

Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Advisory Committee Minutes

June 4, 2025

Attendance:

- Dave Mizenko, Chair
- Dave Bosted
- John Emmons
- Jim Hooker
- Jeff Lang
- Michael Meriney
- Matt Potts, Secretary
- Mayor Patricia Hendricks Farmer, Committee Liaison

Absent:

- Paul Larson
- Laura Lynch

Also in attendance were interested members of the Community.

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm by Dave Mizenko.

Meeting Discussion:

- All present in the meeting introduced themselves.
- The Committee approved the minutes recorded for the meeting from May 2025.
- Public Participation:
 - Community members on behalf of Colonial Lake Park (CLP) discussed the current ELSA pipeline project affecting the park. They met recently with ELSA engineers to adjust the pipeline's pathway to better avoid endangering mature trees. CLP representatives will meet with the Township Manager and Engineer soon to discuss need for seeking a 'diversion' with Green Acres for the sewer route to optimize tree preservation; Mayor Farmer expressed interest in joining that meeting.
 - Dave M. mentioned on behalf of a community member that the Lawrence Pride Fest is coming up soon, and interested volunteers for cleaning up the event site the day before are welcome to help. The event's website was shared among the group.

- Mike led a discussion on the Saturn Chemical property.
 - Site occupies approximately 5.3 acres.
 - Mike has researched options for funding of site remediation, and recounted to the group a brief history of the property and its ownership changes over the years.
 - Studies of soil and ground water quality have already been conducted. The site contains large amounts of historic fill used for either raising or leveling the grade, likely roughly 100 years ago for initial development of the business structures.
 - Mike will continue researching further on ground testing and levels of contamination, particularly in the northeastern sector of the site.
 - Lawrence Township can apply for funds for investigation of brown field sites such as Saturn Chemical, including geophysical surveying, under state DEP, for up to 100% funding.
 - It is also possible to apply for a 75% cost grant for remediation, primarily for locations intended for open space, parks, renewable energy, or affordable housing. This site appears to be a prime location for such funding.
 - The ultimate goal would be to designate this entire site as open space and become publicly owned.
 - The committee authorized Dave M and Mike to further develop these ideas and present them to the township, and report back to the committee at our September meeting.
- Dave M. led a discussion of the potential trail at Amazon off of Princess Road.
 - The previously scheduled site walk has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 12 at 9:00 am.
 - Dave reiterated the general plan and pathway of the proposed trail, including the reuse of an existing abandoned segment of a road previously called Clarksville Road.
 - Mayor Farmer asked about the total length of the D&R Canal within Lawrence; Dave will research and get back to the Mayor with that information.
 - Mayor Farmer will follow up with the Township Manager regarding permission to have our walk.
- Committee discussed the forthcoming construction of the Route 1 Bridge near Colonial Lake Park.
 - Mayor Farmer indicated that the plan does include a 6-foot-wide sidewalk on either side of the highway, as well as ADA improvements and other changes for promoting pedestrian safety
 - CLP representatives continue to have concerns over safety and higher volumes of pedestrian activity on that segment of the Route 1 sidewalks, particularly since the Park's walking loop was completed within the last year.
 - While this is technically a state project, the Township can continue to advocate for it, the safety implications of the project, and its dovetailing with the ongoing Complete Streets initiative
 - Dave M. will continue coordinating with Mayor Farmer on this effort.

- Other topics discussed:
 - Mayor Farmer recounted her participation in the recent Mercer in Motion conference, including items such as the Safe Streets initiative and the Zero Vision initiative (i.e., goal of zero non-motorist injuries and deaths). Measures that can be taken along these lines include the addition of more rectangular flashing beacons along roadways in key locations.
 - The installation of a noise barrier along the section of I-295 abutting the West Long Drive neighborhood has been funded and designed. Dave M attended the Public Information Center for this project; the managers and engineers are aware, and have taken account, of the proposed Johnson Trolley Trail bridge that is planned to cross I-295 at that location.
 - Lawrence Township will be rehabilitating the Lawrence Community Center and has formed the Mayor's Task Force to make recommendations on its use. Following up on last month's committee discussion, David M. spoke at the task force's public meeting advocating that a resource center be included, and offered the committee's assistance in contributing information on trails and open space.
 - Dave M. announced the ribbon cutting and opening ceremony for the boardwalk at Maidenhead Meadows Park for the Lawrence Hopewell Trail.

Meeting adjourned at around 8:53 pm.