

Lower Paxton Township Greenway Committee

Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2023

Members in Attendance

Jim Seidler
Mike Emanuel
Jennifer Schultz
Albert Banks

Members Absent

Bill Landefeld

Also in Attendance

Rachelle Scott, Staff Liaison
Rachael Losiewicz
Bill Miller

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 April 19, 2023 meeting. Ms. Schultz seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment offered.

OAK PARK NATURE TRAIL

Bridge

Mr. Seidler shared photos of the bridge being installed by 6 staff from Public Works on 5/16/23. The bridge is 20 feet long and was brought in in several pieces and secured together. The following day the volunteers from the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club spent the day doing about 3 ton of rock work for the stepping stones at the far end. The rocks were dumped in from the street, then wheelbarrowed to the site on a 45-yard temporary path.

There were a fair amount of extra stone. At one location there is a shallow grade from the road to the trail so they installed the stepping stones to create steps to allow walking access from a second point.

The next phase will involve a lot of physical labor, so he wants to invite the SATC to come back and work again. Ms. Scott added that the Realtors Association wants to schedule a work day too and had suggested June 9th. Mr. Seidler will check with the SATC to see if they can come then too. The time was tentatively set for 9-11 am, possibly later weather permitting. Mr. Seidler may schedule the SATC for an additional day.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE DAYS

Monthly Trail Maintenance

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

May 27, 2023: Kohl
June 24, 2023: Oak Park, Jim will not be available

These dates are open for the public to come out to help.

LAMPLIGHT PARK PATHWAY PAVING

Ms. Scott shared photos of the path which is about 6 feet wide and ADA compliant from the HC parking space to the pavilion, playground and portable toilet. Public Works is working on the finishing work and should soon be complete.

The connection to the George Park parking lot makes the park more available to people, although the paved trail in that section is not ADA compliant. The clearing of the brush and trees between the two parks opened up the park, which will likely reduce the vandalism that tended to happen in the area that was secluded.

OTHER BUSINESS

Committee Membership

Ms. Scott stated that Ms. Losewicz isn't a member yet, so she would like to schedule her for an interview with the Greenway Committee at the next meeting, then she can go to the Board of Supervisors for official appointment.

Parkland Per Capita

Mr. Miller asked what the standard or goal is for parkland in a municipality. Ms. Scott stated the standard is discussed in the Master Plan and can get that information for him. Mr. Seidler stated that Lower Paxton compares well to other municipalities in the area, even with the sale of Wolfersberger and the Buchannon Tracts. Fortunately, the money from those sales are being invested into the existing parks. He added that Ms. Scott has been working hard to obtain significant grant funding, and many improvements have been made in the time she has been in charge of the department.

Hodges Heights Park

Ms. Scott stated there is no update yet.

Autumn Oaks

This development was able to have a park installed in lieu of extensive road upgrades related to stormwater and stream crossing. The agreement for the creation of the park included parking lot lights, pavilion, playground and a pickleball. They have completed some of the

amenities but are stuck waiting on PPL for the electricity to be installed. Joel McNaughton proposed to install a sidewalk to connect the park to the neighborhood along Patton Road and forego the lights and electricity. While lights are important, this area is identified as a missing link for walkability in Lower Paxton. If the Parks and Recreation Board votes to recommend approval, Mr. McNaughton has agreed to address a few other concerns in the park prior to turning it over the Township. Mr. Seidler added that there is a significant trail that has been in place for about ten years that goes north and then connects to the sidewalks internal to the development.

Mr. Seidler noted that Patton Road has several sharp bends and there is nowhere to walk safely from the neighborhood to the south up to Autumn Oaks. This proposal adds a piece that makes that gap smaller, but the connection is shown on the Greenway Plan, and Mr. Seidler would like to see that connection made someday.

Reusable Asphalt Mr. Banks spoke with Tim Nolt about using the reclaimed asphalt at Oak Park trail or other walkways in the Township. The Township doesn't have a grinder in house, but they do have a contact that does the work. The material they have onhand is already earmarked for a project, but if they have more later, it could be used on some of the trails. Mr. Miller added that some paving companies have trouble getting rid of millings and asphalt they remove, so they could be an additional source for material to put on a path.

Mr. Seidler stated there are 2'x2'x2" concrete pavers with rebar available for free from the State. He would prefer to use stone on the walking paths, but these may be good for another use.

Dirt Mr. Bill Miller, suggested that the Township use the fill that it needs to get rid of to slowly fill in areas over time. He also noted that there is a development planned for Colonial Road north of the Devonshire Road/Crums Mill Road intersection. There will be no sidewalks installed along Colonial Road. He stated that sidewalks and walkability is critical; Lower Paxton should be an ambulatory community. He would like to see a plan made so that fill can be done as dirt/fill becomes available, and sidewalks should be installed as material is available even if it is done in small increments. Eventually it will get done. He was able to offer the suggestion at a recent Planning Commission meeting, and they seemed receptive.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 6:55 pm. The next meeting of the Greenway Committee is scheduled for Wednesday June 7, 2023, at 5:15 pm in Room 174 of the Municipal Center. The Committee will begin that meeting with the interview, so public will be invited in at the completion of the interview.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner
Recording Secretary