

Franklin Township Trails Advisory Committee

Date: March 13, 2024

Location: Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

Open Public Meeting Act Policy

- Read into the record by Vanessa Jones, Chair

Roll Call

Present	Absent
Vanessa Jones, Chair	Christopher Gonda, Secretary
Anne-Marie Orlusky	Councilman Alex Kharazi
Jim Kuligowski	
Jignasha Patel	
Robert Kovacs	
Pravesh Lal	
Tara Kenyon, AICP/PP – Consultant	
Michael Morosco – Intern	

Public Comment

- Motion to enter into Public Session: Anne-Marie Orlusky, seconded by Robert Kovacs.
- All agreed and the meeting was opened to the public

Debbie Stewart, a resident of Canal Walk, introduced herself and stated that she was attending the meeting to observe.

Kathy C., a Franklin Township resident, was having technical issues with her microphone, but also stated that she was attending the meeting to observe.

- Motion to close the Public Session: Anne-Marie Orlusky, seconded by Jignasha Patel.
- All agreed and the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes

- Motion to Approve: Anne-Marie Orlusky, seconded by Jignasha Patel
- All voted to approve the minutes of the January meeting, with the exception of Pravesh Lal who was not present.

Site Plan Review

- No site plan review for this meeting.

New Business:

Projects for 2024 Visioning Session

- The Committee finalized the projects and goals for 2024, based on the discussion at the last TAC meeting.
- Tara will update the “Vision and Goals” document, which will be used as a living workplan for the year 2024 and beyond.

Old Business:

Memorial Plaque for Melba Battin at Negri-Nepote Native Grasslands Preserve

- Tara presented the language for the memorial plaque to Melba Battin’s son, James Battin, who approved it as written.
- Tara is awaiting an updated Purchase Order due to an extra line of text being added.
- The stone that the plaque will be affixed to will be procured by the Township from Trap Rock, Inc.

Community Energy Plan & Micromobility Study

- NV5, the Consultant hired to perform the *Micromobility Study*, is prepared to begin
- The kickoff meeting, which will be attended by members of the TAC, Environmental Commission, and Franklin Township Staff, will be held during the first week of April.
- The *Micromobility Study* will focus on making safe and energy efficient connections from the Hamilton Business District moving west across the Township towards DeMott Lane, Amwell Road, and Easton Avenue.

Updating and Printing of Trails Maps

- The Purchase Order has been generated and sent to the Somerset County Print Shop.
- Tara is working on finalizing the maps and brochures and will send them in for printing soon.
- Tara has sent in the updated maps to the Information Technology Department for posting on the website.

Trail Walks & Events

- Tara has posted the flyers for the Trails Running Series for this Spring, which will be run by Christopher Gonda at PLACE from April 22nd through May 20th
- Tara is working on flyers for the Eco-Walk, which will be hosted by Jignasha Patel at the John Clyde Memorial Native Grasslands Preserve on DATE
- Tara is working on flyers for the Storybook Hike, which will be hosted by Vanessa Jones at the Bunker Hill Natural Area on DATE

Trail Reports and Conditions

- The Committee continues to use the Google Form to submit items in need of repair and/or maintenance
- John Clyde Memorial Native Grasslands Preserve: Jignasha Patel reported that the driveway is in great need of repaving. There are a lot of deep potholes. The kiosk is empty – Tara checked on the lock, however there is still no key access. Graffiti was found on the fence.
- Franklin Park Natural Area: Vanessa Jones reported there is litter at the property, and that there is no Big Belly trash can. Graffiti was also found on the fence.
- Negri-Nepote Native Grasslands Preserve: Anne Marie Orlusky reported that the Blue Trail is in need of additional red stone – the weather has washed away portions of the trail and/or created uneven spots. Vegetation is encroaching on the Blue Trail and should be cut back. Lastly, the informative signage around the property is very faded, and needs replacement. Tara will reach out to New Jersey Audubon to find out where the signage was created, and how it was funded. Anne Marie complimented the trimming and maintaining the holly trees along the Blue Trail.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: Anne Marie Orlusky, seconded by Jignasha Patel
- All agreed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm
- ***Next meeting of the Franklin Township Trails Advisory Committee***: in-person meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Franklin Township Municipal Building (Large Conference Room).