

MINUTES
WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP BIKE AND HIKE TRAILS COMMITTEE
852 Easton Road
Warrington, PA 18976

October 19, 2016, 7:30 P.M.

Committee Attendees: Gerry Sapers, Ira Meyers, Sharon Kaszan, Joe Each, Kay Fairs

Liaison Attendees: Roy Rieder, Director of Planning and Special Projects and Zoning Officer, Warrington Township; Fred Gaines, Member of Warrington Township Board of Supervisors

Guest: Shirley Yannich, Chair of Warrington Township Board of Supervisors

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Trail Development:

- New trail development: Roy had no report to make on new trail development.
- Natural trail development:
 - i. Gerry reported that he and Joe had walked the proposed natural trail on Warrington Community Day, along with Michael Dema, the Eagle Scout candidate who may be interested in taking this on as a community project. They concluded that it was a doable trail with relatively level ground, manageable underbrush, and fairly dry conditions.
 - ii. Gerry has been in contact with an expert in brush removal. Nick Weremeychik will be an excellent person to use as a resource.
 - iii. Joe reported that Ivy Ross from EAC concluded there were no wetland areas along the proposed trail.
 - iv. Joe also commented that the removal of the trash along the trail should not be part of the Eagle Scout project. He suggested that Earth Day (next April) could provide a good opportunity for the trash to be removed as a community project. He estimated a 10-yd. dumpster would likely be adequate.
 - v. Next Steps:
 - Secure the commitment of an Eagle Scout, after which the Committee will seek approval for the project from the Board of Supervisors.

b. Warrington Community Day:

- Gerry read a letter of thanks sent to the Committee from the Board of Supervisors for everyone's efforts in making WCD a success.
- Several possible suggestions were offered by Gerry for improving the fishing derby next year:
 - i. Extend the length of creek used by the participants to reduce crowding and accommodate more fishermen. Brush would need to be removed from an additional 20 ft. of stream bank.

- ii. Reduce the length of time of the derby from three hours (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) to two hours (9:00 a.m. –11:00 a.m.)
 - Ira was recognized by the Township on October 18 for his work in organizing a very successful triathlon, which raised approximately \$15,000 for Warrington Cares.
- c. Warrington Hiking Club:
- Joe reported that he had sent the latest membership update to committee members by email. Currently, nine people have signed up. He plans to use Facebook to promote the club. Plus, our Twitter feed has 42 followers. There will be an article in the next edition of *The Link*.
 - Joe wondered whether we could use the Township’s list to send an email blast. He will follow up.
 - The first hike will be an easy one and local, likely later in October.
- d. EAC plantings:
- In the absence of a representative from EAC, Gerry encouraged everyone to help with the planting EAC is conducting along trails on October 29 and November 19.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Eagle Scout Project:
- Gerry and Joe reported that they have had no success in being able to re-connect with Eagle Scout candidate, Michael Dema, since the trail walk on WCD.
 - It was suggested that Ira contact the Scout leader and coordinate with Joe as to appropriate follow up.
- b. Family Camp-out:
- This year’s campout was cancelled due to lack of response. What is the future of this event?
 - Sharon offered a brief history of how this event started, having been of particular interest to a former member of the Bike and Hike Trails Committee who organized and developed it. The original intent had been to camp on the bank of the creek (near the site of the fishing derby) but the first year it had been rained out. Twin Oaks was subsequently used because it provides a site that is available in all weather conditions and also has a fire pit.
 - Joe suggested a different approach: hike to a site alongside the creek and camp there. In other words, make it more of a genuine hiking and camping adventure.
 - The issue of timing was raised. By October, families and kids are deeply involved in sports or other school or travel-team activities, leaving little time for a family campout.
 - Gerry suggested possibly waiting a year and then trying to re-start.
 - It was also suggested that the Bike and Hike Committee might not be the best place for this event to reside. Should we try to hand it off to Parks and Rec.?
 - It was decided to seek Aaron’s input before making a decision.
- c. Herb Kahl 5K walk/run:
- Gerry reported that we have been asked to assist in the running of this event.
 - Ira offered to take this on. Jeanine Winslow in the Township Office is the main contact person.

d. Earth Day (April 17, 2017):

- Gerry reported that we have been asked by a representative from Valley Square shopping mall to have a booth at their event on Earth Day, April 17, 2017. It would provide an opportunity to promote the Committee's work, and especially, the newly formed Warrington Hiking Club. Gerry would man the booth, leaving other Committee members free to work on the natural trail clean-up should that take place. All agreed this would be a good event at which to have a presence.

e. National Trail Day (June 4, 2017):

- The question was raised as to whether we would offer a family hike for the community that day. This has been done in the past. All agreed it would be a great idea to continue. Further planning and discussion will take place.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2016 meeting was made by Sharon, seconded by Gerry, and passed unanimously by vote of the Committee members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Exercise Stations: A brief discussion took place about this future agenda item. Shirley suggested that we make sure to talk with Ruth Schemm, chair of the Open Space Task Force and member of the Parks and Recreation Board. She is very knowledgeable. She also was not consulted before the exercise loop was constructed by Loews around the hockey rink at Lower Nike Park, and the trail was not well done as a result.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made at 8:09 P.M. by Sharon, seconded by Joe, and passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2016 at 7: 30 P.M. in the Warrington Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Fairs, Interim Secretary