

Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Advisory Committee Minutes

September 4, 2025

Attendance:

- Dave Mizenko, Chair
- Dave Bosted
- Jim Hooker
- Jeff Lang
- Paul Larson
- Laura Lynch
- Michael Meriney
- Matt Potts, Secretary

Absent:

- John Emmons
- Mayor Patricia Hendricks Farmer, Committee Liaison

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 June 2025.
- Public Participation:
 - No discussion topics.
- Mike led a discussion providing updates on the Saturn Chemical property.
 - Mike and Dave M. met with township engineer Jim Parvesse regarding a strategy to apply for a site clean-up grant program and remediate it for public use.
 - They advised Jim on how the Township could acquire the grant money for a site contamination investigation and impact studies, all of which would be paid for by the grant.
 - A proposal for a state funded grant for a site investigation, for which the Township would have to cover the \$500 application fee, was submitted to the township.
 - Jim P. will discuss this with the Township Manager and get back to this Committee.
 - In this process, the Township would be the applicant for the grant.
 - Dave M. will follow up with Jim P.
 - The grant application process could take up to 4-6 months before getting a response including grant remittance if awarded.
- Dave M. provided an update on the potential Princess Rd—D&R Canal Connector trail.
 - Jim P, Mike, and Dave M. discussed this project at the above meeting to promote awareness of the project.

- The trail would use the township's easement on the Amazon warehouse property to reach an abandoned causeway on D&R Canal State Park land, and then cross Shipetaukin Creek to reach the D&R Canal Towpath. Dave M. shared that he was advised by the D&R Canal State Park Superintendent that building a bridge on state park property would be a challenge.
 - The next goal is to get the Township's buy-in on the project in general, with whom this Committee would liaise with the State as needed.
- The Committee discussed the U.S. Route 1 Bridge replacement project at the Shabakunk Creek and Colonial Lake Park.
 - According to the NJDOT website, this plan is moving along.
 - Regarding this project, Dave M. provided Jim P. with thoughts regarding separation of traffic to address safety concerns for pedestrians and advocated that the township raise this issue with NJDOT.
 - Initial work on the bridge work could begin as early as February 2026 to start preliminary right of way and utility work.
 - Construction is slated to occur roughly from mid-2027 until completion in 2029.
 - Paul suggested speaking with Tim Brill to see if he is aware of contacts at the State or for any other ideas that may be useful to maintain momentum of addressing this Committee's concerns.
- Dave M. provided information on reviving a potential project to build a Bossio-Salt-Armory Woods trail, south of Eggerts Crossing Road.
 - The trail would be on township open space (Bossio-Salt Preserve) and NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs property (Armory Woods)
 - Prior efforts achieved Armory approval dependent on a use agreement with the Township
 - The trails were added via amendment to the township Master Plan to facilitate moving forward, but has stalled since.
 - This Committee can plan to cover this area in a forthcoming group walk. Dave M. will coordinate with the Mayor on scheduling a walk.
- Other Topics:
 - Paul received an email from Dave Sandahl of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail organization indicating an estimate of \$25M for the bridge project over I-295 for the Johnson Trolley Trail project.
 - The DVRPC has continued working on this effort and will hopefully have a plan submitted by December to the relevant Federal representatives for review.
 - Regarding the new draft Master Plan, there is discussion regarding constructing housing on the ETS campus.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.