

Minutes - Bike and Hike Trail Committee

2/18/2009

7:30 PM

**Warrington Township Building
852 Easton Road
Warrington, PA 18976**

Attendees: Elmer O'Brien, Sharon Kaszan, Paul Vollrath, Gerry Sapers, Barbara Coyle

Liaisons: Carolyn Hanel (Director of Administrative Services/Parks and Recreation)
Carol Butterworth (Board of Supervisors)

Visitors: Gay Currie (Warrington Twp. Communications Officer)
Nicholas Weremeychik (resident)
Robin Padilla (resident)

Public Comment

Township resident Nicholas Weremeychik inquired about erosion of a section of bank at the Twin Oak Pond which he felt might collapse and result in a flood. He also pointed out that the raft, which is now floating loose in the pond has a hole in it that could be hazardous to children. Ms. Butterworth informed him that the raft will be removed. Mr. Weremeychik also commented about rotting of the birdhouses for ducks and the presence of invasive plants at the pond.

Mr. Weremeychik also was concerned about erosion near the Bird Blind in Lower Nike Park. He suggested plantings along the trail to the Bradford Dam. Ms. Hanel indicated that the Twin Oaks Pond problems were Park & Recreation Board issues. The plantings might be done as a school or Scout project.

Robin Padilla stated her interest in geocaching as a good activity for trail users. Ms. Hanel indicated that there were 300 cache sites in Warrington. Ms. Padilla also inquired about a rock climbing wall in Warrington and a path from Palomino Farms to Wegman's in Valley Square. She was told that a rock climbing wall would be a liability problem. See below for discussion of the proposed path to Wegman's.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the January 21, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved by the Committee.

Celebration of Warrington 275th

Gay Currie informed the Committee that the kick-off for the 275th anniversary would be on May 2nd at the Valley Square Shopping Center. Events would include an opening ceremony, a fun run from 11 AM to 12 noon, followed by a program recognizing people of distinction in Warrington, and opening of a time capsule. The Bike & Hike Trail Committee might help in the celebration.

Mr. Vollrath inquired whether the new Township website was now ready. Ms. Currie replied "not yet."

PRPS Award

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) Awards Reception will be held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center on March 10. Ms. Hanel polled the Committee to find out how many members could attend. As of Feb. 18, Ms. Butterworth, Mr. Vollrath, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Kaszan, and Ms. Coyle indicated that they would attend.

Path from Palomino Farms to Valley Square Shopping Center

Ms. Hanel informed the Committee that she is waiting to speak to the Township Solicitor regarding this matter. One issue is the status of the Meridian Condo (or Homeowner Association) since the land involved is still owned by Katz, who is in bankruptcy.

Ms. Butterworth asked how much effect the bankruptcy might have. She will distribute copies of the Solicitor's opinion. She indicated her concern that the recession might delay completion of the trail system.

Trail Maintenance Policy

Ms. Hanel informed the Committee that she has received calls inquiring why the recreational trails do not get plowed in the winter. She stated that only trails linking particular locations get plowed. Clearing the snow off other trails would open up liability issues. Trails might be posted with signs indicating that the trails would not be maintained in the winter.

Dr. Sapers inquired about the condition of the trails. He was informed that there is some winter damage on the edge of the trail below the bird blind from persistent water on the trail surface. Ms. Kaszan suggested laying mulch on the unpaved trail that parallels the paved trail section near the fishing area so that it could be used as a bypass when the paved trail is wet.

Future Events and Initiatives

A list of events for the 275 Anniversary Celebration is needed.

A meeting of the Doylestown Bike & Hike Committee will take place on March 17 at **8 AM** (not PM) in the Township Building at 425 Wells Rd.

A motion to adjourn at 9:05 PM was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald M. Sapers
Secretary