



Franklin Township Trails Advisory Committee

Virtual Meeting

April 12, 2023

2023, 7:00PM

Note: A video recording of this meeting was not available at the time these minutes were distributed to the committee. The video record on the Franklin Township Youtube Channel labeled “April 12, 2023” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y35UvAmklgQ>) is actually a record of the February, 2023 meeting of this committee. There are now 2 postings of the February meeting. I could not locate a video for the March 2023 meeting. C. Martin, Secretary

1. Call to Order in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6). Meeting was opened by Chair, Vanessa Jones.
2. Roll Call Roll: Vanessa Jones (VJ); Chair, Anne-Marie Orlusky (AMO), Vice-Chair; Charles Martin, (CM), Secretary; Mark Fortin (MF), Jignasha Patel (JP), Jim Kuligowski, (JK): Councilman Ed Potosnak. Absent: Christopher Gonda, (CG), John Herring, Phillip Kramer (PK) Mayor and Council Representative, Tara Kenyon, Land Management Consultant: There is now 1 vacancy on this committee.
3. Approval of March 2023 Minutes – AMO moved to open, MF 2nd. There was no discussion, motion to approve carried by unanimous vote.
4. Public Comment: no members of the public offered 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) - **TABLED FOR APRIL Meeting**
6. Site Plan Review – no current updates for this meeting
7. New Business
 - a. Trail for Melba Battin – TK had previously suggested naming a trail as a memorial for Ms. Batten. No further information has come forth at this point. The Open Space Committee discussion at their March meeting on this topic was inconclusive.
 - b. Conceptualizing and Discussion: Bird Blind Replacement at Negri-Nepote. AMO and CM expressed concerns about the condition and maintenance of the blind and its adjacent area around the vernal pond: Existing blind needs to be repaired and opened to allow better viewing of the north pond area – the water area behind the needs be cleared of cattails and invasive vegetation that repeatedly grows up behind the blind. This vegetation, including large clusters of pokeweed block the view of the pond from the blind and needs to be cleared several times during the summer. Public works has not maintained that area for a number of years and sporadic maintenance at that location during that time has only been done through volunteer activity.
 - c. Memorial Bench program – TK previously reported she is working with OSAC members on this proposal –her sense is that the OSAC is not seeing a need for the formal program at this time?

MF expressed concerns about not having a formal program for this project.

d. Motorized Vehicles on Trails --- discussion tabled to next meeting.

8. Old Business

a. Trail Walks and Events

i. National Trails Day – June 3, 2023 – CM suggested the Environmental Center Trail where there is adequate parking and accessibility to a number of trails at that location. The committee discussed having multiple trail walks at this event for different age groups and groups with varying interests that could be organized in cooperation with Parks and Recreation. MF discussed the possibility of organizing a disc golf trails event as part of these activities.

ii. Trail Runs – committee members discussed the potential for sponsoring trail running events on some of the grassland and forested trails. CM noted that trail events of this type over our grassland wildlife habitat trails at Negri-Nepote and Griggstown should probably occur after nesting season (late May through mid August).

b. Grants – Update

i. Sustainable Jersey Grant for Naaman Williams Memorial Park – no updates at this time.

ii. Microgrant from American Hiking Society for National Trails Day – this grant not awarded.

c. Updates on Trails Conditions from TAC Members – VJ – new benches at Bunker Hill trails – JP has been monitoring the grassland trails and notes that some areas required maintenance and repair, including missing signposts, trail markers, etc. Information about the trails and trail habitats also needs to be provided at the Kiosk. Several trail marker posts need to be replaced. Signage along these trails has deteriorated. Bulletin board information is lacking. JK noted that bridges have been repaired at Inman Park and the trails in that area have been cleaned. The trail head near the kiosk needs to be clearly marked. VJ noted that the Naaman Williams cleanup will occur on Wednesday of following week 3-6 PM. MF noted that the Tour de Franklin will take place April 30, 2023.

9. Adjournment – MF moved to close, CM seconded, The meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM by unanimous vote.