

# Franklin Township Pro Meeting

## February 7, 2024

This is a brief summary of the Park, Recreation and Open Space meeting on Wednesday February 7, 2024 by zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman Roberts. In attendance were Mary Hanley, Kyle Bianco, Paul Overton, Jennifer Albany, Heather Doss, and Jeff Eastburn. Bob Macknis was absent. Board liaison Dave Gerstenhaber also attended and BOS members Dawn Dowling and Betsy Odgers. There were no members of the public. Eagle Scout Liam Kelley and his father attended for Liam's presentation.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Chairman Roberts, 2nd by board member Doss to approve the January 3, 2024 minutes. Approved 5-0.

### **Special Presentation**

Liam Kelley

Liam is working on his Eagle Scout project and is proposing to add signage to Franklin Preserve.

Liam presented a slide show

Trail map- still needs to be updated and the PRO board will get it to Liam.

Trail Markers-10 post of 5x5, with 3 1/2 circle directional markers

Kiosk-need bigger roof, plexiglass needs to be added. 3x4, suggested that the other kiosk be used.

Timeline- proposed to be completed by June.

Suggestions- 10 ft post need to be used. order spare trail disc

Will be presented to BOS next meeting

### **U R Here Map**

Dave Gerstenhaber made a presentation about the trails in Crossan, after walking the trails with Board member Overton, BOS member Jim Johnson and Matt Thompson of the bike club.

He talked about getting rid of some trails that had to be mowed to reduce cost and were in wet areas. In the lower trails the signage and boardwalk would need to be removed.

#### NOTE

The bike club put all the trails in Franklin Preserve not the PRO board.

The slide presentation

ALL TRAILS EXIST, THIS WOULD BE RESTORING THEM OR FIXING THEM

Old Post Road Restoration Project

Goals- to restore dry trails and eliminated wet trails and rationalize the trail system.

Phase 1 Gravel Trail (northwest parking lot to steel bridge)

Restore of heavily eroded established trail. Add gravel and some berm work

Phase 2 OPR restoration (the Old Post Road)

Existing now is a clear elevated path on a raised bed

Restore/clear the historical trail that is overgrown, which will eliminate the northern most trails which are in wet areas. Will need to add bridges, maybe using the boardwalk

Phase 3 North East Connector (lower corner by fields)

Rehab trail and move to higher ground to avoid wet areas

All these projects will be done by volunteers to restore existing trails.

Proposed Trails (3 trails)

OPR connector (northern most part)

It is an established trail but wet, Boardwalks were put down there but still very wet. Revisit Spring 2025 to see if there is sufficient drainage to support a trail.

East/West connector (field to pavilion)

Proposed to put a walkable paved/hard surface/gravel connector to avoid people using the road. But it will eliminate a steep hill trail.

**South Field Trail (upper corner Franklin preserve)**

Currently mowed field is overrun with poison hemlock, move the trail to tree line and turn existing trail back into a meadow.

**Hemlock**

Plan to mow early and often and if that does not work will have to spray.

**Goodwin**

No update

**Trail Maintenance**

Regardless of task, need to pass by Jeff or BOS for heads up

Keep everyone in the loop

**Banffshire raised garden**

Board member MacKnis will put together a presentation and present to PRO then BOS

**New Business**

**New board Liaison**

Dave Gerstenhaber will be replacing Donna Dea as the PRO Board liaison

**Garden Club**

Saturday 2/11 they will be removing the 9 bluebird boxes to be fixed. A door will be added so they can be cleaned out. Volunteer time is 10 o'clock

**Spring newsletter**

Volunteers needed, service hours for high schoolers, boy scout projects

**Dockstader Grant**

Will look into whether playground equipment is eligible

**Additional topic**

Peacedale Preserve break in. Suggested it be posted on webpage and facebook to warn people

Open Space inventory- done

Adjourn 8:54