



## Franklin Township Trails Advisory Committee

### Virtual Meeting

February 8,  
2023, 7:00PM

*Note: a video record of this meeting is displayed at the following link:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94N\\_3RoZs9c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94N_3RoZs9c)

1. Call to Order in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6)
2. Roll Call: Vanessa Jones (VJ); Chair, Anne-Marie Orlusky (AMO), Vice-Chair; Charles Martin, (CM) Secretary; Mark Fortin (MF), Jim Kuligowski, (JK), Christopher Gonda, (CG); Tara Kenyon, Consultant. Absent: John Herrling, (JH); Phillip Kramer (PK) Mayor and Council Representative; None: There are now 2 vacancies on this committee. Resident citizens. Diana Martin
3. Approval of January 2023 Minutes Move to approve \_MK, 2<sup>nd</sup> AMO \_\_ Aye \_6\_ Nay\_\_ Abstain \_\_
4. Public Comment No Public Comments were requested 7:07 PM  
*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) Adoption of PTP assets descriptions: the Committee considered and reviewed edited documents to be included in the "Assets" section of the PTP. These included county and state assets in Franklin as well as township, county and state roadway cycling and hiking paths. Members were asked to check and complete information concerning roadway paths. CG asked whether the off-road paths are maintained during snowfalls. TK questioned whether these paths should also be mapped by members of the committee or whether compatible GIS data might be found from county sources. She will check county for compatible GIS data. AT continues to work on maps to be included in the PTP appendix. JK will be updating Inman map to add proposed new trail locations. Members suggested the addition of Franklin Blvd and Rt 518 to the cycling path assets section of the PTP. VJ emphasized that this information should also be provided in a more publicly accessible form. Perhaps a separate map and link for road trails.
6. Site Plan Review – Environmental Commission considered 3 applications in January. 2 updates were reviewed by the Committee – #1 - **Villas at Norma Park** – A proposed townhouse development on Franklin Blvd (Blocks 234 lots 3-7). 10 townhouses on undeveloped lots are proposed near Hillcrest school. Developers would be removing 27 trees (6+ are 30" in caliper – which elicited concerns from the Environmental commission). Developer proposes to plant 90 trees. There were no proposed changes to sidewalks on Franklin Blvd. Note: The county is requiring sidewalks the entire length of Franklin Blvd from Hamilton Street to Landing lane. **Proposal #2** is at 195 and 215 Davidson Avenue (Block 502.02 Lot 38.01) The proposal is to knockdown the Holiday Inn and other structures to build a distribution warehouse with 134 parking spaces and xx loading bays.
7. New Business
  - a. Sustainable Jersey Grant opportunity (due February 10, 2023) The Committee reviewed TK's grant proposal for the Naaman Williams project. The Open Space Advisory committee was

happy and interested in the proposal as well as the Council members for the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward. The Committee recommended moving forward with the proposal.

- b. National Trails Day Microgrants Program (due February 20, 2023) - American Hiking Society hosting microgrants program for underrepresented communities in celebration of 2023 National Trails Day June 3, 2023. Underserved communities would be eligible for a total of 3 \$1500 grants, each funding support of an in-person National Trails Day event (for transportation costs, hands-on materials, stewardship supplies, gear library products, food (excluding alcohol)). Applications must be received by Feb 20. MF moved to apply for the grant to promote transportation for participants of underserved communities for the Township National Trails Day event. Motion passed: Aye 6 Nay 0
- c. Memorial Bench/Tree Program – discussion tabled due to time constraints. TK provided Tribute Bench information from Somerset county to the committee for future consideration. That program stated charges of \$3000 / bench with lifetime maintenance and potential tree donations.

## 8. Old Business

- a. Trail Walks and Events –
  - i. Girl Scout Hike – February 5<sup>th</sup> at Inman Park Girl Scout Gold Award candidate Molly Hauss hike lead a hike at Inman Park with 30 participants. Trails Chair VJ, her advisor, represented the trails committee and provided trails and township signage for the event. Participants were given hiking guide prepared by Ms. Hauss. Copies of Ms. Hauss guide will be available at REI.
- b. Replacement Benches Installed – CM reports the “Sunset Bench” at Griggstown did not appear to be installed at the sunset location as viewed from the parking lot. [Note: closer inspection in fact revealed that a bench was installed near this location in the tree line above and to the south of the original bench]. One newly installed bench was observed on the red trail (south branch) that leads to the Sunset bench. Another newly installed bench has been located on the Red Trail (north section) in the wooded area near the entrance to the John Clyde Jr Trail. Benches have been installed at the Negri-Nepote and Bunker Hill locations. At this date none of the newly installed benches appear to have gravel aprons to prevent mowing damage. AMO noted that she has photos and location data for additional replacement benches at Negri-Nepote. She will provide that information to TK.
- c. Local Health Assessment and Action Plan - is ongoing
- d. GPS Trails Mapping Updates/Paint Blazes – no further updates.
- e. Updates on Trails Conditions from TAC Members – AMO noted that people are placing branches on muddy areas at Griggstown. This may create issues during mowing season. CM indicated that he would remove to the outdated hunting signs from the parking areas and take them to public works at the end of hunting season.
- f. TK indicated that Jignasha Patel will be joining the Trails Committee starting with the March 2023 meeting.

9. Adjournment - Motion to close: Motion by AMO with 2<sup>nd</sup> by MF Motion passed at 9:05 PM 6 Aye, 0 Nay.