Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Advisory Committee Minutes

September 2, 2026

Attendance:

- Dave Mizenko, Chair
- Dave Bosted
- Jim Hooker
- Paul Larson
- Laura Lynch
- Mike Meriney
- Matt Potts, Secretary
- Councilwoman Bonne Giglio, Township Council Liaison

Absent:

- John Emmons
- Jeff Lang

Also in attendance were interested members of the Community.

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

Meeting Discussion:

- The Committee approved the minutes recorded for the meeting from June 2026.
- Public Participation:
    - It was discussed that Trenton Block has moved to another business location within the Township, and that this Committee's support and advocacy for protecting open space and Township-owned land near the previous business location has been appreciated.
    - On behalf of Friends of the Lawrence Greenway, Dave M. discussed that they have submitted a formal written recommendation to the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission to include in their Master Plan a trail from Princess Road to the Canal Towpath (a trail that this Committee has been researching and advocating for). See Figure 1.
    - The Commission will be holding its next public input meeting for its Master Plan at the Lawrence Library next week on Tuesday, September 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.
    - Jim made a motion for this Committee to endorse the submitted recommendation made by the Friends of the Lawrence Greenway.
        - Dave B. seconded.
        - Vote: Dave M., Dave B., Jim, Paul, Laura, Mike, Matt: all ayes; carried.
- Discussion on the proposed BFS-LIS Connector Trail and the Safe Routes to School program:
    - Councilwoman Bonne Giglio met with Brenda Kraemer of the Engineering Department and township manager Kevin Nerwinski regarding this proposed trail and the safety of the route between these two schools. See Figure 2.

    - Within the last several months, there were three separate incidents involving children getting struck by motor vehicles at or near the intersection of Route 206 and Eggerts Crossing, emphasizing there is clearly much to improve regarding pedestrian safety.
    - While there is an existing local shuttle bus between LIS and Princeton Pike, more transportation options like this trail are needed to mitigate safety risks.
    - Community members present at the meeting offered suggestions and information on prior conversations around this topic, including the opportunity of performing a site review, two years ago, that was not done.
    - One potential path of success for this project may be pursuing funding from the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Program (https://www.saferoutesnj.org/).
    - Lawrence Township could apply for grant funding through this program to subsidize design and construction for a transportation solution as well as provide technical help.
- The group briefly discussed working with Council and the township manager while Mr. Nerwinski is on extended leave.
    - During this leave period, deputy township manager Chris Longo will serve as acting township manager.
    - Dave M. suggested that -- given the unknown duration of this leave period -- he, Bonne, and Mike meet with Chris about this Committee's proposal to clean up the Saturn Chemical property and other committee priorities.
    - Bonne agreed and will work to set up that meeting.
- Other topics:
    - Friends of Colonial Lake are hosting their Fall Fest event at the lake, on Saturday, September 19 from 12:00 to 4:00 pm, to promote community use of Lawrence's parks and open space.
    - As a general reminder, Bonne encouraged Committee members to keep bringing up topics and ideas for which we want to advocate and advise Council for the betterment of the community.
    - Laura mentioned the grant program she raised previously on establishing new pollinator gardens in town through PSE&G grant funding. It is too late to file any applications for this year, but we should keep this in mind for 2027 presuming the grant will be renewed again. More generally, this Committee will continue advocating for pollinator parks and gardens given their ecological and aesthetic benefits.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

This Committee's next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7.

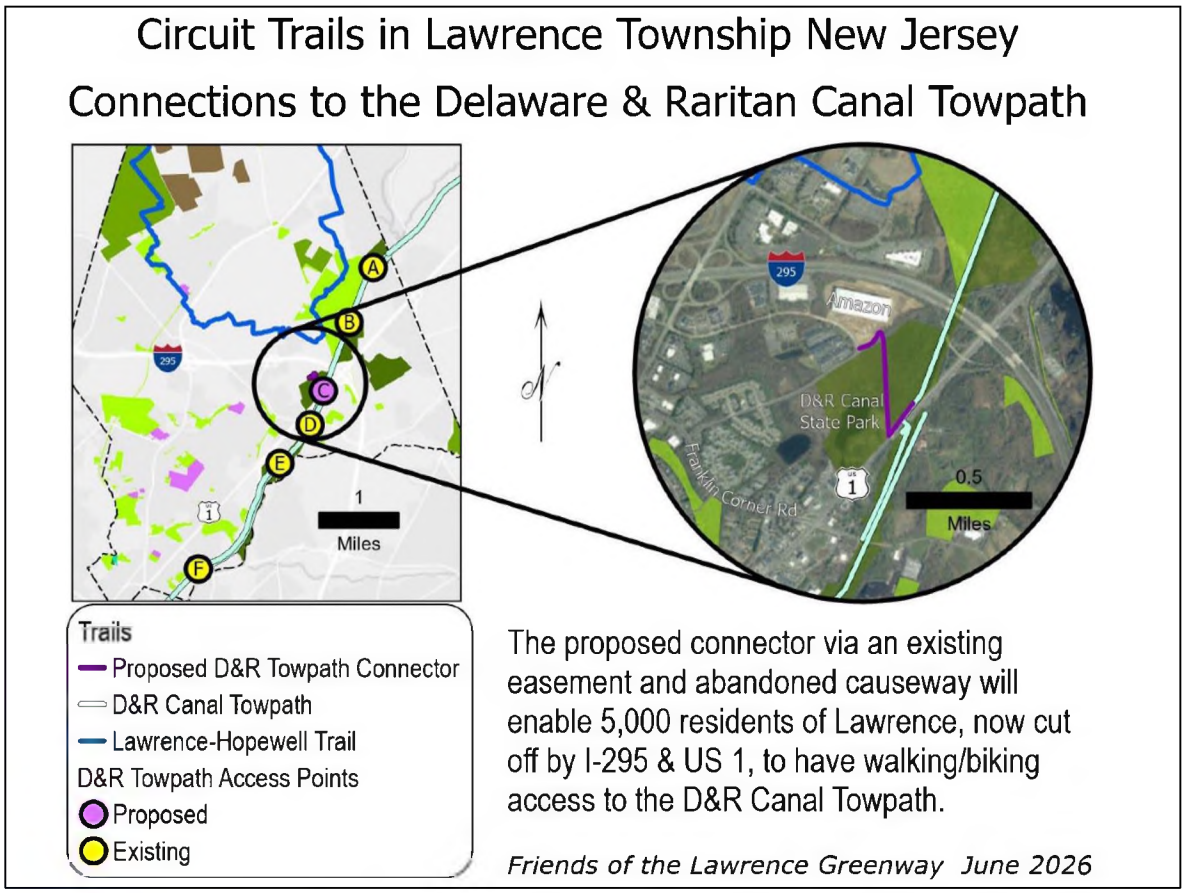


Figure 1

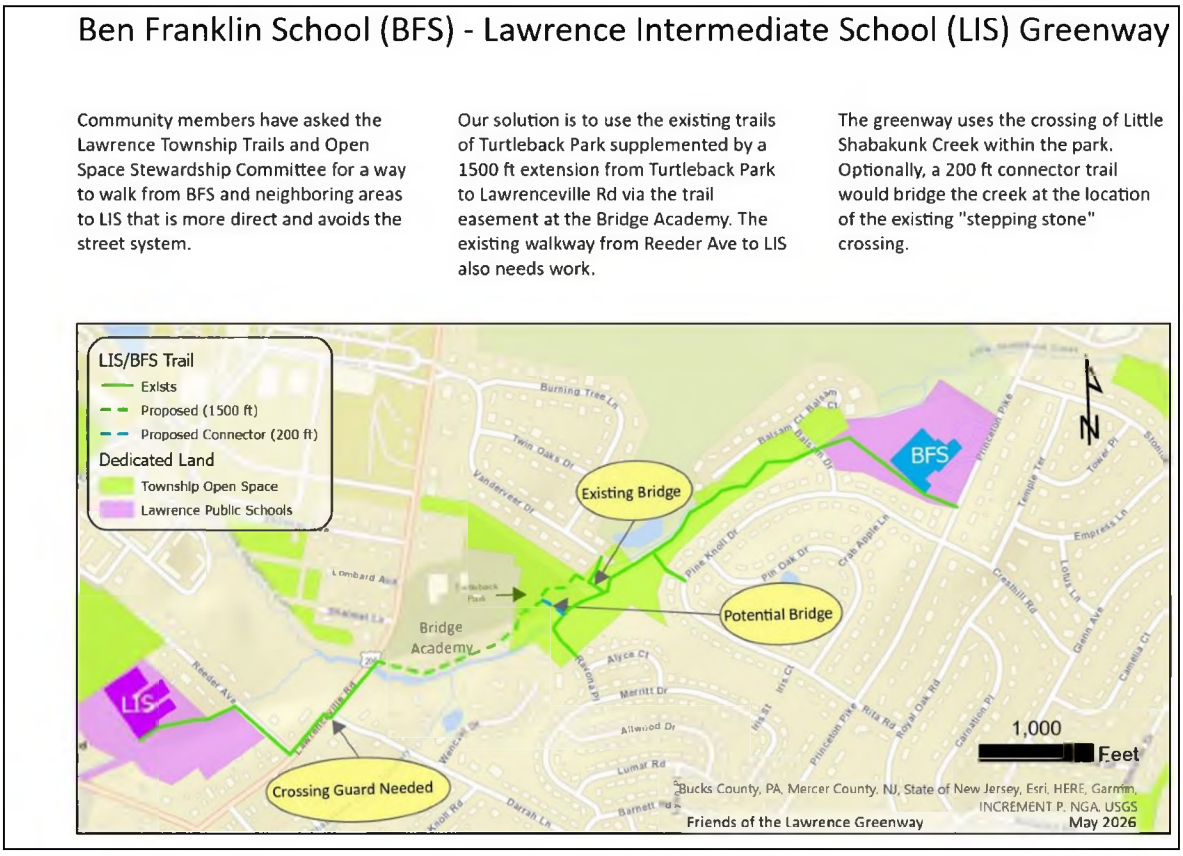


Figure 2