

## Franklin Township Pro Meeting

April 3, 2024

This is a brief summary of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space meeting on Wednesday April 3, 2024 by Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 pm by Chairman Roberts. In attendance were Mary Hanley, Jennifer Albany, Heather Doss, and Paul Overton. Members Kyle Bianco and Bob Macknis, and Board of Supervisors liaison Dave Gerstenhaber were absent. BOS member Dawn Dowling also attended. There were no members of the public.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Chairman Roberts, seconded by board member Overton to approve the February 7, 2024 minutes. Approved 5-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Crossan Park/Franklin Preserve Map**

Board Member Hanley has continued revisions on the map. There was discussion about the graphics on the inset. Comments were made that the two black lines as a “call-out” to the inset were confusing and an arrow was suggested instead.

Board Member Overton noted an error in the depiction of a trail at the top, ending at the Meadow, but agreed that the North/South trail is correct. He made another comment that the green/gray trail intersection above the soccer field also did not seem correct, and Member Overton suggested a meeting to walk the trails for 1 to 1.5 hours.

Board Member Hanley noted that some things were not specified in the map legend, but that perhaps anything missing was self-explanatory. It was suggested that the flower box, pine tree, and other tree symbols be removed, and that the dots on the playground icon be removed as it is already identified by name and see-saw symbol on the map.

Board Member Hanley also asked Supervisor Dowling to help specifically locate the bluebird boxes and mini libraries on the map. Chairman Roberts asked if the bald eagle nests (built on cell tower) could be added to map. Member Overton asked “what if the eagles aren’t nesting there 10-15 years from now” and Chairman Roberts said perhaps she would simply add stickers to the map.

Supervisor Dowling suggested kestrel boxes as a project she would like to see in the future.

Chairman Roberts suggesting printing a draft copy of the map at actual size to determine whether the legend is large enough to be readable, and there was a group

discussion that Jeff Eastburn has the ability to print this size in the Township office and we should request this so that it can be reviewed again before finalized.

Board Member Overton mentioned that he was part of a meeting with Paul Lagasse about the Mason Dixon Project where someone showed an informational kiosk display. He noted that a paper map behind plastic does not last very long. Additionally, he mentioned that he has gotten the names of two companies that can make a plasticized version of the map, and that he will contact them to check costs.

### **Raised Flower Bed(s) at Banffshire**

Board Member Macknis was not on the call but provided Chairman Roberts with some information prior to this meeting. He estimated the pricing around \$250 which includes cypress lumber and mulch, for a bed that is 12' x 8', raised 12" from ground level. There was continuation of prior conversations about the location of the bed, and the fact that it may still face damage from vehicular traffic in the suggested area. There is also a 3-foot white rock on the other side of the driveway that has been hit many times in the past. It was suggested that several of the PRO meet before Member Macknis meets with the BOS to review. Board Member Overton screen-shared an aerial view of the Banffshire parking lot from ChesCo Views indicating that there is not enough parking space for 5 or 6 vehicles if needed for workers/volunteers. The hiking club meets there 1-2 times per year and the members need to park along the road.

Board Member Overton mentioned that he planted 2 of the redbud trees he received from Supervisor Dowling at the Egg Hunt, and she mentioned that "We have more!"

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Damaged Tree Tubes – Volunteers Needed**

Board Member Overton expressed the need for volunteers to be scheduled for tree tube repairs. He mentioned that he and his daughter have repaired 40, 50 or 60 of the tubes so far, and that probably 100 more need repair at Keene Farm location. These need to be done PRIOR to spring blooms or the trees will be dead. Volunteers will need rubber boots if the ground is wet, but it only takes a few minutes. 5 or 6 volunteers would probably be enough. He also suggested that we upload some pictures or videos showing proper tube repair, so volunteers could briefly view these and be able to help. New zip ties should not be required as they are removable and can be reused. Some tubes will need a new wood stake, requiring a substantial 3lb metal mallet (a rubber one will not be sufficient). Otherwise, the only physical labor required is bending over. Member Overton suggested scheduling some evenings of approximately 2 hours rather than having to take up weekend days for these repairs.

The amount of trees in tubes that were planted in recent years are approximately 600 in Franklin Preserve (which needs to be maintained monthly), 500 in Crossan Park (volunteer Noah has been helping here), and 1270 on the Keene Farm. There are ~270 trees in the blue top loop in [Crossan? Franklin?], newly named the "Hanley Loop", and 500-600 trees in the left northern empty corner of the property, northeast of the Hanley Loop.

### **Trail Marker Signs**

Board Member Overton obtained a quote from Voss Signs, where the Forestry Service has their signs made, for metal signs such as the old "Preserve" signs that currently exist, as well as the arrow/directional discs. He increased the # requested so that it does not only cover Scout Liam's work on Franklin trails, but also for Crossan trails, potential vandalism, and any trails that may be added down the road, as well as some personalization. The quote was for \$1,662.40. He plans to contact another vendor recommended by Jeff Eastburn and will later make proposal to BOS. He will suggest to Liam that he also use any vendor the PRO or BOS decides to use, for uniformity purposes. Liam already has the funding he needs, he simply needs BOS approval to do the work.

### **Bicycle Repair Station**

Board Member Overton expressed his opinion that the station/equipment does not need a roof over it. If Scout Jacob Hennings would like to build a roof/kiosk, great, but not necessary. A brief discussion ensued about location, and it was agreed that it makes more sense to put the repair station in the lower part of the park, near the trails, rather than up near the bathrooms/playground. It was decided to leave it up to the BOS to make the call.

### **Other Comments**

It was mentioned that the physical newsletter sent out by the Township office contained Andrea's article about PRO Board projects. It included a photo of a kiosk that the PRO did not include and is different than the one the PRO is expecting to be built.

### **Next Steps:**

Chairman Roberts will text the group to schedule the Friday afternoon meeting with Board Member Macknis and others regarding the Banffshire lot project.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56.