

Lower Paxton Township Greenway Committee

Meeting Notes
January 19, 2022

Members in Attendance

Jim Seidler
Susan Landau
Mike Emanuel
Jennifer Schultz

Members Absent

Also in Attendance

Rachelle Scott, Staff Liaison

REORGANIZATION

Ms. Scott called the reorganizational portion of the meeting to order at 5:15 pm on the above date in Room 174 of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg.

Ms. Landau nominated Mr. Seidler as Chairman, and Ms. Schultz nominated Ms. Landau as Vice Chairman. Both were approved with a unanimous vote.

Members discussed the time for meetings this year and agreed to continue to meet at 5:15 pm, on the third Wednesday of each month.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Seidler called the meeting to order at 5:17 pm on the above date in Room 174 of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg.

MINUTES

No action was taken on meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

OAK PARK NATURE TRAIL Northern Loop

Mr. Seidler distributed updated maps to members and reviewed where the steppingstones could be used, and where the boardwalk will need to be. He noted the Appalachian Trail group is willing to help out when some of that work is ready to be done. The stones will need to be of substantial size and weight and may need to be installed with some sort of equipment. The stones will limit use of bikes on the trail. It will be important to eliminate bike use on the northern loop because of the proximity to the neighboring homes.

Mr. Seidler noted the beginning of the northern loop is rerouted to wind back and forth a bit so that it isn't steep. Since it is a "nature trail" it doesn't need to be ADA compliant, but it will make it easier to walk. It has also been routed so that it is at least 50-100 feet from the property lines. There appears to have been a survey done of one of the properties. The return portion of the trail was eliminated because it was too close to the water and the roadway, so walkers will come back on the same path that they start out on.

Mr. Seidler would like to invite the neighbors to the March Greenway Committee meeting to show them on paper what he is proposing, and get their feedback or ideas. This is a long-term project, and still changeable, so he wants to make sure to not alarm the neighbors, but he does want them to participate in the process. Ms. Scott agreed to get letters drafted. Showing them the proposal in person at the trail would be important too. Ms. Scott noted that the committee members could meet with neighbors on site so they can see how close things are in April or after when there is a basic footpath. Mr. Seidler agreed because on the map it looks like some properties are close but there is a very steep hill along a portion of the trail and some have a steep slope plus fencing.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE DAYS

Ms. Scott noted that a park clean up day has started to occur monthly on Sunday mornings. The consistency has helped generate interest so she would like to see trail maintenance follow a similar pattern. She would like to see a Greenway member meet any volunteers and direct them with whatever activity is needed. The work could be litter clean-up, or trimming branches back or trail blazing. Members agreed on the 4th Saturday each month from 9am to 11 am, and volunteers could do 1-hour shifts. The first one will be April 23rd, and then May 28th.

Ms. Scott asked that each member consider their own calendars, so that they can be the point of contact at these maintenance days.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

Ms. Scott stated that she has had several scouts request to do projects in the parks. They sometimes come in with an idea, but usually ask what if we need or want a certain thing to be done. Members discussed several ideas:

At the Forest Hills Trail:

- a fence or split rail fence and some stone on the path till you get to the more defined portion of the trail.
- The main sign is worn, but there are also identification markers along the trail that could be worked on.

Oak Park:

- the design work or manual work for the bridge at Oak Park Nature Trail could also be done by scouts. The bridge would need to be about 4 feet wide and about 18 feet long.
- The steeper portion of the Oak Park Nature Trail could have some steps built into the ground. Stones could be used or boards/logs.

- Sections of the trail could be built.
 - Mr. Seidler noted the parking lot work was done by scouts
- Other ideas:
- Centennial Acres bridge is also in need of attention; it is quite narrow.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Scott noted that the Township will be looking into selling the two parcels known as the Wolfersberger Tract. There will also be a Parks Master Plan being prepared by an engineer. The plan will help with obtaining grant funding as well as giving direction to the Department for future planning and improvements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 6:20 pm. The next meeting of the Greenway Committee is scheduled for Wednesday February 16, 2022, at 5:15 pm in Room 174 of the Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Hiner
Recording Secretary