

**Franklin Township Trails Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 18th, 2015**

1. Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision 7:09

2. Roll Call: Present - Vanessa Jones, Jim Kuligowski, Mark Fortin, Pat Leonard, Anne-Marie Orlusky, Also present – Duane Rodgers, Committee Consultant Fran Varacalli.

Excused –. S. Dana Oley. Nancy Cole, Jack Connolly, Phil Kramer

3. Approval of the September 9th, 2015 minutes: Orlusky made and Fortin seconded a motion to approve the September 9th meeting minutes with one correction suggested by Jim Kuligowski. Amended minutes will be attached. Motioned carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment: Duane Rodgers 519 Elizabeth Ave. Somerset, NJ. (Photo contest winner – February.) Leonard made a motion to close the meeting and Fortin seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. New Business**

a. 2016 Take a Photo from a Trail Contest – Orlusky made and Fortin seconded a motion to continue the TAC Photo Calendar Contest. Fran created the flyer for the 2016 contest. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Canal Walk and Roll 2016 – Should we continue the event Canal Road Walk and Roll.

The question was raised about participation. If we don’t have good participation after three years, we may need to evaluate if it is work the cost. We will continue this discussion in January when other committee members present.

c. National Trails Day, Saturday, June 4th 2016 – We will consider using Middlebush Park for National Trails Day if the trails are ready.

d. NJ Invasive Strike Team for Franklin Twp. discussion – This is a program that is trying to eradicate emerging invasive species. They will now work with NJ Audubon. This may be a program we would want to consider being involved in. There is information we can post on the township website. They have an smart phone app for interested citizens who wish to participate.

e. December 15th Twp. Committee get together – details to follow – This is an event between Open Space, Trails, Shade Tree, Historic, Environmental. We each pay our own way. This event allows people from different committees to meet.

f. March/April Woodcock Walks at Negri Nepote Native Grassland Preserve dates scheduled – These are led by Chris Williams. March 18 at 7:00, April 1 at 7:00 (Fridays)

g. January Trail Committee Walk - Possible dates 9, 23, 30. Possible location: Bunker Hill section near houses.

h. Franklin Twp. Web site Open Space/Trails pictures and information – Go to township website to About Franklin, Things to Do, Parks and Open Space Facilities. Each trail and park is on the Map. You will find photos of each trail head and parking lot.

i. Other ways to promote trails in township to residents – Nancy would like us to think more about this. One idea is to have a display at the Township library. (Chris Kelly is our liaison.)

j. Pat Leonard inquired if there are any sledding locations. Fran will look into the ordinance to see if we are allowed to identify sledding locations.

**6. Old Business**

a. Travel web sites – reviews – Jim went to Trip Advisor. Nothing has been added. Currently there are only a few spots in Franklin added. We could add our trails. At a previous meeting we each agreed to add our trails to Trip Advisor. We should add our trails before our January 13 meeting.

b. 2016 Trail Calendar Sale – update 63 sold of 125. Purchasing information is on the website.

c. National Park Service, Every kid in a park – brainstorming. Looking for something to do in town to encourage Franklin Twp. children to get on the trail. Ideas: Involve photos, make a template to insert photos that could be printed or emailed, for students, for families, have IT work on online option.

d. Video Cameras on trails – update. Alice Osipowitz is looking into cameras for parks. Fran is working with her. Fran has noticed an uptick in vandalism at Griggstown. We are still looking for options. Fran is pushing for 2016. Pat Leonard suggested the Town Council approves the purchase of one camera as a trail at an open space property. Fortin made the motion and Orlusky seconded it. All members were in favor. Motion passed.

e. Fall Events – report out -- Franklin Day was successful, Canal Fest was successful.

f. Butler Road Clean up – update = It was a productive day. Minor dumping was reported.

g. North South Trail – Mark Fortin shared the history of the trail and how it could be a multi-surface

h. Trail Maintenance - updates – Vanessa submitted a report for FPNA and BHNA. Signs need to be put back up. Fran reported more vandalism at Griggstown. Pat Leonard reported a bike at Griggstown, unleashed dogs, and car tracks in fields. Jim reported that Negri has a section of fence that fell over. Pat inquired about Kingston School. Fran shared that the township has entered into a lease agreement for the renovation (almost 2 million dollars) of Kingston School. A private Chinese school will lease this space as a school when it is renovated.

i. Trail Vandalism - updates (above)

7. Reports from other Committees - Nothing new was reported

8. Announcements – Villagers Theater has a production the weekend of Thanksgiving, A Tuna Christmas.

9. Adjournment: at 9:15, Fortin moved and Orlusky seconded a motion to adjourn. All members in favor. Motion passed.