

Lower Paxton Township Greenway Committee

Meeting Notes

April 21, 2021

Members in Attendance

Jim Seidler
Mike Emanuel
Susan Landau
Katie Scheib

Members Absent

Also in Attendance

Rachelle Scott, Staff Liaison
Cindy Kirkpatrick (Clark)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Seider called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm on the above date in Room 174 of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg.

MINUTES

Ms. Scheib made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting as corrected. Ms. Landau seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

COMMITTEE VACANCY

Ms. Scott stated that Steve Tambolas has decided not to join the Greenway Committee because of a scheduling conflict with another committee. Rich Krampe has not responded to the invitation to return this month.

Ms. Scott stated that Cindy Kirkpatrick is interested in working with the CEC and since she needs to be on a Township Committee before joining CEC, she is interested in the Greenway Committee as well.

Cindy introduced herself noting she has grown up here and attended DCTS and CD East, and explained what interested her about the Community Engagement Committee. She explained she has been involved with fundraising for 26 years with non-profit organizations. She is currently a coach for college cheerleading and sees a need for college students to participate in their community. She is interested in serving the community herself, and she has connections with youth with disabilities. At Penn State, there are over 100 clubs and sports that have participants that each need community service hours so she would like the opportunity to connect them with the needs of the local communities.

Mr. Seidler made a motion to recommend that Ms. Kirkpatrick be appointed to the Greenway Committee. Ms. Landau seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

OAK PARK TRAIL Northern Loop

Ms. Scott attended a meeting of the Oak Park neighbors. They walked the southern loop. They talked about many options related to the trail expressing a concern for a buffer area between the trail and the neighbors. They also were quite interested in redesigning Oak Park Road to be a one-way to allow for pedestrian/bike lanes on the roadway. The neighbors were concerned about how close the trail is to their homes or yards, because of people wandering off the trail. They showed how the trail area connects to Mateer Field.

Mr. Seidler has redesigned the trail again to increase the buffer for the homes, and he is still trying to avoid crossing the creek too many times. Trying to complete a one-mile route when combining the north and south loops. Ms. Scheib commended Mr. Seidler's design work and the work done at the trail to make a walkable path out of the slopes. Mr. Seidler added that the redesign will avoid the conflict with the cable. He would like to show the neighbors the newer design and get their thoughts, and he felt it does address their concerns and he wants to work with them to the best possible result.

Mr. Seidler stated that he spoke to a biology professional about the animals in the area and how the trail might impact them. He was surprised to hear that the animals will actually use the trails as long as you don't impinge on their actual living space.

One of the concerns was people on bikes, and by using the stepping stones to cross the water, most novice bikers will avoid it. Extreme bikers will not be deterred by anything, but most of the concern will be avoided.

Ms. Scott will reach out to the person who helped on the southern portion and the person that helped at the Kohl trails to see if they are interested in helping with this northern portion.

Ms. Scheib suggested making sure that the Township Manager is aware that the Greenway Committee is working with the neighbors and that he is aware of the efforts, so that if a neighbor contacts him, he can give an accurate response.

Ms. Scheib stated that the cemetery put stone road down where there had been a muddy area. Now that they have done that, there is a lot more vehicles going through there. The gate is open so people can access the trail, but maybe the gate should be closed or moved up to the cemetery line and closed to block just the access to the cemetery.

MINDY MEADOWS

Mr. Seidler stated he looked at the area of concern, and there is just no way to connect those two cul-de-sacs because of the detention basin area. Ms. Scott stated she got a response from the builder indicating that they originally wanted the cul-de-sacs to be a through street but the Supervisors requested the cul-de-sacs. They also have utilities that run through there and sidewalks elsewhere encouraging people to walk on the sidewalks.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE DAY

Mr. Seidler reviewed the needs at the Brightbill Nature Trail, Kohl/Lingle Trails, and Forest Hills Trail. Ms. Scott would like to start a program to allow volunteers to adopt a trail or section of a trail. She would also like the Greenway Committee members to visit the trails and evaluate what specifically needs to be done so when someone presents with an interest in community service, the office can be ready to give them an assignment. Work could include cutting back the growth beside the trail, maintenance on identification signage, and litter collection. Cindy suggested reaching out to local landscapers to see if they would work with volunteers since they have equipment and materials. The volunteers could be paired with people that are in the field. The landscapers will get the benefit of exposure and advertising, as well as team building and giving back. Another suggestion was to work with juvenile probation.

Mr. Seidler suggested setting a June date to work at Kohl/Lingle and invite the two volunteers that worked on trails last year. Kohl/Lingle need to be done twice a year, but some of the others would be fine being done once a year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Autumn Oaks park has not been dedicated yet, but people are using the trail there very frequently.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 7:05 pm. The next meeting of the Greenway Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 5:45 pm in Room 174 of the Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner
Recording Secretary