

**Franklin Township Trails Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 23th, 2016**

**1. Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision:** Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m.

**2. Introduction/roll call: Present** – Nancy Cole, Jack Connolly, Vanessa Jones, Philip Kramer, Jim Kuligowski, Dana Oley, Anne-Marie Orlusky, Fran Varacalli, Mark Fortin, Pat Leonard

**3. Approval of the January 13th, 2016 minutes** – Connolly made a motion to approve the minutes with Orlusky seconding the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed.

**4. Opening of the meeting to the public** – Connolly made a motion to opening the meeting to the public with Orlusky seconding. All members in favor. Motion passed. No one from the public made comments. Connolly made a motion to close the meeting to the public. All members in favor. Motion passed.

**5. New Business**

**a. NJ Department of Environmental Protection 2016 Recreational Trails Grant due May 15, 2016** – Notes: We did not receive the grant in 2015. The suggestion was raised to re-name the trail Marconi to improve the likelihood to receive a grant (as was granted to the Henry Hudson Trail) – Kuligowski made a motion to rename the trail, with Connolly seconding the motion.

**b. Things to do Map – updates**

We are reaching the end of the supply of Things to do Maps and we need to update them. A suggestion was made to make the map vertical to have the entire map on one side. Another suggestion was made to use photos from the photo contest. Suggestion was made to add the bypass and to add the percentage of Franklin Twp. that is preserved open space. A suggestion was made to add website and QR code. Task: Committee members should review the map and share suggestions with Fran Varacalli.

**c. Natives planting along the Cedar Grove Brook Sat. April 9 1-3pm**

The township is working with NJ Water Supply Authority to do native species planting. See flyer.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Review Trails Plan**

Oley made a recommendation to review and revise the Trails plan, Orlusky seconded it. All members in favor. Motion passed. Varacalli and Healey will make a draft update and share with the TAC to look over.

**b. Canal Walk and Roll 2016 – update**

There is a suggestion to have a table at the Tour de Franklin to give out flyers. Varacalli will share the flyer with Jorba and other interested parties. It was suggested to share the flyers with other open road planning groups, New Brunswick Ciclovía, Princeton Ciclovía, etc. There was discussion about what to include on the Walk & Roll flyer, parking spots, bathrooms, etc. Varacalli shared the design for the new banner. A concern was raised that the sign is hung in such a way that it fold over and can't be read. 4 ft x 20 ft is \$700. The money for the sign would come from Open Space. This fact made members rethink the value of this event as related to the trails committee. There was discussion about this event and if this committee should continue to sponsor it or put more attention to National Trails Day. The suggestion was made to request that Parks and Recreation adopt this event. The suggestion was made to have Varacalli meet with the Twp. Manager and Mayor to discuss the future of this event. Another suggestion was made to hang the existing banner on posts instead of across the road.

**c. NJ Trails Organization – D&R Greenway**

There is no staff working on this at this time.

**d. Eco Tourism Itineraries Travel web sites – reviews**

Varacalli thanked TAC members who shared their ideas. The idea was shared to make a historic tour, family tour, three hour tour, etc.

**e. National Trails Day, Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Middlebush Park – Discussion: Should we

How can we advertise better? (Take tips from Tour de Franklin.) Do we have a trails Facebook page? An idea was suggested for town to buy a domain. Varacalli will ask IT about us getting a trails Facebook page. We have some lawn signs. We will put a sign up at Middlebush sign this year. An idea was shared to suggest an Eagle Scout project to make wooden signs to re-use. (Like Parks and Rec uses for Pumpkin Patch and Bunny Jamboree.) Another idea was shared to laminate signs that we could staple on posts near trails, like fence posts in parking lots.

**f. National Park Service, Every kid in a park – update**

We had previously discussed this topic. Varacalli will reach out to the BOE Superintendent. It was suggested to also ask him about strategic advertising in schools.

**g. Video Cameras on trails – update**

We budgeted for three cameras. We will use the same type as on Hamilton Street. Varacalli is working with IT on camera installation.

**h. Trail Maintenance - updates**

There is concern over the fence at Griggstown and the Yellow Trail has been washed out. Negri had a fallen tree before the blind. The gate from the lot to trail at Bunker Hill needs a new way to be re-attached. Posts at Franklin Park Natural Area were damaged.

i. Trail Vandalism - updates

Varacalli noted that she has been reporting vandalism to the police to generate police reports to track vandalism.

7. Reports from other Committees

- a. Tarps have been blown off historic homes at Old Georgetown and Canal Rd. Water is collecting. There is concern for erosion and mosquitos.
- b. Can trails be put on the recently purchased Trap Rock land? There is currently not a plan. This is being lead by County Open Space. It will be passive trails only.
- c. They are doing nice work on Kingston School.

8. Announcements

Upcoming March/April Woodcock Walks at Negri Nepote Native Grassland Preserve have been scheduled. All other Nature walks for May-August Nature Walks have been scheduled.

Tour de Franklin is Sunday, April 24.

9. Adjournment: Connelly Made a motion to adjourn the TAC meeting, Orlusky seconded. All members in favor. Motion passed.