

**Franklin Township Trails Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2015**

1. Call to order. 7:04 PM

2. Roll Call: Present - Nancy Cole, Jack Connolly, Vanessa Jones, Jim Kuligowski, Mark Fortin, S. Dana Oley. Also present – Mayor Chris Kelly, Councilperson Phil Kramer, Committee Consultant Fran Varacalli. Excused – Pat Leonard, Anne-Marie Orlusky.

5. New business:

- a. 2015 Photo Contest Awards – Several winners from the 2015 Photo-From-A-Trail Contest (for the 2016 Franklin Trails Calendar) were present at the meeting. Nancy Cole said a few words of thanks to all of our winners. She and Councilperson Kramer then presented each with a Franklin Trails hat and a certificate.

3. July 8, 2015 minutes: Connolly made and Oley seconded a motion to approve the July 8, 2015 meeting minutes with one typo to be corrected. Motion carried unanimously with Fortin abstaining.

4. Opening of the meeting to the public: No public was present at this point of the meeting.

5. New business:

- a. Franklin Day – This will be held in Colonial Park Parking Lot C on Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 11 AM – 6 PM. Fran has circulated a Doodle poll for committee members to sign-up to assist with the Trails Committee table. The rain date is Saturday, September 26, 2015.
- b. Canal Fest – This event is Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 11 AM – 5 PM, with a rain date of Sunday, October 18, 2015. After Franklin Day, Fran will distribute a Doodle poll to coordinate the Trails Committee table monitoring during the event.
- c. 2016 Trails Calendar – The calendar is printed and available for purchase from the Township Clerk. It will also be offered for sale at our Trails Committee tables at Franklin Day and Canal Fest. Price is \$10.
- d. Travel web sites (reviews) – Jim Kuligowski suggested that we create Trip Advisor entries for each of our Township trails. He noted there is one for Negri-Nepote already. Fortin suggested that each committee member create an entry and review for their respective adopted trails.
- e. Tourism/hotel meeting update – Fran updated the committee about Councilperson Roz Sherman’s effort to catalyze marketing/promotion of Franklin Township. A meeting was held with the managers of several Township hotels and the Garden State Exhibition Center to inform them of the various ecotourism opportunities in the Township. The participants were very positive about the

idea and will be meeting again. Our committee members had several other questions and suggestions for Fran about this initiative. Displaying our Township ecotourism maps near where they are available is one idea the committee agreed should be pursued.

- f. National Park Service (NPS): Every kid in a park initiative – Fran told the committee that NPS is offering free passes to 4th graders and their families throughout the country via their web site. Fran wondered if we could do something similar with our Township trails and parks. Everyone is asked to brainstorm ideas around this and send them to Fran via email.
- g. Video cameras on trails – Fran noted there was an online video conference with a vendor called Flash Cam. There was some discussion of how to quantify costs of damage to trails for comparison to the cost of the system, or whether costs is really even the right driver. Fran will inform the Township Manager about the details of the vendor presentation and will follow-up with the participants in the conference about next steps. Councilperson Kramer and Mayor Kelly both noted that it doesn't have to be a one size fits all solution -- a mix of camera types and systems may be the best solution.
- h. Addition of trails at Middlebush Park and Inman Park to the Township Trails permitted uses list – Fortin made a motion, seconded by Oley, to add the Inman Park and Middlebush Park to our Franklin Township Trails Permitted Uses spreadsheet as detailed in the suggested modified spreadsheet presented by Fran Varacalli.
- i. Canal Road Walk-and-Roll event – Councilperson Kramer reminded everyone that this event will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2015.
- j. Open Public Meeting Law (a.k.a. “Sunshine Law”) reminder/refresher – Councilperson Kramer noted that this committee is covered by this act and reminded everyone of its scope and the responsibilities therein.
- k. North-South Trail update – Vanessa Jones asked for an update on this ongoing initiative. Fran noted that the Township has applied for a grant for finishing the trail along Van Cleef Road to Blackwell Mills Road. She also needs to follow-up with the D&R Canal Park about their approval of our proposed Township Memorandum of Understanding.

6. Old business:

- a. Butler Road Clean-Up update – This committee team-building event will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2015, at 9:30 AM. Please bring your own tools and other supplies.
- b. Trail Maintenance update – Fran noted that Negri-Nepote blue trail has been re-stoned. The summer helpers are done for the summer. Vanessa Jones noted that the propane tanks found at Franklin Park Natural Area still have not been collected. Jim Kuligowski noted that there is some garbage at the kiosk near Negri-Nepote. **Fran also noted that hunting season starts this weekend, September 12 & 13.**

7. Reports from other committees:

Nothing new was reported.

8. Announcements

Fran noted that there is a fall foliage walk on October 10th at Griggstown.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Fortin