

Lower Paxton Township Greenway Committee

Meeting Notes
March 16, 2022

Members in Attendance

Jim Seidler
Susan Landau
Mike Emanuel
Jennifer Schultz

Members Absent

Also in Attendance

Rachelle Scott, Staff Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Seidler called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm on the above date in Room 174 of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg.

MINUTES

Mr. Emanuel made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting. Ms. Schultz seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Scott stated she received an email from Vonnie Capazo saying she had her land surveyed and that the trail is encroaching into the land marked as hers. Ms. Scott noted that the trail has been relocated outside of that area marked with the survey markers.

OAK PARK NATURE TRAIL Northern Loop

Mr. Seidler distributed updated maps to members and pictures of bridges used on the Appalachian Trail to cross similar streams. He noted that boardwalks are used at Wildwood Park as well. Neither use railings and they are basic but effective. He noted the price of lumber is very high right now, so reclaimed lumber or leftovers from projects would be ideal for a project like this.

Mr. Seidler stated that Tom Scully is a member of the Appalachian Trail Club and has a career in landscape design or park planning. He agreed to look at the trail and provide some feedback. There may be a couple other members that are willing to help at Oak Park. It was suggested to involve a landscaper who might have a piece of equipment with a bucket that can help bring in the stones because of the weight.

Ms. Scott asked Mr. Seidler to put together a supply list with basic cost estimates, so she can explore grant opportunities or donations from local companies.

BRIGHTBILL PARK WALKING PATH – DCNR GRANT PROPOSAL

Ms. Scott stated she obtained BOS approval to submit a grant request for a ½-mile paved walking path around Brightbill Park. The grant would also be applied to a new playground and musical pieces within the playground. Other significant improvement planned throughout the park includes replacement of the basketball courts, the restrooms, storage, and creation of the welcome center at Heroes Grove. The trail will be paved except for the portion in the wooded area. Mr. Seidler noted that this year is the most he has ever seen the Township investing into the parks. Ms. Scott agreed noting there are many projects already scheduled, many being planned, and some are already underway. With the sale of two pieces of land, there is funding available to use to make the upgrades that have been put off for many years.

Ms. Schulz asked how people know about the trails around. There is a brochure available and it is on the website. Ms. Schulz suggested there could be more push so people know about it. Mr. Seidler agreed, noting that the document gets updated periodically as new opportunities are created or discovered.

Ms. Scott requested a letter of support from the Greenway Committee to include with her grant submission. The goal is to submit by April, receive notification in fall, then receive funding in early 2023 so the work can begin shortly thereafter.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE DAYS

Mr. Seidler noted that the first trail maintenance day will be April 23, 2022 from 9-11am, at the Oak Park Trail, and Mr. Seidler will delineate a section to be worked on. Tasks to work on will include cutting brush back, collecting trash, and digging the path out. The volunteers can bring whatever tools they are comfortable with, and there will be some supplies provided by Public Works. Mr. Seidler noted that Public Works is always very supportive of any work the Greenway Committee wants to work on.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Seidler asked members to keep their eyes out for lumber, specifically hardwood. Mr. Seidler asked about the requirement for handrails on bridges for trails. The ones along the Appalachian Trail do not use them, and Mr. Seidler would like the ones for Oak Park to be flush with the ground so there is no step up or down.

Ms. Scott suggested adding the trail system within Blue Meadows Farm to the Walking Opportunities Brochure. Mr. Seidler will measure the primary loop and maybe some of the extra loops. He noted there are some nice hills to use for cardio exercise.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 6:13 pm. The next meeting of the Greenway Committee is scheduled for Wednesday April 20, 2022, at 5:15 pm in Room 174 of the Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Hiner
Recording Secretary