

Franklin Township Trails Advisory Committee
Wednesday, May 13, 2015
7:00 PM
Minutes

1. Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision
2. Introductions/roll call
Present: Nancy Cole, Jack Connolly, Mark Fortan, Vanessa Jones, Councilman Phil Kramer, Jim Kuligowski, Pat Leonard, Ann Marie Orlusky, Fran Varacalli
Absent: Dana Oley; excused
3. Approval of the March 14th, 2015 minutes
 - a. N. Cole noted that the minutes needed two updates.
M. Fortin made a motion to accept the amended TAC meeting minutes of March 11th, 2015. J. Connelly seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed.
4. Opening of the meeting to the public
 - a. Motion made by J. Connolly to open the meeting to the public. Motion seconded by M. Fortin. All members in favor. Motion passed.
 - b. Life Scout Shayle Amin, 141 York Dr. Princeton, NJ Troop 46 presented a project to build a kiosk at Bunker Hill Natural Area. Since there is a kiosk at this site, perhaps a better project suggested by Varacalli is to rebuild the benches by the kiosk as they are worn and maybe resite them as they are currently in weeds as the township isn't mowing near them. Varacalli also suggested putting a bench by the cliff area. She also suggested putting together a bear informational packet. Shayle will review the suggested changes to his project.
 - c. Motion made by M. Fortin to close the meeting to the public and seconded by J. Connolly. All members in favor. Motion passed.
5. New business
 - a. New TAC Committee Member
N. Cole, Chair, welcomed Ann Marie Orlusky, new TAC Committee Member.
 - b. National Trails Day on Saturday, June 6th at Inman Park starting at 9:30 a.m.
Some of the activities scheduled:
Robert Wood Johnson(RWJ) will be sending a trainer to stretch/warm up people before the hike. RWJ will also have an information table for healthy living and will be handing out granola bars and water.
Dr. Phil Kramer will give a health talk during the hike.
N. Cole hasn't received confirmation from the hula hoop fitness trainer, who was at last year's event, whether she will be returning this year.
N. Cole will also reach out to a photographer who demonstrates how to take nature photos to see if he can attend.
M. Fortin suggested selling remaining TAC 2015 calendars at a 50% discount
M. Fortin made a motion that the TAC 2015 calendar be sold at the Trials Event for \$5.00. N. Cole seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed.
 - c. Catalpa Park, Public Hearing, June 30th at 7 p.m.
Catalpa Park concept plans will be discussed at a special Public Hearing meeting on Tuesday, June 30th at 7pm in Council Chambers. N. Cole will

attend and read the motion the Trails Committee passed at the March 11, 2015 TAC meeting.

6. Old Business

- a. The town council passed a resolution to add a bike/walkway on the Amwell Road bridge near East Millstone. M. Fortin made a motion to send a resolution identical to the Franklin Township Council resolution to NJ DOT. N. Cole seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion passed.
- b. Future trail: A parcel of the Trap Rock property is being purchased by Somerset County and Franklin Township. The cost is approximately \$5M with the county paying 90% (4.5M) and Franklin paying 10% (500K). The parcel is approximately 270 acres. The usage would be exclusively for passive recreation. The county may add trails at their discretion in the future and representatives from Franklin Twp. will be involved in the planning of those trails.
- c. Butler Road clean up – update.
Butler Road cleanup was unfortunately cancelled due to inclement weather. The Committee will decide when to re schedule the cleanup.
- d. Committee Goals 2015
 1. Butler Road cleanup.
 2. Installation of cameras in the parking lots of the preserves.
- c. N/S Trail update - Grant
Varacalli submitted a grant proposal to NJDEP Recreational Trails Grant program. The grant seeks \$90,000 of grant funding to pave a 0.7 mile bike path on Van Cleef Rd. From Grouser Rd towards Blackwells Mill Road. Project cost is estimated at 110K. The Township would provide a 20% match or approx. \$20,000 as a requirement of the grant. Councilman Kramer asked who would be responsible for maintaining the trail(snow removal) when as this may be an additional responsibility for Dept. of Public Works. Grant awards will be announced in September.
- d. Update to permitted uses on trails – update
Any changes to the trail usage matrix needs to go through the Recreation Department. The last time it was amended was in 2009. The matrix will add the Inman Park trail, Middlebush Park trails.
- e. Trail maintenance updates
Negri: J. Kuligowski reported that one of the benches is broken (where the yellow and brown trails meet) and needs to be repaired. Red trail markers in the wooded section of Negri need to be replaced as trees with the markers have fallen. Kuligowski is willing to do this work. He also picked up debris along the trails and in the parking lot.
A free nature walk scheduled for June 13th from 9-11 a.m.

Bunker Hill and Franklin Park: V. Jones picked up garbage around benches at Bunker Hill. The benches are worn and she wondered if they are a good design. Varacalli said the Griggstown benches are in good shape. P. Leonard did add that benches have been repaired several times. Jones asked who maintains the kiosks. Varacalli does. On the Franklin Park trail site, V. Jones would like to add a trail that goes through the woods near the tree house. She questioned how does a new trail get established? Varacalli stated it would be

prudent to wait until the Catalpa Park plans are finalized as parts of this wooded area may be disturbed as part of the construction for Catalpa. The trail near the bluffs area runs near the stream which gets eroded. This portion of the trail has been moved several times due to fallen trees. Jones would like to add a loop trail in this area. Varacalli said there is a loop planned. There was an Eagle Scout ready to complete the creation of the trail loop but he decided to not complete the Eagle Scout Award. Jones inquired about how she may finish the looped trail. The loop trail is tentatively already marked with either survey tape or white marks on trees. F. Varacalli suggested she walk the looped trail and report back to Committee to determine next steps.

Griggstown: P. Leonard mentioned some trees are down at the top of the field. Some trees that are down by the pipeline (yellow trail) need to be removed. They are about half way up the trail. The yellow trail through the woods could use cleaning up.

N. Cole asked if you do go on your trail and have comments, email her and F. Varacalli. If the kiosks need anything email Varacalli, but she is there often.

f. Miscellaneous

- i. Mike Reilly submitted paperwork to fill the last open slot for the committee.
- ii. N. Cole did set up an information table at Sampson G. Smith School on Saturday, May 9th and there was plenty of interest in the photo contest. She will set up a table again at the same site on Saturday, May 30th and she is looking for volunteers.
- iii. Councilman Kramer asked is a larger Canal Road Walk and Roll event banner could be ordered. He felt the banner on Amwell Road was difficult to read. F. Varacalli will look into costs for larger banner. She did express that the costs of banners are expensive.
- iv. Varacalli mentioned there was vandalism at the Griggstown parking area. The township is looking into installing cameras in the parking lots of parks/preserves. Mike Reilly said hunting cameras run approximately \$75 for ones where you need to physically pick up the video card. Cameras that automatically download images cellularly can run upwards of \$500. F. Varacalli is working with the Twp. Manager who is looking into the cost of the cameras, different types of cameras and the maintenance of cameras. The Twp. has to determine the appropriate type of camera, depending on who and how the data will be stored, how the police will be reviewing the data(live or static). A hunting camera, as suggested, may seem like the proper equipment, but there are additional factors that need to be considered. F. Varacalli will keep the Committee updated on the Twp. recommendations.

7. Reports from other Committees

Open space did not have a meeting last month.

P. Leonard asked for an update on the Kingston School project. F.Varacalli provided an update.

8. Announcements: None

9. Adjournment

J. Connolly made a motion to close the meeting. M. Fortin seconded. All members were in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by J. Kuligowski