Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2026

Attendance:
- Dave Mizenko, Chair
- Dave Bosted
- Jim Hooker
- Laura Lynch
- Mike Meriney
- Matt Potts, Secretary

Absent:
- John Emmons
- Jeff Lang
- Paul Larson
- Councilwoman Bonne Giglio, Township Council Liaison

Also in attendance were interested members of the Community.

Meeting called to order at 7:37 pm by Dave Mizenko.

Meeting Discussion:
- The Committee approved the minutes recorded for the meeting of September 2026.
- Public Participation:
    - Dave M. expressed gratitude to this Committee on behalf of the Friends of the Lawrence Greenway (FOLG) for providing our support of the Princess Road connector trail initiative.
    - Dave spoke with John Hutchison, executive director of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission, stating that the trail has been a priority of this Committee, and that the Committee fully endorsed FOLG's advocacy to include the trail in the Commission's Master Plan.
    - Dave also expressed thanks to those who provided written comments in support of the project.
    - Mr. Hutchison reacted positively with interest regarding the inclusion of this project in the Canal Commission's Master Plan.
    - Dave representing FOLG also spoke at the Friends of Colonial Lake Park's Fall Fest about the proposed bridge over the neck of the Shabakunk Creek where it enters the lake and how this Committee advocated to township council about it. He encouraged members of the public to speak with council about their interest in it as well.
- The group discussed this Committee's officer roles for calendar year 2027:
    - The terms of both Jim and Matt expire at the end of this year, and they should expect to be contacted by the township clerk's office about continuing into another term.
    - Dave M. reflected on what will be his 27 years of Committee experience when his current term ends in a year.
    - In the new year, it was proposed that Mike would take the role as vice chair and Dave M. and Matt would continue in their current roles.
    - Dave B. made a motion to establish these officer roles for 2027.
        - Laura seconded.
        - Vote: Dave M., Dave B., Jim, Laura, Mike, Matt: all ayes; carried.

- The meeting schedule for 2027 was agreed to follow the existing convention wherein meetings will occur in the following months:
    - February, March, May, June, September, October, and November.
- On the BFS-LIS Connector Trail—Safe Routes to School effort:
    - It was discussed that council liaison Bonne has met with Brenda Kraemer, Assistant Municipal Engineer, who emailed Dave M. indicating that she's putting together a funding application for a grant from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.
    - Dave wrote back attaching our current proposal (see map in the September minutes) and offered to walk the route with Brenda for on-site discussions.
    - The project should include trail building and refinements, and drainage improvements on the walkway from Reeder Ave. to the Lawrence Intermediate School.
    - Mike offered his assistance with the application process, which Dave will pass along.
- Eggerts Crossing Road Bikeway:
    - Dave B. advocated for a bikeway the length of the road connecting Ewing to Lawrence.
    - Laura indicated having a bikeway on this roadway would help a great deal for those who travel it by bike.
    - A main challenge of this project would include improving the input/output conditions to this road where it connects with US Route 206.
    - A possible extension of this route could traverse further east in Lawrence to Business Route 1.
    - While the Lawrence Township Master Plan is still being drafted, we could advocate for having this concept added to that plan.
    - The proposal could be more successful if the plan were larger, by extending its pathway to Carnegie Road and the D&R Canal Towpath, and on-road into Hamilton to the NJ Transit Rail Station.
    - Moreover, accomplishing the overall plan by building such a new bikeway one segment or roadway at a time (in phases) could be logistically advantageous.
- Meeting with the Municipal Manager:
    - The text of the 2013 council ordinance that created this Committee was discussed.
    - That resolution tasks this Committee with advising the municipal manager as well as the Council.
    - As requested, Dave M. will send members a copy of the ordinance for their infomation and review.
- Additional Initiatives:
    - Dave M. will make inquiries regarding the Lavender Farm's sale status.
- Other Topics:
    - On Saturday, October 17, there will be a walk and talk event through the Big Woods at Rider University with the Aldo Leopold Foundation's executive director Buddy Huffaker. All are welcome to register online and join the event. Dave M. will share details provided by former committee member and Rider University professor Dan Druckenbrod of when/where people should meet.
    - To our knowledge, there is no action or intention to act on the Green Acres designation for the township owned open space adjacent to the former Trenton Block site (11 lots).
    - The next draft of the Lawrence Master Plan is expected to be ready for public review with the next month or so.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.