

**Franklin Township Trails Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes: January 8, 2014**

1. Fran Varacalli called the meeting to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision at 7:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Present; Mark Fortin, Nancy Cole, Jack Connolly, Pat Leonard, Dom Abbatiello, Patti Sofran, Jim Kuligowski (late), Fran Varacalli and Phil Kramer. Absent: Chris Kelly, Dana Oley
3. Reorganization of the Committee: Mark Fortin nominated Nancy Cole for Chair, seconded by Patti Sofran, all in favor. Dom Abbatiello nominated Chris Kelly for Vice Chair, seconded by Jack Connolly, all in favor.
4. 2014 Meeting dates approval
  - a. Mark Fortin called for a motion to schedule 8 meetings for calendar year 2014 with more meetings happening in the first 6 months, seconded by Nancy Cole. 3 in favor 3 against. Dom Abbatiello made a motion to continue with 6 meetings per year, seconded by Jack Connolly, 5 in favor, 1 nay, and the motion carried.
5. Approval of the November 13, 2013 minutes: Nancy Cole called for a motion to approve the minutes with corrections as discussed, seconded by Mark Fortin, all in favor.
6. Opening of the meeting to the public: Jack Connolly motioned to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mark Fortin. Jack Connolly motioned to close the meeting to the public seconded by Dom Abbatiello.
7. New business
  - a. Canal Road Cycling Event 2014: After a discussion about what to name the event, Mark Fortin made a motion to accept the suggestion "Canal Road Walk & Roll," seconded by Patti Sofran, all in favor. Two events will be planned. The first May 18<sup>th</sup> (rain date June 8<sup>th</sup>), the second will be Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> (rain date Sept. 14).
  - b. Photo Contest June-December 2013: The submissions did not meet contest criteria. Fran Varacalli to notify contestants. All agreed that the 2014 contest would be closed for submissions on 8/31.
  - c. It was suggested that the 2015 Franklin Township Photo Calendar be printed and made available for sale at the CanalFest in October.
  - d. National Trails Day June 7<sup>th</sup>: An event to be held at the Griggstown Grassland Preserve. Patti Sofran, and Nancy Cole will make some suggested event recommendations at the next meeting. Fran Varacalli to check with Chris Kelly.
  - e. Eagle project – Build a bike rack and bench at Butler Road Trail.
8. Old business: Patti Sofran reported that she and Dana Oley hiked Butler on 12/1/13, and outlined their findings. They are hopeful to arrange a Butler clean-up day in the early spring.

9. Eco Tourism: Some of the suggestions noted in the 2006 Eco Heritage Tourism plan could serve as a resource to promote the trails; for example, on-line same day itineraries, and a printed promotional brochure. Fran to email the report to the committee.
10. Adjournment: Jack Connolly motioned to adjourn at 8:35p.m., seconded by Mark Fortin. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Sofran, Secretary