



Franklin Township Trails Committee **VIRTUAL** Meeting

Minutes

August 11, 2021

7:00PM

1. Call to Order in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) Time: 7:07 PM
2. Roll Call James Kuligowski, (JK), Chair, Vanessa Jones (VJ) Vice Chair, Charles Martin, CM (Secretary) Anne-Marie Orlusky (AMO), John Herling (JH), Tom Lewis (TL), Tara Kenyon (TK) Open Space Consultant, Absent: Mark Fortin (MF), Mayor Philip Kramer

Members of the Public: Bill Bowman, Editor Franklin Reporter Advocate

3. Approval of July 2021 Minutes Motion to approve: CM, unanimously approved.
4. Public Comment
The meeting will be opened to the Public to provide time for comments and/or questions related to the agenda
No public comments
5. Pathways and Trails Plan (45-minute work session) – **TABLED FOR AUGUST MEETING**
6. New Business
 - a. Update – Grasslands committee (AMO, TK, CM, B. Puskas, Chris Williams) met with C. Hauk and staff member Greg at Negri-Nepote to discuss restoration procedures. DPW indicated they would mow everything in both grassland areas except for small, flagged areas of milkweed at Negri. Mr. Hauk indicated that their mowers would remove large shrub and tree growth including Autumn Olive and Callery Pear invasives. Mowing on 1091 Canal Road finished August 11. CM indicated that mowing was being done with flail mowers at ground level Will follow up with state-contracted spraying of herbaceous invasives in accordance with elements of the 2019 Audubon proposal. Prescribed burn applications have been made for areas of Griggstown and Negri-Nepote Grasslands. Not all areas of Negri-Nepote can be burned due to powerline easements.
 - b. Update – Maintenance Call with Carl Hauck – Hunting signs are being posted, parking lot repairs have been made at Bunker Hill, NP and J Clyde. TK applied for and received \$20K grant from Sustainable New Jersey for an Infrastructure Strategic plan that includes impervious assessment, and watershed and pollutant load, the grant requires establishment of 17 demonstration projects that will be established by the Rutgers Water Resources program. The plans include construction of rain gardens, planting boxes, and other stormwater mitigation elements. New library may be a good spot for 2 rain gardens, also to revitalize Negri pollinator plot. Other locations are under consideration. Refer to Township Planning Board site, upcoming meeting link for more information about the proposed projects. New NJ rules are that green infrastructure mitigations must be first considered for

stormwater management practices.

- c. CM indicated that he received emails from concerned citizens that Butler Road trails have become overgrown and impassible. He noted that public works has cleared part of the purple trail to the cross stream in the past few days, but nothing beyond that point. Also damage to the purple trail caused in June, 2020 by the use of a large front-end loader in that area has not been repaired. This has left large holes along the trail that contributes to erosion and makes it impassible following rains.
 - d. VJ – asked about benches, TK indicated they are still on order. VJ also indicated that maps have not been posted on the Bunker Hill and Franklin kiosks and suggested that perhaps a large map of the trails could be posted so that hikers could take photos on their cell phones for use on the trails.
 - e. CM – suggested posting trails and volunteer society information at the Blackwell Mills site for future Canal Road Walk and Roll Events
7. Old Business
- a. Possibilities/Discussion for Prescribed Burn at Negri-Nepote Grasslands (Winter 2021/2022)
 - b. 2021/2022 Hunting Season – Opening Day is September 11th.
 - c. Franklin Day – TK indicated it would be held Saturday, Sept 18, 12-5 PM at the Municipal Complex with a smaller venue.
 - d. Updates – Previous Grant Work and Status for North-South Trail – **TABLED FOR AUGUST MEETING**
8. Adjournment CM moved to adjourn, seconded by AMO – unanimous vote at 7:52 PM