapel Trail with parking at Paradise Farm Camps. www.runtheday.com is the site for the registration which is currently open, but will be limited to 20 participants.
3. 2017 Trail Blazer Run – The race committee will meet after the Trails meeting today. Mr. Phifer updated the Trails Committee that the race planning is in full swing and currently sponsorship totals are around \$10,000 which is ahead of last year. Yesterdays' News Band has agreed to play for the participants which will make for a lively addition to the function. www.runtheday.com is the site for the race registration which is currently up and running.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Harmony Hill Nature Area (HHNA) – Mr. Phifer explained that a rogue trail has been created and closed numerous times by Mr. Perna and Ms. Cantlin that goes from the Green Trail across the old dam breast and down to the ruins at the Yellow Trail. The trail is not always in the best locations and runs parallel to the stream that comes out from the dam. Mr. Perna and Ms. Cantlin have met with the Mountain Bikers who created the trail and they are willing to work with the township to create a permanent trail that is better oriented to the location. Mr. Perna feels that if they properly create the trail it will be sustainable and he is willing to work with the group to achieve a well created sustainable trail. After discussion by the Committee, Mr. Blanco motioned and Mr. Schaum seconded with all in agreement that a sustainable trail be created and maintained in the area by the mountain bike group and development of the trail be overseen by Mr. Perna.

2. Shaw's Bridge Park – Mr. Phifer explained that along the eastern trail that runs parallel to the Brandywine River, the trail is eroding out from wash out. Mr. Carroll and Mr. Lucas will investigate a fix for the erosion area.
3. SD/LD 641 Daily Local News Site, 250 N. Bradford Avenue, Sketch Plan- a sketch plan has been submitted by West Chester Partners Apartments LLC, Toll Brothers Commercial for the 6 acre parcel located at the intersection of North Bradford Avenue and West Strasburg Road. The plan includes an apartment building with parking under the building and approximately 325 apartments. The building is proposed to be 5 stories on the Strasburg Road side and 3 stories on the Bradford Square (south) side of the building because of the grade change.

Concerns were raised about the height of the building and the view shed of the properties in the vicinity that could possibly see the new building and the light pollution from the building. Also of concern was the intersection of Bradford Avenue and Strasburg Road that they feel needs to be developed as a multi-modal intersection, including but not limited to sidewalks on both sides of Bradford Avenue and Strasburg Road along with a bike lane possibly going behind the proposed building and connecting Bradford Avenue and Strasburg Road, so that bikers can bypass the main intersection. Mr. Spangler commented that he often uses the current Daily Local News parking lot to go around the intersection when he is using his bicycle and that he sees many people walking to and from the shopping center on the roadway since the area is without sidewalks. Other concerns were the possibility of the apartments being used as student housing and the density of the housing. The Trails Committee was in agreement with Environmental Advisory Council who feels that more detailed information needs to be provided to better review the plan.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Harmony Hill Nature Area Work Dates – Mr. Phifer said he will be emailing out the dates for the work days that have been scheduled. Everyone is welcome to attend and help out with clean-up or projects.
2. Members' Trail Inspections –

Chapel Trail and Paradise Valley Nature Area – Mr. Colley said that he has mowed the field area and that field is in very good condition since he has been keeping the invasive plants under control. He noted that it is a very pretty prairie grass field. The trails are in good condition and he removed some of the fallen limbs that were blocking some trails.

Harry Waite Nature Area – Ms. Fleming noted that the fence that is located at the parking area is not in good condition and could be replaced.
3. West Bradford Township, Brandywine Meadow Preserve – West Bradford has approved the addition of a natural trail parallel to the Brandywine Creek from the bridge between East and West Bradford to the parking lot at the trestle bridge. Mr. Perna will be helping and overseeing the creation of the trail in West Bradford.
4. Bike Club Road Work Notifications - Mr. Phifer had been contacted by a local bike enthusiast who wondered if the bike clubs could be notified of road work that will be taking place so that they could reroute if needed. It was decided that if email addresses for the bike clubs are provided we can forward any notices the township receives about road work/construction to them.
5. Rt. 322 Sugar's Bridge Replacement – Mr. Phifer updated the Committee on the PennDOT bridge replacement project which is slowly moving forward. Currently they are having wetland issues on the PECO property, but they still anticipate construction starting in the summer of 2018.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Trails Committee is May 25, 2017 (4th Thursday) at 12 noon.

ADJOURNMENT / CONTINUANCE: At approximately 1:00 p.m., the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

Tenley F. Adams
Recording Secretary

TRAILS COMMITTEE PRIORITIES (2017):

1. Paradise Valley Nature Area (Valley Creek fish habitat improvement)
2. Mt. Bradford Improvements (meadow restoration, parking area, paved trail)
3. Brandywine Trail Phase 5
4. Plum Run Corridor

Other projects that are not prioritized include:

- Bike/ped improvements along Sconnettown Road (Mt. Bradford to Sconnettown Park)
- Brookworth Trails (and connection to WCB)
- Brandywine Farm
- Brandywine Trail – Phase 4 (Skelp Level to Ingram’s Mill)
- Improve / repave trail between Copeland and East Bradford Park
- Fire Company trail
- Construct off-road path to improve bike use at Allerton Road / Creek Road / Miner St intersection
- Guthrie trail easement
- Ravine to Brandywine Road
- Sunset Hollow Road
- Sunset Hollow / Happy Creek / Harmony Hill