



Franklin Township VIRTUAL Trails Committee Meeting
September 14, 2022, 7:00PM

Editing Note: The video of the Sept. 14, 2022 meeting appears to be unavailable. The meeting posted at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KLIRaqSFPo&t=47s> is a duplicate copy of the August 2022 meeting.

1. Chair Vanessa Jones Called the meeting to Order in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) at 7:05 PM
2. Roll Call: Vanessa Jones (VJ) Chair, Anne-Marie Orlusky (AMO), Vice Chair, James Kuligowski, (JK), Mark Fortin, (MF), Christopher Gonda, (CG), Charles Martin (CM) Secretary, Absent: Phillip Kramer (PK) Mayor and Council Representative, John Herrling (JH)
3. Approval of August 2022 Minutes: Motion to Open – AMO, JK 2nd, minutes were approved as presented.
4. Public Comment: Motion to Open – no members of the public were present.
The meeting will be opened to the Public to provide time for comments and/or questions related to the agenda
5. Pathways and Trails Plan (45-minute work session) 7:07 PM – Committee continues to work to finish GPS mapping on trails. Textual issues. Stewardship Management and Education. Addition to sections. Mapping considerations
6. Site Plan Review – 2 warehouse applications are under review - 785 Old New Brunswick Road, and at the corner of Schoolhouse Road & Mettler's Lane. These properties have experienced extensive opposition from residents of Canal Walk and nearby properties – it is in a business and industrial zone. TK mentioned that this would involve over 10 acres of development requiring the removal of up to a thousand new trees. The committee reviewed maps for these locations and concluded that there was no real potential for trails in that area.
7. New Business
 - a. Biological Controls at Grasslands – CM indicated that the maintenance and preservation of our forests and grasslands is a topic that involves overlapping interests between the Open Space, Committee, the Trails Committee and the Environmental Commission. In keeping with the concept that the Township should adopt an integrated approach to the management of pests and invasive species on our forest and grassland trails, he is studying the feasibility of adding federal and state approved biological controls to our restoration and management methods. CM is asking the committee for future consideration and endorsement of biological control methods that may prove to be feasible.
 - b. Expanding Land Near Existing Parks to Access Nature
 - i. VJ has indicated that there is a potential site for a wooded trail at Naaman Williams Park. Members of the committee agreed that this would be a good addition to our trails system that would serve one of our more densely populated urban areas. Members suggested meeting with interested residents in the area to assess the feasibility of pursuing that project.

- c. Advanced Signage for Trails -
 - d. Local Health Assessment and Action Plan – TK is collecting surveys for anyone who lives and works in Franklin Township. Focus groups will be organized and held by the end of November.
 - i. Identifying smaller properties in Wards 4 and 5 for trails and open space
 - e. Update – Maintenance Call with Carl Hauck – no call this month
8. Old Business
- a. GPS Mapping of Trails - continues
 - b. Trail Walks
 - i. The “Walk with a Cop” is scheduled for – October 1, 2022, 10:00am, at Inman Park - JK indicated that paint blazes are needed at Inman Park trail and invited committee members to attend the event.
 - ii. Fall hikes – Sundays in October and November. CM noted that +55 and over and family hikes are scheduled for Sundays in October. These are published through the Parks and Recreation RecDesk. VJ expressed an interest in leading towpath hikes. at the Demott Lane location on October 15 or 16, 29 or 30th. November 6 towpath hike for all ages, AMO expressed an interest in leading fall fitness walks at Negri Nepote trails Sept 25 and October 23. Perhaps in December and January. MF indicated that he might be able to lead a walk before the week of October 24. TK and VJ noted that the trails committee had a booth for Franklin Day on Saturday Sept 24th at Gazebo. 1- 5 PM. Members were invited to attend the event and staff the booth.
 - c. Updates on Trails Conditions from TAC Members: CM noted that Stefan Holzer is an Eagle scout candidate who has expressed an interest in a project involving the Simonson Brook trail.
9. Adjournment AMO moved to adjourn, MF 2nd with adjournment at 9:14 PM