



## Franklin Township Trails Advisory Committee

### Virtual Meeting

March 8, 2023

7:00PM

1. Call to Order in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) 7:07 PM
2. Roll Call Roll Call: Vanessa Jones (VJ); Chair, Anne-Marie Orlusky (AMO), Vice-Chair; Charles Martin, (CM) Secretary; Mark Fortin (MF), Christopher Gonda, (CG); Jignasha Patel (JP), John Herrling, (JH); Tara Kenyon, Consultant. Absent Jim Kuligowski, (JK): Phillip Kramer (PK) Mayor and Council Representative e: There is now 1 vacancy on this committee. Resident citizens. Diana Martin
3. Approval of February 2023 Minutes Motion by CM 2<sup>nd</sup> AMO, MF.
4. Public Comment No public comments  
*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). TK – IT is still working on maps. There is a new map of Inman Park with a modified off-road trail.
6. Site Plan Review: No recent Environmental Commission reviews. Next meeting may have some larger set of applications.
7. New Business
  - a. Signage at Old Vliet Road (Brown Trail) – CM expressed concerns that no trespassing signs posted along Vliet Road and the Driveway of Block
  - b. Memorial Bench/Tree Program – TK previous discussion of tree planting at memorial forest. Memorial. Can we make improvements to the program. Mary Lackhouse brought up the memorial tree and bench program. Members expressed concerns about the conditions, accessibility and feasibility of establishing memorial trees or benches at the Memorial Forest area. VJ – what about adopting established trees.
  - c. Anne-Marie Orlusky – AMO requested the committee to consider some way of honoring Melba Batten’s contributions to Franklin Township Open Space and Trails. TK talked of inconclusive discussions at the February Open Space meeting.
8. Old Business
  - a. Trail Walks and Events – AMO noted that Franklin Day is September 23 and asked if the Committee would want a table for that event. TK noted that we can consider this when the event is organized, and notices have been sent to the committees. MF noted that the National Trails Day event at transportation to Neighboring trails from Naaman Williams or Lincoln Gardens Baptist Church might be engaged in the event. CG asked how liability waivers for events are done.
  - b. Replacement Benches Installed – Members noted that aprons have not yet been installed around the new benches placed at John Clyde Memorial Grasslands, Bunker Hill Road trails, and Negri-Nepote trails.

- c. Local Health Assessment and Action Plan – compilation of data almost done.
- d. GPS Trails Mapping Updates/Paint Blazes – AT working on maps.
- e. Updates on Trails Conditions from TAC Members – AMO noted that Tundra swans have appeared at the Negri-Nepote pond and that the trails are in good shape. Tk noted that the Township is still waiting for prescribed burns. The last day can do a burn is April 30. CG noted that the tick situation at the JC Memorial grasslands is concerning. Given this year's warm winter there are concerns that there may be an increase in the tick population.
- f. VJ noted items that could be placed on the agenda for next meeting including concerns about motorized vehicles on trails. Methods for addressing wet areas on trails e.g., Naaman Williams
- g. CG questioned about e-bike guidelines for the trails. How devices should be used and appropriate ordinances restricting or permitting use on the trails. Tk noted that trails committee should draft an ordinance to be considered by the Open Space Committee and then forwarded to the Council.

## 9. Adjournment