

Lower Paxton Township Greenway Committee

Meeting Notes

May 19, 2021

Members in Attendance

Jim Seidler
Mike Emanuel
Susan Landau

Members Absent

Katie Scheib

Also in Attendance

Rachelle Scott, Staff Liaison
Ken Murin

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Seidler called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm on the above date in Room 174 of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg.

MINUTES

No action was taken on meeting minutes.

COMMITTEE VACANCY

Ms. Scott introduced Ken Murin. Mr. Murin noted he has a general interest in these things, and has reviewed the greenway plan and other documents on the LP website. He is retired from the PA Department of Environmental Protection so he is familiar with waterways, engineering, wetlands, stormwater management, erosion control. Mr. Seidler stated that is an area that we tend to have a lot of questions so his knowledge would be very valuable to the Committee.

OAK PARK TRAIL

Northern Loop

Mr. Seidler gave some background of the trail and the challenges encountered. He explained where he would like to use stepping stones in the creek in lieu of a bridge. Because it is a non-navigable waterway, the requirements are much less, but he still wants to be mindful of any specifications or requirements so the Township doesn't do something that is not allowed. Ken stated that the state regulates waterways, and it is based on tributary drainage. Finding ways to allow groups to develop walkways or trails that have minimal impact is one of the things being worked on by DEP now. Finding a balance allowing good usage and avoiding abuse is a delicate balance.

Mr. Seidler stated there are several outflows along Oak Park Road that need to be avoided, so the trail has to be adjusted in those areas. He would like to work on the first portion so it can be a point-to-point initially. He will work on cutting a single track path so people can get in there and look at it. He noted it is important to recognize that he is following existing natural paths created by wildlife. He would like to make sure the residents are agreeable before doing much

more than that. There are property markers that were recently placed, so he did adjust the trail plans some to reflect the property line corrections.

Mr. Seidler explained the history of the trail that runs from the south side of Locust Lane to the hospital. The neighbors maintain it and it is an unofficial trail.

Mr. Seidler stated that he will do some work on the initial section of the trail and then he would like to invite the neighbors back to see it and attend a meeting.

Bikes

Mr. Seidler stated there hasn't been any bikes on the trail yet, but it may become an issue in the future if bikers would interfere with walkers. If it does, signs may need to be placed.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE DAY

Kohl Park

Mr. Seidler stated there are about 150 meters of gravel pathway that need some maintenance. That section is newer and doesn't have much cover as a result of stream maintenance. Since there isn't much cover, it grows up very quickly. The older section that is in the wooded area doesn't need maintained as often.

Mr. Seidler would like to establish regular maintenance days and utilize some of the volunteers that have helped in the past.

Ms. Scott noted that if there is a need for Public Works, then a weekday would be necessary, but the community volunteers tend to be more available on a Saturday morning. June 5th or June 12th from 9am-11am was selected, and Ms. Scott will reach out to the two volunteers to see if either are available. Mr. Seidler will bring a weed whacker and. Ms. Scott would like to recruit help as soon as a date is selected.

Mr. suggested a stewardship for some of the trails, and Ms. Scott agreed noting that is something she would like to work on soon.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cemetery Gate at Oak Park Trail

Mr. Seidler would like to see the gate at the entrance to the cemetery moved closer to the cemetery property, which is where it used to be. It got moved close to Oak Park Road and was kept closed, but now that the trail can be used, the gate is kept open. Moving the gate would solve the problem. Mr. Emanuel stated that the old posts are there, so it should take minimal effort to move it. Mr. Seidler offered to do the work if they provide the materials.

Nature Trail

Mr. Seidler would like to emphasize the fact that Oak Park is a "nature" trail to avoid any confusion that it is paved or handicap accessible.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 6:18 pm. The next meeting of the Greenway Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 5:45 pm in Room 174 of the Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner
Recording Secretary