

Lower Paxton Township Greenway Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2023

Members in Attendance

Jim Seidler
Mike Emanuel
Jennifer Schultz
Albert Banks

Members Absent

Bill Landefeld

Also in Attendance

Rachelle Scott, Staff Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Seidler called the meeting to order at 5:29 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 March 22, 2023 meeting. Mr. Banks seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment offered.

OAK PARK NATURE TRAIL

Bridge

Mr. Seidler has discovered that not all of the treated lumber at Lowes is treated for ground contact, but at Home Depot it is all treated for weather and for ground contact.

There will be a couple more purchases, such as screws, joist tape, water sealer.

General Discussion

Ms. Scott suggested setting a date to have Public Works transport the bridge to the trail site. Mr. Seidler noted he will also need a load of gravel too.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE DAYS

Monthly Trail Maintenance

This weekend the Committee agreed to work at Oak Park. Mr. Seidler will email the realtors in case any of them can help out. Ms. Scott will make sure the website has the correct location.

Ms. Scott has advertised for the fourth Saturday of each month from 9-11 am, for general trail maintenance. The upcoming dates and locations are as follows: April 22, 2023: Oak Pak; May 27, 2023: Kohl; June 24, 2023: Oak Park.

LAMPLIGHT PARK PATHWAY PAVING

Ms. Scott stated that on May 8th they will start to pave the walking path connecting George Park and Lamplight Park and the loop through/around Lamplight Park.

OTHER BUSINESS

Paving Material Mr. Banks noted that he spoke with Tim Nolt about used asphalt stored at the compost facility. It can be ground up to be reused. Mr. Banks suggested it could be used on a walking path. Mr. Seidler agreed and suggested he might need some fill material to use at the trail bridges.

Staff Ms. Scott stated that the Township has hired a Public Engagement Specialist, Michelle Thompson, who will work with the special events. Ms. Scott has invited to attend a Greenway meeting in the new future.

Blue Mountain Ridgeline Mr. Seidler stated that the Central PA Conservancy has been working for years to protect the ridgeline of the mountain. From Hocker Park to Boyd Preserve is a trail system, and they were able to obtain ownership of the 58-acre Spangler Tract, which is about 6 parcels. They will keep it until DCNR is able to purchase the land. When they are ready to develop the trail, the Township intends to donate Hocker Park to DCNR to use as a trailhead. The trail system goes until about half a mile from the river. The Township boundary is not the top of the mountain, it is actually on the north fact of the mountain so the entire ridge is within Lower Paxton. At one time this was the Appalachian Trail, but it has since been moved north, and the remaining is called the Darlington Trail. There is also a section of trail to the east of Hocker Park, but the land is privately owned by someone who is not interested in allowing access across it. The Township owned a parcel called the Buchannon Tract, but sold it when it became apparent that the connection would not be made.

Hodges Heights Park Ms. Scott stated she is still waiting for the cost estimate to come back, but she expects it to be cost-prohibitive. Mr. Seidler noted that trails or other things can be investigated if the cost for the playground is too high.

Autumn Oaks This park was supposed to be dedicated to the Township about 3 years ago, but the developer has not fulfilled the agreement in place. They would like make a sidewalk connection along Patton Road in exchange for installation of the lights in the parking lot. The Township did look into the cost to install the sidewalk or walking path, it was found that there is a lot of wetlands and the lots are developer owned. That alternative is also complicated.

The park has a lot of history of difficulty, including the pavilion, parking lot lines, lighting, electricity to the pavilion, and the orientation of the courts.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 6:48 pm. The next meeting of the Greenway Committee is scheduled for Wednesday February 15, 2023, at 5:15 pm in Room 174 of the Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner
Recording Secretary