

**Trails Advisory Committee
Minutes
July 9, 2014**

Call to order. 7:03 PM

Roll Call: Committee members present - Dom Abbatiello, Jack Connolly, Nancy Cole, Chris Kelly, Pat Leonard, Mark Fortin, S. Dana Oley. Also present - Councilman Phil Kramer (TAC liaison), Committee Consultant Fran Varacalli, OSAC Chairperson Randy Jones. Committee members absent - Jim Kuligowski, Patti Sofran.

May 14, 2014 minutes: Connolly moved and Leonard seconded a motion to approve the 14-May-2014 minutes. Motion carried with Kelly abstaining.

Opening of the meeting to the public: Kelly moved and Connolly seconded a motion to open the public portion of the meeting. Motion carried at 7:10 p.m.

- Steve Rauf (5 Lincoln Ave., Griggstown) would like to be able to ride bikes in the Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve on Canal Road. He is not sure why they are restricted. Discussion follows among those present regarding conservation concerns, potential for damage to grounds by bikes and horses (currently permitted), the desire to promote and increase trail use, and the potential benefit of having more eyes on the trails to reduce unapproved uses (ATV's, etc.). **Kelly makes a motion to recommend allowing bikes on all Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve trails except the red and blue trails (grassland areas), Fortin seconds this motion, motion carries (4-2).**
- Sharon DeAngelis (15 Bedford Rd., Somerset) informed the committee that her son Daniel is a member of Troop 100 in Griggstown, and that Troop 100 would like to adopt the Griggstown Native Grasslands Preserve. They have been discussing options with F. Varacalli and plan to do some routine trail maintenance work on Sat. Aug. 9, 2014, which will involve pruning/trimming, trash pick-up, etc. This work will be coordinated and led by her son Daniel (at another commitment tonight) for his Star Scout project.
- Daniel Cassidy (606 Greenhill Manor Dr., Franklin Park) lives near Catalpa open space. He is interested in how the Trails Advisory Committee operates.
- Josh Singer (1 Terhune Ct., Somerset) has spoken to our committee before about potential Eagle Scout projects. He is interested in creating a bear awareness kiosk at Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve. The committee is fine with this. He will work with F. Varacalli on the details.

Closing the public portion of the meeting: Kelly moved and Connolly seconded a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. Motion carried at 7:50 p.m.

5. New business:

- c. C. Kelly brought tick bite and Lyme disease prevention literature. He noted that we have a health educator in township (Advisory Board of Health member?) who is willing to speak to various committees like ours about the issue.
- d. P. Sofran (not present) had circulated to the committee via email information about bike "sharrows" (shared lane markings). P. Kramer did some research and notes that they are very expensive, roughly \$153 per marking for a very rough estimated total cost of more than \$50,000 to put these on Canal Road. One sharrow marking is required every 250 feet per regulations according to P. Kramer.

6. Old business:

- a. TAC Table at Franklin Soccer games at Middlebush Park on Saturday, May 31, 2014 - N. Cole handled this solo and said it went great as usual. Just need ideas for preventing our literature from blowing around and for displaying some items vertically. M. Fortin suggested something like a shoe caddy (F. Varacalli suggested based on Fortin's description) to hold literature in pouches and tie down to table. M. Fortin also suggested simple signs like real estate signs for vertical display of standard trails information. F. Varacalli will investigate costs.
- b. National Trails Day on June 7, 2014 - Cole and Oley stated that it was a great success with good public participation and a variety of activities. We all agreed to continue to do this next year (1st Saturday in June). Fortin suggested Franklin Park Natural Area (Catalpa property).
- c. Canal Fest 2014 will be on October 18th. F. Varacalli will circulate a Doodle poll to the committee to sign-up time slots for manning a table with trails literature.
- d. 2014 Open Space Walks - Varacalli reported that over 20 people attended each of the April and May walks. Upcoming walks are July 26th from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Negri Nepote and August 23 from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Griggstown.
- e. North/South Trail update - Varacalli reported that she and Township Planner M. Healy used GPS to create a more accurate proposed placement of the trail through Six-Mile Run State Park. They will be going again to Six-Mile Run on the morning of Tuesday, July 15, 2014 with Councilman T. Chase. F. Varacalli will re-do the maps based on this updated GPS data for submission to NJDEP.
- f. Trail Maintenance update - Varacalli reported that the summer help is hard at work and has used weed-whackers to trim back nearly all of the trails. P. Leonard noted that they may have missed or not yet done portions of the yellow and brown trails at Griggstown. Boy Scouts will be repairing two benches at Griggstown. Fortin will reach out to the Schlerer's about Inman Park trail. There is a Boy Scout project planned to repair the bridge on the Inman Park trail. F. Varacalli suggested that committee members email the Township Manager B. Vornlocker regarding the possibility of putting cameras on trails. May also need to raise the issue with OSAC and/or Public Safety.

Reports from other committees:

P. Kramer summarized the June 30th public hearing regarding the recreational development near the Franklin Park Natural Area (Catalpa property).

F. Varacalli noted that we will be judging our annual photo contest entries at our September meeting.

Adjournment: At 8:45 PM, Connolly moved and Abbatiello seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Fortin (substituting for Patti Sofran)