Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Advisory Committee Minutes

June 3, 2026

Attendance:

- Dave Mizenko, Chair
- Dave Bosted
- John Emmons
- Jim Hooker
- Jeff Lang
- Paul Larson
- Mike Meriney
- Matt Potts, Secretary
- Councilwoman Bonne Giglio, Township Council Liaison
- Special guest Matthew Zochowski, Principal Planner for Mercer County

Absent:

- Laura Lynch

Also in attendance were interested members of the Community.

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm by Dave Mizenko.

Meeting Discussion:

- All present in the meeting introduced themselves.
- Mr. Zochowski gave a presentation on county-level initiatives regarding trails:
    - 1) Cross-county Trail
        - Goal is to build a West/East connection across Mercer from the Whitehead Road Ext in Ewing to the Hamilton Train Station.
        - Potential westward extension from Lawrence to TCNJ.
        - The project is planned to include a mix of off- and on-road pathways, all of which will be multi-use and ADA accessible.
        - Funding: DVRPC grants, with no cost to municipalities (including Lawrence).
        - The group discussed options with pathing currently considered.
        - The County intends to hold a public meeting on the project soon.
    - 2) Johnson Trolley Trail
        - Path of trail south from Lawrence would follow county acquired ROW to Spruce St.
        - The trail then would traverse further south, likely along 5th St. to Olden Ave. and continue on the trolley route west of Home Depot to Southard St. and end at the Battle Monument in Trenton.
        - Northward from Mercer Meadows Park the trail would follow Van Kirk Rd to Carson Road Woods and Rosedale Ave to Princeton.
        - Regarding the new bridge over I-295, the County would own and manage the bridge, and Lawrence would provide day-to-day maintenance.

        - The State has earmarked $25M for the new bridge; federal funding may also be pursued but that may impact (increase) the overall time and budget required to complete the project.
        - Regarding the overall trail, currently the planned pathway south of I-295 is more straightforward, whereas the north side requires more work and planning.
        - The County is tackling other priorities like critical bridge repairs and maintenance elsewhere like Trenton, so resources are being balanced for these on-going initiatives.
    - 3) Great Western Bikeway
        - This project involves establishing a continuous, cyclist-friendly trail running from Washington Crossing Park through Pennington to the D&R Canal just past Route 1 (mostly via county route 546).
        - The bikeway is planned to use Mill Rd between Lewisville Rd and the I-295 bridge, and then run along the north side of Franklin Corner Rd to avoid the exit ramp from I-295.
        - Dave M. suggested a connection to the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail (LHT) via Bristol Myers Squibb property just west of the I-295 bridge. The property connects to Franklin Corner Road at the bridge and there is an existing walking/biking path that leads to the LHT.
        - Dave B. suggested an eastward extension along Bakers Basin Rd to connect with the off-road, tree-lined trail along Lawrence Station Rd that the committee discussed as a priority at our February 4, 2026 meeting.
        - Dave M. advanced the idea of extending the trail further to and along Quakerbridge Rd to connect to Lawrence Square Village. Mr. Zochowski added that the county will be replacing the Quakerbridge Rd bridge over the NE corridor (likely 10 years away) and, when done, it would accommodate a trail to Lawrence Square Village and on to Mercer County Park.
- Dave M. summarized this Committee's recommendations to the township for Mr. Zochowski that could be funded by the County's trail grant initiative.
- Dave B. advocated for publicizing more effectively the Washington-Rochambeau Trail (effectively U.S. route 206) as a prominent national historic trail, especially in light of this year's 250th anniversary.
- The Committee approved the minutes recorded for the meeting from May 2026.
- Public Participation:
    - No discussion topics.
- Further discussion on Committee priorities:
    - Councilwoman Bonne Giglio corresponded with township manager Kevin Nerwinski about the Saturn Chemical initiative, resulting in 'no for now' as it is preferred to have the open tax liens resolved before the Township takes any action on the property.
    - It was discussed that the existing tax lien establishes the site control needed for grant program eligibility.

    - Bonne indicated she will share with this Committee communications between her and Mr. Nerwinski to better understand the town's position on Saturn Chemical so that we can advise on a possible pathway forward.
    - Bonne reiterated her interest in the trail that could be established between the Ben Franklin (BFS) and Lawrence Intermediate Schools (LIS). Following last month's meeting, Dave M. prepared a map with a detailed routing that he shared with committee members and our liaison.
    - Bonne will meet with the Township's Assistant Engineer Brenda Kraemer regarding making the BFS-LIS trail happen.
- On the Master Plan for the Township, there is a meeting next week for the public, on June 11, to provide a status update on the Plan and to provide their feedback and input.
- Other topics: John spoke about promoting awareness of the historical significance of various aspects of Lawrence's geography, including the identification of certain roads in the town to be considered as scenic and/or national historic byways; this would include installing more and improved signage and historical markers throughout Lawrence, for important roadways, waterways, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

This Committee's next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2.