

**Trails Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
September 10, 2014**

1. Call to order. 7:05 PM

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

3. July 9, 2014 minutes: Kuligowski noted that there was one error in Old Business 6.a. The TAC table was set up at Sampson School, not Middlebush Park as written in the minutes. Leonard moved and Abbatiello seconded a motion to approve the 9-July-2014 minutes with the change. Motion carried.

4. Opening of the meeting to the public:

- Martin Zorde (128 Drake Road, Somerset) has adopted the Inman Park trail and gave the committee an update on his work. He has been clearing paths of brush and felling trees that were overhanging the trail. He is interested in creating a GPS tagged map of the park. He also is interested in building a bridge over the stream. Varacalli stated public works needs to do this. He is concerned with poison ivy on the trail and also mentioned poison ivy at Sampson where soccer games are played. His fear is that young children may go in the woods to retrieve soccer balls and get exposed. Varacalli will contact the school. Zorde mentioned there is a Shagbark Hickory tree in Inman. Varacalli will contact the Shade Tree committee to verify.

Closing the public portion of the meeting: Fortin moved and Connolly seconded a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. Motion carried.

5. New business:

a. Franklin Day Festival on Saturday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Kuligowski is able to man the TAC table from 3-7 p.m. Oley, Varacalli and John Clyde stated they may be able to assist but are not definite.

b. 2014 Photo Contest Judging  
Voting occurred at the end of the meeting. Winners for each location are:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Photo Winner</u>
Franklin Park /Bunker Hill	Wisneski
Butler Road	Schnee
Griggstown	Singh
Colonial Park	Bedoya
Negri-Nepote	Singh
Six Mile Run	Siegal
D&R Canal	Connelly

The overall winner was Siegal for Six Mile Run.

c. 2015 Trails Calendar  
Flyers are up. Email was sent by the township.

- d. Oley introduced a motion to reopen a discussion regarding the approval of recommending bicycle usage on all Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve trails except the red and blue trails (grassland areas) which was approved at the July 9, 2014 TAC meeting. Kuligowski seconded. Motion carried.

Oley voiced her concerns the issue was passed before thought was given to environmental impacts.

Griggstown was established as a grassland preserve to attract birds. It is unknown what effect bicycles would have on birds.

Bikes can create ruts which could lead to further erosion.

Bunker Hill is the only access to the forest trails where bikes would be allowed. It is unlikely that bicyclists would walk bikes through the grasslands to reach the wooded trails.

There are only about four miles of wooded trails for usage.

Leonard mentioned it took over a year to approve (Griggstown) trail usage for horses and she is required to have a permit and to have a million dollar insurance policy. She questioned how bicycle usage could be approved so quickly and whether bicyclists would also be required to be permitted and carry insurance.

Oley made a motion to revote on recommending bicycle usage on all Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve trails except the red and blue trails (grassland areas). Abbatiello seconded. Motion carried. The revote was 6 against recommending bicycle usage and 2 for.

#### 6. Old business:

a. Canal Road Walk n Roll Update

Varacalli displayed a strip banner that was made for the event. The banner was hung on Amwell Road in the East Millstone area. It was asked whether another banner can be made for placement on DeMott Lane at the municipal complex. As the event gains popularity, parking may be needed at the quail farm on Bunker Hill Road if the owners agree.

Dates set for 2015 are May 17<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of the 31<sup>st</sup> and September 20<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Cole commented on what a great event it was to be able to take a two hour bike ride on Canal Road.

b. Griggstown Scout Life Project

Troop 100 was at Griggstown to repair benches. The event was very positive. Additional project ideas need to be generated for other interested Eagle Scout candidates.

c. Sat. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> Canal Fest TAC participation, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Varacalli will send out a Doodle poll to see who is available to man a table.

d. 2014 Open Space Walks 2014 update

The last walk of 2014 is scheduled at Griggstown on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.

e. North/South Trail update

Varacalli along with Township Planner Mark Healey and Councilman Chase created more accurate trail placements using GPS this summer.

Varacalli displayed maps with three bicycle routes with green, black and blue being the proposed sign colors. She will email the map to committee members for review and then revisit the issue at the November TAC meeting.

f. Trail Maintenance update

Kuligowski brought up that a gate at Griggstown needs to be repaired and strengthened. Apparently it was taken down and is now wide enough for motorized vehicles to enter the grassland preserve.

A 48 inch gap is needed to allow for horses to pass through.

7. Reports from other committees: No reports.

8. Announcements: No announcements

9. Adjournment: At 9:40 p.m., Fortin moved and Abbatiello seconded a motion to adjourn.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Kuligowski (substituting for Patti Sofran)