



State of Delaware
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

Council on Greenways & Trails

September 12, 2014

9:30 am to 12:00

Dover Public Library

Welcome & Introductions

Diane Wilson, Chairperson, and Sussex County Representative to the Council, called the meeting to order at 9:30a.m. She invited members and visitors to introduce themselves and identify their group affiliation or agency.

Ms. Wilson announced that the Council on Greenways and Trails has a new council member – Gary Kirk, Newark resident and member of the Wilmington Trail Club.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Diane Wilson made a motion to approve the April 30, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.

Recreational Trail Users Reports

a. Hiking - Gary Kirk

- The Wilmington Trails Club's web site is www.wilmingtontrailclub.org/
- The 1.7 mile Tri-State Marker Trail construction project in the White Clay Preserve (PA) is ongoing. As of August 9, 2014, there were 36 volunteers working on this project. To date, two ends of the trail are complete and people are encouraged to use it. Fundraising brought in \$19,000 for this project.
- Mike Castle Trail – Many walkers utilize trail. Signage is needed direct walkers and trail users to keep to right side of the trail.

b. Equestrian – Mary Everhart [Report attached]

- Delaware Equine Council web site is <http://delawareequinecouncil.org/>
- Trails in Brandywine Creek State Park, the First State National Monument, Lums Pond and the C&D Canal are in good usable condition. Cooler temperatures and adequate rains ensured good footing for hours of recreation.
- Mary attended meetings of the White Clay Creek State Park Advisory Council and the Recreational Trails Steering Committee.
- No problems were reported in New Castle and Kent County. Sussex County equine members penned a request to the Equestrian Council for a minimum of five miles of year-round equestrian trails. The intensity of Sussex County development over the past several years has made it unsafe and impossible for riders to share the roads and farmlands, as done in the past. Ms. Everhart asked Council how to respond to these requests.

Ray Bivens suggested writing a letter and inviting them to meet and discuss Cape Henlopen Trail plans and make them aware of other trails available. Ms. Wilson concluded that the Division of Parks & Recreation, together with this Council, will write a letter advising that there are other agencies involved with trails in Sussex County, such as, Fish & Wildlife, and Forestry at the Department of Agriculture.

c. Mountain Biking – Jim Ireland - <http://trailspinners.org/>

- Trail Spinners signed a memorandum of understanding with the Division of Parks & Recreation. The MOU establishes an official relationship between the organization related to mountain biking in State Parks.

- The Annual Fair Hill Poker Run was well received. There were approximately 640 racers with almost 20% under the age of 18.
- Trail Spinners continue with conducting volunteer trail maintenance around the State of Delaware.

Trail & Pathway Initiative Projects – Staff

David Bartoo briefed the Council on the status of each of the projects listed below. All these are in various stages of design, construction and/or completion.

- Auburn Heights Preserve
- Assawoman Canal Trail - Ocean View/ Bethany Beach region
- Northern Delaware Greenway Trail - Swinging Bridge, Brandywine Park
- Brandywine Creek State Park, Rocky Run Bridge replacement
- White Clay Creek State Park, Tri-Valley Trail
- Georgetown-Lewes-Cape Henlopen – segment in Cape Henlopen State Park
- Junction & Breakwater Trail, Cape Henlopen State Park
- Bayshore Initiative trail projects in Fish & Wildlife Areas
 - o Port Penn Trail System Concept
- Milford's Mispillion River Walk Trail
- Dover's Capital City Trail

DTF Trail Grant Application – Bob Ehemann

Bob Ehemann thanked the Grant Review Committee - Jim Ireland, Anthony Aglio, and John Martin - for their review and evaluation the single trail grant request that will be presented today for Council's consideration.

Sussex County submitted a DTF Trail Grant application for \$86,058 for Pedestrian & Bicycle Trails in Woodland Park. This is the first development project request submitted by the Sussex County for Delaware Land Water Conservation Trust Fund (DTF) grant assistance. In 2011, Sussex County was awarded a \$107,000 DTF grant for the acquisition of Woodland Park (20 acres). The County proposes to construct approximately 1 mile of 6 foot wide shared-use trails made up of crushed stone. The site is located south of Seaford on Woodland Ferry Road.

If the project is approved by this Council and the Division, Sussex County will advertise the project for construction. They expect to complete the project before the end of 2014. Sussex County Council is committed to the maintenance and upkeep of this trail and the park.

After discussion, Diane Wilson asked for a motion to accept and approve the Sussex County trail grant application as presented and recommended by the Grant Committee. Mary Everhart made a motion to fund the Woodland Park project as proposed. Jim Ireland seconded. Motion passed.

Delaware Land & Water Conservation Trust Fund Changes – Ray Bivens, Director

Ray Bivens informed Council that Governor Markell signed into law Senate Bill 75 with House Amendment #1 that makes changes to the Delaware Land Water Conservation Trust Fund. The Trust's low earnings became the driver for discussions that began last year to move the Trust's cash into an endowment leading to higher earnings. Former Director Chazz Salkin led that effort last year. In 2013, Senate Bill 75 called to move the Trust to the Delaware Community Foundation; the bill passed unanimously though never reached the House for a vote.

In the 2014 Legislative Session, various Friends of Delaware State Parks organizations and DNREC worked together for changes in the Bill.

[The following notes are added to outline changes to the DTF. Changes to the law include the following items: 1) shifts the Trust Fund from a cash managed fund to an endowment; the state's Cash Management Board and the Treasurer's Office are the custodians of Trust Fund; 2) 2/3 of the endowment's interest will be directed to the DTF Grant Program, and, 1/3 will be directed to the Stewardship Program. [This is a previously existing formula that did not change.] The previously existing Stewardship Program receives this revenue and is divided

among four state and resource managing agencies – Park, Fish & Wildlife, Forestry, and Historic & Cultural Affairs; 3) \$1million dollars in Real Estate Transfer Taxes previously deposited into the Trust will be directed the DNREC Division’s of Parks & Recreation and Fish & Wildlife for infrastructure investments; and 4) State Land Protection Funds will flow through the Trust.]

Ray continued to report that Trust interest received has been between 0.9 percent last year and this year, to date, interest is at 0.7 percent return on \$50 million [amount of funds in the Trust]. Shifting the Trust to an endowment form of management is expected to earn greater interest. More funds for the DTF Grant Program will be helpful in assisting local sponsors with outdoor recreation projects.

The Treasurer’s Office is overseeing the Trust management changes. That office is developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be advertised. The Treasurer’s Office is proposing an investment strategy to minimize investment cost while controlling risk and getting the expected return on the endowment portfolio. Changes in Trust management are anticipated to begin in March 2015.

It should be noted that interest from these funds will not begin flowing immediately. When higher levels of earnings are available from new Trust endowment management, Division will implement DTF Grant Program changes.

Brandywine Creek State Park/First State National Monument Trail Plan – David Bartoo

David Bartoo acknowledged those who have helped with this trail planning project. He said that in 2014, a Division Trail Team and National Park Service staff began to assess data, existing conditions, constraints, opportunities, trail alignments, and to discuss potential trail routes on the state park and federal properties. In addition to scoping a future trail network for Brandywine Creek State Park, the team will make trail route recommendations to the NPS for Monument lands. Brandywine Creek State Park has ± 40 miles of trails within the park. David presented maps of the current trail system. Ms. Barnett said Forbs Field was another piece of land adjoining Brandywine Park.

Ms. Barnett expressed gratitude to Parks for building this trail.

Announcements

- Bellevue State Park – September 13 – Walk for a Healthy Community Fund Raiser
- Delaware APA/Nemours, Newark DE – October 28 – planning for Healthy & Sustainable Places – regional conference and there may be financial aid available for those who need it.
- Stockley Center – November 17 – Outdoors Summit
- Next Council meeting: December 3, 2014

Adjourn

Diane Wilson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Everhart made a motion and John Martin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Meeting Attendance

Appointed Members

Mary Everhart
James Ireland
Gary Kirk
John Martin
Diane Wilson

Agency Members

Division of Parks and Recreation

Dave Bartoo
Ray Bivens
Matthew Chesser
Bob Ehemann
Kendall Sommers
Rose Ryödi

Guests

Beverly Barnett

Attachment 1

Council on Greenways & Trails
Friday, September 12, 2014
Equestrian Report

Since the last Council meeting, this member has enjoyed horseback riding and carriage driving on trails in Brandywine Creek State Park, The First Monument, Lum's Pond and the C&D Canal. From my personal perspective, these trails are in good useable condition. Cooler than usual temperatures and adequate rainfall early in the season have insured good footing for hours of recreation!

I have attended meetings of the White Clay Creek State Park Advisory Council and the Trail Steering Committee formed by DNREC for RTP. This last meeting was held at the Nature Center at the Brandywine Creek State Park and attendees were asked to suggest some other stakeholders to become a part of this group.

Trails: No problems have been reported to this council member regarding trails in New Castle and Kent counties. I do have one request from equestrians in Sussex county. Following is the request they send me:

"Sussex County needs more equestrian riding trails. The intensity of County development over the past several years has made it unsafe and virtually impossible for riders to use roads and farmland as was done in the past.

The horse industry is a major agricultural industry in Delaware. Trail riding is an important and humane second career for many race horses. In order to maintain the viability of this industry, and satisfy equestrian trail riders, the State should work to open new trails to horses in the state park system, and include equestrian use in multi-use trails that are being developed.

Specifically, we request that Cape Henlopen State Park designate at least five miles of contiguous trails, open year-round to horse riding. Beach riding alone is not adequate as many horses cannot ride on sand. Also, the new multiuse trail that is being developed from Lewes to Georgetown should include equestrian use in the trail design and intent. And, an effort should be made to modify the new Breakwater Junction hike/bike trail to support equestrian use.

I therefore move that the State establish, particularly in Sussex County:

1. Year round equestrian-riding trails in Cape Henlopen State Park ; and,
2. Equestrian use in multi-use trails now being developed."

The foregoing is a verbatim transcript of these equestrians' request to me. I realize that this Council does not use motions of this sort to decide trail building. I invited these individuals to attend this meeting. I was told that they would be on vacation out of the country. They asked that I keep them advised of future meetings of this group.

My question for this Council is: how should these equestrians organize and implement their request?

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Everhart