



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**

December 5, 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 9:36a.m. She invited members and visitors to introduce themselves and identify their group affiliation or agency.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Diane Wilson called for a motion to approve the September 12, 2014 minutes. John Martin motioned to approve minutes from the September meeting, Wendel Cassel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Recreational Trail Users Reports**

- a. Hiking – Wendel Cassel
  - The Wilmington Trails Club's web site is [www.wilmingtontrailclub.org/](http://www.wilmingtontrailclub.org/)
  - The Tri-State Marker Trail is a three mile loop that begins in Pennsylvania and continues into Delaware. The northern segment of the trail located in PA is completed – 1.7 miles; construction in the White Clay Preserve (PA) is ongoing. This is a voluntary effort with 47 volunteers working 1600 volunteer hours. There were also three Eagle Scout projects that are part of the project in PA. The total cost for the bridge was \$14,000. The 0.6 of mile of the trail fall in Delaware; completed next year under the supervision of the DE State Park Trail Crew and certified volunteers. An interesting factoid, Mason and Dixon installed the wooden post at the Tristate marker on June 6, 1765 – there are plans to dedicate the trail on June 2015.
  - Regarding the WTC's plans for a June 2014 event, Susan Moerschel offered DNREC's assistance with sending out a press release. She also suggested someone write an article for publication in the American Trails magazine about this trail.
- b. Equestrian – Mary Everhart [Report attached]
  - Delaware Equine Council web site is <http://delawareequinecouncil.org/>
- c. Mountain Biking – Jim Ireland - <http://trailspinners.org/>
  - Trail Spinners signed an agreement with the First State National Monument, National Park Service. The Trail Spinners are the first user group to sign a general agreement with the National Park Service for this site.

#### **Walkable-Bikeable Delaware Committee (Council on Health Promotion & Disease Prevention) and Outdoor Summit – John Hollis, Nemours, Health & Prevention Services**

Susan Moerschel introduced John Hollis from Nemours. She said he wears a lot of hats. Susan has been in several discussions with John Hollis and others who seek to move Delaware forward to become more walkable and bikeable and increasing opportunities for physical activity, promoting healthy lifestyles, recreational opportunities and active transportation. John has been a huge advocate. He is with Nemours, and serves as the chairperson for Walkable Bikeable Committee, a component of the Council on Health Promotion & Disease Prevention.

John Hollis introduced himself as a retired public school educator. He is on the Board of Advisors for the Rodel Foundation. About four years ago the Governor created by Executive Order a Council to address some major health threats that Delaware is facing. Delaware is in a crisis with onset diabetes - the US healthcare system is spending 70cents on each dollar treating chronic illness while other countries worldwide are spending typically less than 15cents per dollar to do the same. It is predicted by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that if things do not change, by 2030, at least 50 percent of the Latino population, 40 something percent of the African American will be in some form of onset diabetes. The CDC has researched and documented that there is a 100 percent correlation between diabetes that is onset in the adolescent years and coronary artery disease. Ten years ago Hollis was one of the senior vice presidents for the Delaware Community Foundation – raising charitable funds and having the opportunity to work with the DuPont Children’s Hospital – Nemours figured out we need to stop putting all of our emphasis on treating sick children.

The Governor shared his concern that this Council on Health Promotion for Disease Prevention that he wants to see results in health improvement. The Council, chaired by Dr. Sandy Resnick, is comprised of many doctors, scientists, and broad representations. It had four subgroups to address:

- Tobacco use
- Beverage consumption – mostly around sugar beverages
- Resource Development
- Walkable Bikeable

Director Ray Bivens serves on the Council and Susan Moerschel serves on the Walkable Bikeable Committee.

A recent Stanford study showed that the solution out of this dilemma is to reverse the trend of a sedentary population. What has happened with the children of this State, worse in other states, is that they do not move any more. Today’s children are technology savvy but do not play outside. The Stanford study said if we become active in moving again, we can reverse the trend. Almost 50% of 13year olds cannot physically qualify for military duty.

The Walkable Bikeable Committee will produce a plan for 2015 in the form of goals and policy. There has been active input from the University of Delaware, Division of Parks and Recreation, Disabilities Community, and a variety of sources.

The first smart goals of the Council will center on creating a calendar process of bringing all the various forces that encourage and create and build that environment for physically activity in somewhat of a collaborative two year cycle. My interaction with the Governor is that he would love to see a calendar where we can focus on the assets and abilities of the state on a regular monthly basis.

The second goal is for the Administration to continue to request trail development funds. Senator Dave Lawson said he wants to see use and health results for the state investment in trail development.

The third aspect of challenge is policy – Council will look at policy in the first half of 2015 for a complete communities approach.

What is pleasing to the Governor is that the Council HP&DP will go out and promote, and measure physical activity on the capabilities that the Council G&T and others have been very effective in creating.

Diane Wilson asked John Hollis how Council on G&T might interact with the Council on HP&DP to get the message out and to see that there are some results.

John Hollis said specifically, this Council could have a significant role in both smart goals by helping the collaboration of the various efforts. It is also important that the Council members from the Division of Parks & Recreation be active in this process.

### **Trail & Pathway Initiative Projects – Staff**

Staff briefed the Council on the status of each of the projects listed below. All these projects are in various stages of design, construction and/or completion. [Presentation attached to these minutes.]

- City of Dover – Capital City Trail – all three phases are complete
- City of Dover – West Dover Connector – construction to begin soon, developing over 3 years
- Assawoman Canal Trail - Ocean View/Bethany Beach region – project advertised for construction bids; construction expected in early 2015
- Auburn Heights Preserve – next phase, trail construction completed 2015-2016
- Northern Delaware Greenway Trail – repaving segment in Alapocas Run State Park
- Castle Trail – Phase 2 construction complete; Delaware City segment complete in fall 2015
- Rocky Run Bridge, Brandywine Creek State Park – new bridge in design; temporary bridge in place
- Tri-Valley Trail, White Clay Creek State Park – design will resume after long delay; project will move forward combining Phases 1 & 2, 2.8 miles
- Georgetown-Lewes- Cape Henlopen State Park – survey and data collection on the CHSP segment will begin this winter

### **Trail Crew Accomplishments 2009 to 2014 Activities – Thomas “Chip” Kneavel, Trail Crew Chief**

Chip Kneavel discussed the trail construction that the crew works on within the State Parks. He also explained the data collected that counts the number of visitors that use the trails. He said in the last five years, his crew completed almost one half mile of bridges and boardwalks in the Parks.

Chip Kneavel explained the new trail marking system used that is much more user friendly and stronger built to abate vandalism.

Charlie Emerson said that Newark will adopt same marking system for consistency in the region.

Chip Kneavel explained the trail counter system used – these instruments are camouflaged and small enough to be put in places hidden away from vandals. The accuracy of the counts was discussed. The infrared counters cost about \$300 but there are issues with the batteries dying. Chip Kneavel will return counters that need fixing to the manufacturer.

### **Brandywine Creek State Park Trail Plan – Public participation schedule – David Bartoo**

David Bartoo said Brandywine Creek State Park has  $\pm$  18miles of trails on just over 2000 acres. While the Park and the First State National Monument combined have 40 miles combined. A stakeholder team has been assembled - Jim Ireland, Mary Everhart, and Gary Kirk from the Council – and others recreational trail users and a representative from the BCSP Friends to develop a trail plan. The stakeholders group is part of the public participation phase in trail plan development. The team helps guide the planning process and considers constraints and opportunities to ascertain what is beneficial to work with on the park’s landscape. The Team generated a rough concept of what some trail alignments might look like.

Team concepts are reviewed by Division resource managers and program coordinators to develop a draft plan for full public review. A public workshop will be held in April.

NPS staff are part of the stakeholder team. David Bartoo met with National Park Service staff to review information regarding the FSNM. Concepts for trail alignments in the FSNM will be offered by this team for NPS consideration in their own planning process.

### **Announcements**

Susan Moerschel introduced DNREC’s Cabinet Secretary, David Small. Secretary Small thanked Council for their dedicated work. He said DNREC has over 20 councils that are appointed in various ways established in code. With hundreds of people like those on this Council that volunteer their time because of their interest, passion, and commitment to these issues and to the State of Delaware. These Councils are invaluable and the public utilizes open spaces and greenways and trails with no idea how much work is involved – they just know the trails are there.

David Small turned his attention to Diane Wilson thanking her for all of your service over the years. Small said there is a personal connection with Diane and Jim Wilson; I got to know when I was much younger. Jim, at that time was the Superintendent of the Cape Henlopen School district – to both of you best wishes and thank you.

Susan Moerschel informed Council that Diane and Jim Wilson are moving to Florida; today is Diane's last Council meeting.

Secretary Small presented Diane with a Tribute from Governor Markell and Lt. Governor Denn recognizing her 18 years with the Council. Secretary read the tribute to Diane.

Diane said when she was appointed in 1996; at that time there was talk about connecting Cape Henlopen State Park to Gordons Pond with a trail; she had the pleasure of holding the ribbon when that trail connection was made in June 2014.

### **Other Business**

~ Mr. Martin said one of the Council on Greenways and Trails' missions is to provide recommendations to DNREC for the funding of grants – trail projects. He has been on the Grant Review Committee that has a good scoring system [for DTF grant proposals]. He recommends that a new Committee be developed to look at means to be able to quantify projects that are falling under the Governor's Trails & Pathways Initiative. Over the last years, Council has seen modeling data, trail counters and a lot of information being utilized in finding means to rate projects that are in the planning stages. He would like to see Council take a more active role in the ranking state managed trail projects that the Council is briefed on and asked to support.

Charlie Emerson agreed with John Martin, saying with limited financial resources for all projects, it makes sense for the Council support projects that impact a large number of people, create recreational opportunities and promote healthy lifestyles. In his presentation to us today, John Hollis shared the importance of improved health. Emerson stated, the Council should have input in the budget prioritization.

Diane Wilson asked, was it not the role of this Council as Advisory to DNREC, to be involved in the budgeting and prioritization process?

Jim Ireland agreed, and questioned projects like NVF. There is a lot of money being spent there. Couldn't some of the funds be put in other projects that reach more people more immediately?

Diane Wilson asked for a motion that would form a Committee to develop an evaluation system for prioritization of state managed trail projects similar to the DTF Grant ranking. John Martin moved to create a Committee that would develop a ranking and evaluation of state managed trail projects that will result in making priority recommendations to DNREC. Charlie Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Volunteers for Committee are as follows: John Martin, Jim Ireland, Charlie Emerson and Gary Kirk.

~ Charlie Emerson recommended that in the future, if there are any modifications to the DTF Program, that this Council be included at the forefront. He stated the Council should be involved in all discussions, in all changes, proposed, legislatively and otherwise.

Diane Wilson asked for a motion. Charlie Emerson moved, that when the Division is considering to make any proposed changes to the DTF Program through law, regulation, policy or administratively, that the Division and DNREC inform, consult with, and discuss proposals with the Council at the outset. Jim Ireland seconded to motion. Motion carried.

### **Announcements**

Council on Greenways & Trails Meeting:

Susan Moerschel asked Council if they were willing to change the meeting day from Wednesday to Friday. Council agreed to have their regular meetings for 2015 on Fridays. The first meeting to be held on March 6 starting at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Moerschel will reserve Dover Public Library. She said the June 2015 meeting should be a field trip.

Upcoming Trail Events:

- Monday, December 15, 2014 DeIDOT is having its ribbon cutting
- January 2015 – Ground breaking at the Assawoman Canal Trail

### **Adjourn**

Diane Wilson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Martin made a motion and Jim Ireland seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m. a.m.

**Meeting Attendance**

**Appointed Members**

Wendel Cassel  
Charles Emerson  
James Ireland  
Gary Kirk  
John Martin  
Diane Wilson

**Guests**

John Hollis, Nemours

**Agency Members**

**Division of Parks and Recreation**

Dave Bartoo  
Ray Bivens  
Scott Blaier  
Matthew Chesser  
Bob Ehemann  
Chip Kneavel, Trails Program  
Kendall Sommers  
Rose Ryödi  
Ron Vickers

Attachment 1

Council on Greenways & Trails  
Friday, December 5, 2014  
Equestrian Report

At the September 12 meeting I reported that some individuals in Sussex County wanted to explore increasing trails usage in Cape Henlopen State Park and getting modifications made so equestrians might use the new Breakwater Junction trail. I asked this council how to help them proceed and air their concerns to the proper individuals.

I have identified two individuals who are members of the Delaware Equine Council and would like to represent Kent and Sussex counties. With assistance from Susan Moerschel I have obtained names of state resource managers. In January or February I will try to get the various individuals to a meeting so that a dialogue can begin regarding their concerns.

This Council member has also attended a quarterly meeting of the White Clay Creek Advisory Council and stakeholder meetings for the Brandywine Creek State Park trail planning team. The Brandywine team has monthly meetings scheduled to expedite the trail planning and development for this area. I also attended the public forum in New Castle for the First State National Monument.

I have been riding regularly (and driving occasionally) on trails in BCSP, the FSNM, Lums Pond, the C&D Canal and Blackbird forest. From my perspective, the trails are in good, usable condition.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Everhart

## **Trail Crew Accomplishments 2009-2014**

### **Summary 2009**

- **New trail construction / reconstruction- 19,180 ft. (3.63 miles)**
- **Trail shutdown/habitat restoration- 7,862 ft. (1.49 miles)**
- **Bridge construction -3 new structures 947 ft.**
- **Bridge removed - 1**
- **Information boards – 4 new structures**

#### **Cape Henlopen State Park**

- Bridge construction -1 new structure – 12 ft. wooden

#### **Delaware Seashore State Park**

- Trail shutdown/habitat restoration 1,253 ft.
- Bridge construction -1 new structure – 800 ft. wooden

#### **Lums Pond State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 5,020 ft. (1.0 miles)
- Trail shutdown/habitat restoration -5,619 ft. (1.06 miles)
- Bridge construction -2 new structures 50 ft. wooden
- Information boards – 2 new structures

#### **White Clay Creek State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction -5,860 ft. (1.1 miles)
- Information boards – 1 new structure
- Routine trail maintenance -10 miles

#### **New Castle County Parks**

- New trail construction / reconstruction -5,630 ft. (1.1 miles)
- Trail shutdown/habitat restoration -1,000 ft.
- Bridge construction -1 new structure 85 ft. fiberglass
- Information boards – 1 new structure

#### **City of Newark**

- New trail construction / reconstruction -2,670 ft. (0.5 miles)

### **Summary 2010**

- **New trail construction / reconstruction – 19,887 ft. (3.8 miles)**
- **Bridge construction –4 New structures (900 ft.)**
- **Trail shutdown/habitat restoration- 1071 ft. (0.20 miles)**
- **Information boards – 4 new structures**

#### **Cape Henlopen State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 6,336 ft. (1.2 miles)
- Trail shutdown/habitat restoration- 1071 ft. (0.20 miles)

- Bridge construction – 1 new structure 20 ft. wooden

### **City of Newark**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 2,296 ft. (1.1 miles)
- Bridge construction – 1 new structure 100 ft. wooden

### **Delaware Seashore State Park**

- Bridge construction – 1 new structure 200 ft. wooden

### **Lums Pond State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 5,577 ft. (1.1 miles)
- Trail shutdown/habitat restoration- 1071 ft. (0.20 miles)
- Bridge construction – 1 new structure 580 ft. wooden

### **New Castle County Parks**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 5,678 ft. (1.1 miles)
- Information boards – 1 new structure

### **White Clay Creek State Park**

- Information boards – 3 new structures

## **Summary 2011**

- **New trail construction / reconstruction – 7,778 ft. (1.5 miles)**
- **Bridge construction - 6 new structures 310 ft.**
- **Information boards – 1 new structure**

### **Cape Henlopen State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 3,696 ft. (0.7 miles)

### **City of Newark**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 942 ft. (0.2 miles)
- Bridge construction – 1 new structure 20 ft. wooden

### **Delaware Seashore State Park**

- Bridge construction – 3 new structure 210 ft. 2-wooden, 1- fiberglass
- Information boards – 1 new structures

### **Lums Pond State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 2,640 ft. (0.5 miles)
- Bridge construction – 1 new structure 60 ft. wooden

### **New Castle County Parks**

- Bridge construction – 1 New structure 20 ft. wooden

### **Killens Pond State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 500 ft. (0.1 miles)

## **Summary 2012**

- **New trail construction / reconstruction – 9,082 ft. (1.72 miles)**
- **Trail shutdown/habitat restoration- 1977ft. (0.35 miles)**
- **Bridge construction – 5 new structures 174 ft.**
- **Information boards – 5 new structures**

#### **Cape Henlopen State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 2,769 ft. (0.5 miles)

#### **Delaware Seashore State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 2,440 ft. (0.5 miles)
- Bridges built - 1 new structure 50 ft. wooden
- Information boards – 4 new structures

#### **Lums Pond State Park**

- Trail shutdown/habitat restoration- 1977ft. (0.35 miles)
- Bridges built - 2 new structures 24 ft. wooden

#### **Trap Pond State Park**

- Bridges built - 2 new structures 100 ft. wooden

#### **White Clay Creek State Park**

- Information boards – 1 new structures
- New trail construction / reconstruction – 1,837 ft. (0.3 miles)

### **Summary 2013**

- **New trail construction / reconstruction – 6,677 ft. (1.26 miles)**
- **Bridge construction -5 new structures 170 ft.**
- **Bridge removed - 1**
- **Information boards – 4 new structures**

#### **Bellevue State Park**

- Bridges built – 1 new structure 30 ft. fiberglass

#### **CD Canal – Michael Castle Trail**

- Information boards – 2 new structure

#### **Delaware Seashore State Park**

- Bridges built - 1 new structure 20 ft. wooden

#### **Lums Pond State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 5,366 ft. (1.0 miles)
- Bridge construction -3 new structures 100 ft.
- Bridge removed - 1
- Information boards – 2 new structures

#### **Trap Pond State Park**

- Bridge removed - 1

### **White Clay Creek State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 1,311 ft. (0.2 miles)
- Bridges built - 1 new structure 50 ft. wooden

### **Summary 2014**

- **New trail construction / reconstruction – 4,585 ft. (.9 miles)**
- **Trail shutdown/habitat restoration- 1450 ft. (.3 miles)**
- **Bridge removed – 3 structures**
- **Information boards – 4 new structures**

### **Alapocas Run State Park**

- Trail information posts – install new system

### **Brandywine Creek State Park**

- Trail information posts – install new system

### **Cape Henlopen State Park**

- Trail information posts – install new system
- Information boards – 2 new structures

### **CD Canal**

- Information boards – 1 new structure

### **Delaware Seashore State Park**

- Information boards – 1 new structure
- Trail information posts – install new system

### **Lums Pond State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 3454 ft. (.7 miles)
- Trail information posts – install new system

### **Trap Pond State Park**

- Trail information posts – install new system

### **White Clay Creek State Park**

- New trail construction / reconstruction – 1131
- Trail shutdown/habitat restoration - 1450'
- Bridges removed – 3 structures
- Training volunteers