Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Advisory Committee Minutes

May 6, 2026

Attendance:
- Dave Mizenko, Chair
- Dave Bosted
- Jeff Lang
- Paul Larson
- Laura Lynch
- Matt Potts, Secretary
- Councilwoman Patricia Hendricks Farmer, Township Council Liaison
- Councilwoman Bonne O'Flanagan Giglio

Absent:
- John Emmons
- Jim Hooker
- Mike Meriney

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.
- As of next month's meeting, Councilwoman Giglio will become this Committee's Township Council Liaison. The Committee thanked Councilwoman Farmer for their enthusiasm and effective coordination with during their tenure as Liaison.
- The Committee approved the minutes recorded for the meeting from March 2026.
- Public Participation:
    - No discussion topics.
- This evening's meeting reviewed the status of Committee priorities for trails and open space for the Township presented to council on January 20, 2026, and reiterated and narrowed to three priorities during public participation at the council's March 3, 2026 meeting:
    - These were:
        - Clean-up and acquisition of the Saturn Chemical site;
        - New trail between the Amazon distribution center at Princess Road and the D&R Canal Towpath crossing at Route 1; and,
        - A new pedestrian bridge near Route 1 at Colonial Lake Park over the western side of the lake.
    - At the April 7 Town Council meeting, responding to Councilwoman Farmer, Township Manager Kevin Nerwinski, citing a lack of resources, stated that the township will not be acting on these priorities, though the bridge at Colonial Lake Park is something they had been considering.

- Councilwoman Giglio was impressed with Dave M.'s and Mike's Januayr 20 presentation to Council regarding our priorities, and expressed interest in helping develop them.
- In particular, she expressed interest in our plan for constructing a new trail between the Ben Franklin (BFS) and Lawrence Intermediate Schools (LIS) which we had presented as a project eligible for county funding.
- The group discussed this Committee's role of supporting Council by reporting to and advising them in matters regarding trails and open space within Lawrence.
- We reinforced the low lift of getting the ball rolling on the Saturn site with a $500 application fee for assessing the site's current status for environmental mitigation.
- Those present also discussed the details of the BFS/LIS trail, particularly as it pertained to the need for a crossing guard at Darrah Lane and Lawrence Rd.
- It may be possible to obtain an easement from the Transco pipeline company to extend the trail through their property to connect Lawrence Rd to LIS, Colonial Lake Park and the White Pines apartments.
- Council members Farmer and Giglio are encouraged by these discussions and will promote them further with Manager Nerwinski and other members of Council.
- Looking to the future, plans like what we discussed for the BFS/LIS are included in our recommendations for the Township's Master Plan.
- David M. has invited Mercer County Assistant Planner Matthew Zochowski to discuss with us the county's plans for trails that involve Lawrence at a future meeting, possibly June 3 if he is available. These include:
    - The Great Western Bikeway along Lawrenceville-Pennington Rd. and Franklin Corner Rd;
    - The Cross County Trail stretching across Lawrence; and
    - The Johnson Trolley Trail extension northward to Princeton.
- Regarding the forthcoming Master Plan draft, the Planning Board's goal is to have the draft ready for public comment by sometime in July.
- Members of the Committee and Councilwoman Farmer walked the pathway of the potential trail by the Amazon distribution center on April 18. The group briefly reiterated the basic plan of creating the trail using our easement on the warehouse property, and the causeway in the D&R Canal State Park, with a new footbridge over Shipetaukin Creek to reach the D&R Canal Towpath at the ramp to the towpath bridge over US 1.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

This Committee's next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3.