



## Franklin Township VIRTUAL Trails Committee Meeting

November 9, 2022

7:00PM

Video for this meeting is posted at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcBf-D-CgE>

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, James Kuligowski, (JK), Mark Fortin, (MF), Christopher Gonda, (CG), Charles Martin (CM) Secretary, John Herrling (JH) Absent: Phillip Kramer (PK) Mayor and Council Representative,
3. Approval of September 2022 Minutes approved with no objections, JH and MF abstain.
4. Public Comment Velma Williams, attendee – Ms. Williams indicated she was listening in.  
***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)
  - a. Review of *Draft Pathways and Trails Plan* - 7:12 PM end 8:14 PM. Committee is moving to have a plan in place to submit to the Township Council by a February 2023 meeting.
6. Site Plan Review – no site plan reviews have been introduced during the last two environmental commission meetings.
7. New Business
  - a. Adopt-A-Trail Program – CM asked the committee to consider reinstating an Adopt-A-Trail program to develop volunteer groups that can assist in maintaining trails. Removing hazardous invasives, monitoring trail markers, monitor tree hazards, monitoring and repairing benches, removal of invasives, etc. It was noted that effective volunteer organizations exist in neighboring counties and municipalities, including the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FOHVOS), South Mountain Reservation (Essex County parks), Hunterdon County, (staff person), Union County, but that effective and sustainable organizations rely on dedicated leaders who will monitor and report trail conditions and organize maintenance and improvement projects. TK showed literature from Union County and a Morris County Adopt-A-Trail manual (run through their Parks System) that outlines activities and procedures established for a municipal and county -supported volunteer organizations. TK suggested that we reach out to Morris County for information about how their group was organized and how it works.
8. Old Business
  - a. Trail Walks – Walk with a COP Hike led by Officers Dawn Flanders and Jeremy Sepulveda occurred at Inman Park on October 29. Committee members VJ, AMO and CM attended the hike. The event was well attended. Franklin Township police are interested in doing more hikes of that nature. CM organized 3 trail walks for +55 Seniors and Families in October on Butler Road, Bunker Hill Road and Environmental Center trails. These walks were posted on

the Parks and Recreation RecDesk. Parks and Recreation staff Gloria Fidecaro and Marianne Regan joined and co-led these hikes along with trails committee chair, VJ. VJ also led an October hike on the Demott Lane canal towpath and expressed her desire to develop more hikes in populated areas of the township.

- b. Expanding Land Near Existing Parks to Access Nature
  - i. TK is working on a potential trail at Naaman Williams Park.
- c. Advanced Signage for Trails – DPW does have sign making equipment for advanced signs with information about trail sites and conditions. These would include interpretive information about trails and trail markings.
- d. Local Health Assessment and Action Plan – Focus groups are almost completed to collect data for the assessment that can be used to develop land use planning. The number one concern seems to be inadequate transportation within the township.
- e. GPS Mapping of Trails – AT is still working on this project. Some brochure has been updated.
- f. Paint Blazes – TK completed paint blazes on the Inman Park Red Trail – she notes that while painting, workers should make sure that both sides of the tree are marked to indicate path in both directions. CG asked about temperatures and other weather conditions that might affect paint applications. TK will inform the committee about those conditions.
- g. Updates on Trails Conditions from TAC Members – TK spoke to C. Hauck who indicated that seven benches have arrived. Committee members agreed that priorities for placement should be at John Clyde Memorial and Negri-Nepote Grasslands. CM asked about potential for replacing memorial plaques on the new benches at Griggstown. MF suggested that we might consider establishing a memorial bench program to provide funding for additional bench acquisitions.

AMO indicated that all of Negri-Nepote has been mowed. CM indicated that Griggstown areas was also mowed on October 21-22 using the newly acquired batwing mower.

9. Adjournment was unanimously voted at 9:01 PM