

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2019
7 PM

TAC Attendees: Jim Kuligowski (Chair), Vanessa Jones (Vice-Chair), Anne-Marie Orlusky, Charles Martin (Secretary), John Herrling (Open Space Committee Liaison), Mark Fortin, Phillip Kramer (Mayor, Township Council Representative), Tara Kenyon (Land Management and Open Space Consultant),

Absent: Tom Lewis

Note that the committee currently has (1) vacancy, with 9 positions total.

Public Attendees – Diana W. Martin

These minutes follow the order of the July 10, 2019 TAC agenda outline as circulated by Ms. Kenyon

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by at 7:01 PM
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the June 2019 minutes. JH noted there was a correction that there was an OSAC meeting in June. AMO – reminded that there is a 45-minute time limit on Trails Plan discussions. A motion to approve the draft minutes was made by VJ. AM moved to accept the minutes as amended. M and JK abstained.
4. Public Comment – no public comments were offered.
5. Old Business –
 - a. Summer Nature Walks – Updates and upcoming events. VJ discussed preparations for the firefly walk on July 13. Pamphlets, trail packets and displays for these events were prepared by committee members. VJ indicated that the Griggstown trails had been recently mowed and CM indicated that public works had removed tree branches that blocked the view of roadside sign that indicated the entrance to the trail. MAO expressed some concerns about the start time of 7 PM given that sunset would not occur until 8:30. VJ offered suggestions about occupying time with walks during that time that were discussed at some length. CM asked what the format for naming the grasslands on handout. John Clyde Memorial Native Grasslands Preserve. AMO – suggested that the logos on the handout stickers for children should include “2019 Firefly Walk”. CM reported that advertising for the trail walks included posts on the Franklin Township Calendar of Events and the Franklin Township Facebook page. Postings were also made on a local Facebook pages (*Franklin Township, NJ Neighbors and Community (Somerset County, NJ)* and one of the Franklin Township *Nextdoor (West of Demott Lane)* pages by committee members and local citizens. AMO indicated that

several people took photos of the Firefly Walk fliers that were displayed during the 4th of July event.

- b. Pathways and Trails Plan (45-minute work session) – **DISCUSSION:** CM asked how the PTP would be used. MF indicated that the previous plan was to be adopted and incorporated into the Township Master Plan managed by Mark Healy, Township Planner. AMO asked what level of specificity is needed in the plan. TK indicated that the State requires Township Master plans to contain 2 elements: a land use element and traffic/circulation plan. The “Municipal Land Use” law. There are specific requirements for the “land use” elements of the Master Plans that must appear in a certain order. The state also has specific requirements for a farm use element within the plan. The land use plan requires municipalities to identify lands that are available for use and do a build out analysis. This should indicate what should be targeted for preservation and how much for specific types of development. The traffic plan component identifies existing roads and planned roads, and these must be shown on a map. Another required element is the identification of existing and future housing which should also be shown on a map. The plans are used for law making, grant funding and municipal development. Planners, engineers, and corporations proposing to build or use land within the township refer to these plans. There are no specific requirements mandated for a trails plan or a sustainability plan. The committee should decide what elements and information should be included in the plan. The motion as passed in a previous meeting stated that the discussion for this meeting should be focused on establishing the sectional framework for the Trails Plan. The sections from the previous (December 19, 2008) PTP are appended. When things get updated to the Master Plan it is added as an element.

MF asked who would use the PTP. Who is the intended audience? TK indicated that the Master plan may be used to satisfy some type of law or grant funding requirement. An in-place plan can also be used to solicit financing from other sources. Once adopted, the plan becomes part of Township policy. For example, attorneys going to variance hearing will review elements of master plan. Planners, engineers, business owners review master plans. The adoption of an element of the Master Plan allows the Township planner to refer to that in negotiations. A plan that identifies projects, vision and goals could be used by the committee and Township planners to negotiate for trail areas to be set aside in areas proposed to be developed.

The Committee considered an updated plan by reviewing the context of the 2008 plan. The agreed framework was the following:

1. Executive Summary
 2. Vision Statement Goals and Objectives,
 3. Current Trails assets, i.e. the existing trail network,
 - 4 Future needs and recommendations, including suggested enhancements to existing trails – this section should incorporate and refer to plans associated with other entities, i.e. Community Connections.
 5. Funding sources,
 - 6 Conclusion and Summary.
- Appendices should include references to trail development and maintenance, maps, including the existing trail network, future trail network, trails

with relation to existing open space and major housing developments. Trail segment length.

The September meeting should address Vision Statement and Goals for the updated plan.

Trail plan resources to be provided in advance of the next meetings should include: The Randolph Township Plan Morris County, the Roxbury (Land conservancy of new Jersey) plan, County Plans, Vision statement and Goals. A summary of the Framework.

6. New Business:

- a. Ordering Supplies/Equipment for trails walks and events – committee members should a list of supplies and costs for events. TK will bring to those lists to OSAC committee which will authorize reimbursements.
 - b. Trail Maintenance report. AMO indicated that the North entrance Negri-Nepote boardwalk needs to be repaired. CM indicated that public works has still not picked up trash, chipped trails or cleared approaches to parking lot of Butler Road trails. Bridging stream on the Butler Road purple trail is still an issue. VJ stated that she emailed TK concerning maintenance and repair issues relating to Bunker Road trail. TK indicated that public works has been informed of those issues. JK indicated that the entrance to Inman trail is overgrown and that the kiosk is filled with information for parks and recreation with no space for trail information. An additional posting site is needed for trail information. TK stated that there was a request for 2 people interested in the Adopt a Trail Program (involving simple trail maintenance) for Griggstown. Discussion ensued.
 - c. Other Committees – JH reported that there was no OSAC meeting in July, all other issues related to open space land acquisition and development were done in closed session. Hunting program discussed. TK indicated that the Audubon grasslands maintenance plan due in August. She also indicated that the Committee could have maintain a trails table at the Farmers Market which will run through September. Franklin Day is Sept 28. Trails contest winners will be presented at September meeting.
7. Photo judging: Trails photo contest judging by the Committee commenced at 8:30 PM. Judging was done by committee members who individually ranked photos within each class. Winners were determined by compilation and summation of the rankings. The Committee did not go to Executive Session for this event by direction of Council.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Appendix A: Table of Contents of 2008 PTP

- I. Executive Summary
 - a. Development of the PTP
 - b. The Six Mile Run Reservoir Site
 - c. The Millstone- New Brunswick Railroad right of way
 - d. Mapping
 - e. Funding the construction of Paths and Trails
 - f. Next Steps
- II. The Franklin Township Pathway and Trail Plan
 - a. Why have a PTP?
 - b. General recommendations and proposed new trails and pathways
 - c. Issues to be considered in implementing this PTP
 - d. Coordination with other Township Plans

Appendix 1. Pathways and Trail Plan Map

Appendix 2. Pathways and Trails Plan – text recommendations for new paths/trails

Appendix 3. Colonial Park Development Plan – Natural Preserve Area

Appendix 4. Six Mile Run Reservoir Site Trail System

Appendix 5. The Millstone- New Brunswick Railroad Right of Way

Appendix 6. Types of Trails

Appendix 7. Trail Design, Construction and Management

Appendix 8. Funding Sources for Trails.