

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes
 March 28, 2023; 6:30 PM
Approved by the T&BC on April 25, 2023

Attendance

| District | Appointee | Present (in person) | Present (virtual) | Absent |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| At Large | Amy Latalladi-Fulton | | | ✓ |
| | Bill McCarty | ✓ | | |
| Brentsville | Tom Coyle | | | ✓ |
| | Liz Cronauer | ✓ | | |
| Coles | Mike DePue | ✓ | | |
| | Joe Marshall | ✓ | | |
| Gainesville | Duane Martin | | | ✓ |
| | VACANT | | | |
| Neabsco | Jason Williams | ✓ | | |
| | Rich Wilson | ✓ | | |
| Potomac | Raheel Sheikh | | ✓ | |
| | VACANT | | | |
| Occoquan | Eileen Sheridan | ✓ | | |
| | Neil Nelson | ✓ | | |
| Woodbridge | David Brickley | ✓ | | |
| | Lynda Silverstrand | | | ✓ |

Staff persons Patti Pakkala, Bryce Barrett, George Phillips, David McGettigan, Mark McCaskill, Kevin Costello and Rob Orrison were present;

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Liz Cronauer at 6:31 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

- February 28, 2023 minutes were approved through a motion by Jason and seconded by Neil.
- Liz sent out a notice asking for the T&BC to provide someone to take part in a set of workshops by the Office of Sustainability. Since no one indicated a strong interest, Liz will be that person.

- There was no action on virtual voting as the T&BC continues to wait for feedback from the county attorney.

Citizen's Time.

- No citizens present.

County Agency Representatives

PWC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Kevin Costello, Rob Orrison, Patti Pakkala

- Kevin Costello, the PWC Tourism Director since July 2022, addressed the T&BC. He handed out a condensed Tourism Development Plan for the next several years. He told the council that their funding comes from 5% of the 8% tourism occupancy tax. They are aligning their imperatives in the plan with the State Tourism Office's DRIVE 2.0 Program that help communities identify what they should be promoting and what they should be building. He pointed to the strategy concerning development of new recreation access and activities within the county as of most interest to the T&BC. Specifically, they want to create a water trail with more connectivity for users and connect the bike trails in the county together. Jason asked about getting a full-service hotel in the county and an adventure park.
- Kevin stated they were also looking into expanding Agrotourism in the county, and they are looking for working farm site in the county.
- Rob Orrison, Historic Preservation, talked about the 250-year commemorations of the Revolutionary War. The BOCS recently created a group to focus on this and work with the State Committee and they are planning lots of events with initial focus on 2026. It will extend through 2031 commemorating the Washington-Rochambeau armies marching through Prince William County in 1781 on their way to Yorktown. This is currently an auto trail. They hope to reach every 4th grader in PWC schools with these programs as well as tourists, citizens and others.
- Rob stated that the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) needs to get enhanced and finished in the county during this time to maximize tourist draws and opportunities. Routing the PHNST through Dumfries will allow the integration of historic buildings there to be weaved into the story.
- Rob mentioned that there are also plans to integrate a kayak launch at Neabsco boardwalk into the John Smith water trail commemorating his explorations in 1607 to 1608. This north end site off Blackburn Road is not ideal for getting boats to and from vehicles and they are looking into possible solutions such as stored carts that could be used to roll boats to and from.
- Rob stated that currently the county has historic sites covering 600 acres with 8 miles of trails and they hope to grow this to 900 acres. There are also ideas of resurrecting sections of the King's Highway that are currently controlled by HOAs – in light of other focused efforts, this is on the backburner.
- It was recommended that the T&BC remain in sync with all these plans and that ideas are shared in both directions.

PWC Department of Planning. David McGettigan, Patti Pakkala

- David announced that the roads and trails shown in the trails plan of the Mobility Section of the Comprehensive Plan was now encoded into the Prince William County Mapper. ([PWC-County Mapper \(pwcva.gov\)](https://pwcva.gov))
- He accessed the county mapper and demonstrated this capability. Trails may be found on the Land Development layer under Mobility Non-Motorized Trails and roads may be found under

Mobility Roadways Plan. Bringing up the Legend shows the color-coding used. One can also see the pending cases from the planning office as a Land Development layer.

- Patti stated that each Greenway will require a Master Plan before implementing anything. A detailed trails plan is still underway from DPRT.

PWC Transportation. George Phillips, Bryce Barrett

- Bike to Work Day will be on May 19th. A bike raffle is part of this. Brochures and posters are available and were handed out to T&BC members at the meeting.

Presentations/Reports.

- Four resolutions were originally distributed for consideration at this meeting.
 - The resolution requesting funding to complete the PHNST in Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge was pulled and not discussed since that funding was obtained prior to the meeting.
 - A resolution that the County adopt language in its DCSM that requires compliance with the Countywide Trails Plan for by-right developments was discussed. Fairfax County already has this in their equivalent document and has been requiring this for years. After discussion and some wordsmithing, a motion to approve the resolution was made by Jason and seconded by Rich. It was unanimously approved by those present at the meeting. After the meeting, Liz signed the approved resolution with the words from the Fairfax manual attached and sent it to the BOCS. Resolution 23-1 is attached to these minutes.
 - A resolution that the County commit to constructing a continuous route for the PHNST in Prince William County by the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence was discussed. The reference to this 250th anniversary remained in the resolution, but the target completion date was moved to the end of 2031 to allow for a realistic completion date that covers the full range of Revolutionary War commemoration activities. After some final wordsmithing, a motion to approve the resolution was made by Bill and seconded by David. It was unanimously approved by those present at the meeting. After the meeting, Liz signed the approved resolution and sent it to the BOCS. Resolution 23-2 is attached to these minutes.
 - A resolution requesting that the County include the Aspirational Trails Plan map in the Countywide Trails Plan with option to request citizen participation in the process was discussed at length. The broadness of the resolution and its potential to reopen many trail sections was balanced against the potential staffing required, the need for a comprehensive plan amendment, and lack of certain trail sections in the plan. In the end it was decided to table the resolution for this meeting with the recommendation that a specific list of one or more trails be part of any future resolution requesting this.
- Next, the discussion of forming a PHNST subcommittee led to the realization that such a subcommittee was formed in 2009 shortly after the formation of the T&BC and that it never was dissolved, just remained inactive. David and Lynda were original members. After the meeting, David send T&BC members copies of the original minutes that created it and the minutes from the one meeting it held in 2010.
- David agreed to chair the reconstituted committee and Neil, Jason, Liz, Eileen and Joe volunteered to join him and Lynda.

- The first meeting was discussed as possibly happening prior to a regular T&BC meeting. However, David felt that might be rushed and set the first meeting for Thursday April 20th at 1 PM at the Parks Building and open to the public.

Organization Representatives' Time

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC). Eileen Sheridan, Vice Chair, Neil Nelson, Secretary

- The April quarterly meeting will be at 10 AM on April 20th at the Science Center and virtual.
- They are submitting paperwork to become a 501c3 organization.

Prince William Trails & Streams Coalition (PWTSC). Neil Nelson

- Lynda and Neil and Supervisor Angry took part in photos of cleaning the waters using the Bandalong.
- The Marumsc Cleanup of the Wetlands took place on March 18th with very good turnout.
- The 2nd Sunday hike in April will be along Bull Run starting at the Mayhew Complex. A bonus hike also along Bull Run will start at Ben Lomond Park on the 3rd Sunday. Neil reported that the bluebells are currently at their peak along Bull Run. Valley View Park also has awesome bluebells.

Mid Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE). Jason Williams, Rich Wilson

- The cleanup of the northwest corner of Andrew Leitch Park on March 11th had lots of help. More than 45 people took part collecting 2232 pounds of trash. Supervisor Angry spoke at the event.

Members' Time:

- Amy:
 - Not in attendance.
- Bill:
 - Retired Sergeant Eubanks led his ROTC group to help with cleanups. Bill will write up a commendation letter.
 - Bill asked whether the East Coast Greenway is on the PWC Mapper. It is.
- David:
 - David is involved with Patti and others evaluating bids for the Powell's Creek Crossing. Five bids were received, have been getting scored individually they will be looked at together on March 29th.
 - He is looking at some very old road segments as potentials for new trails.
- Duane:
 - Not in attendance.
- Eileen:
 - No comments.
- Jason:
 - Jason reported that a tree fell on one of the bridges on the Discovery Trail. He is working with Eugene to get the volunteer maintenance program going. It is about 90% ready.
 - He rode the Occoquan Greenway on bike and noticed some landowner moved trees and dirt onto the trail.
 - He commended the great efforts of PWC Park Rangers.
- Joe:
 - Joe reported that he spoke during citizen's time at the last BOCS meeting on trails and the budget. He recommends others try to do this occasionally to keep T&BC topics on their minds.

- Joe mentioned and recommended the new mapping app unveiled by the NVRC showing all 100+ miles of the PHNST in northern Virginia.
- Joe took part in the second Sunday hike at the Landfill – it snowed during the hike and he reported on the many young eagles that could be seen from the new overlook section of the trail. Patti said they are trying to have a ribbon cutting in June on Trails Day. There are two new kiosks that will go on the trail – at the trailhead and at the overlook.
- Liz:
 - No comments
- Lynda:
 - Not in attendance
- Mike:
 - Thanked everyone for all their efforts.
 - He would like to see a blueway access inventory and future plans for access at the next meeting. He would like 2 or 3 blueway access points where boats can be easily taken off a vehicle and placed on the water. He would like to see these on the County Mapper.
 - He also thought the Route 234 bridge rapids could be worked around and made into a good put in. This would allow down and back canoeing from that spot.
- Neil:
 - Neil rode the Occoquan Greenway Trail and reported that they are pouring concrete for abutments on one bridge and that plans are 100% complete for the Hooes Run Bridge. He asked about LRHOA easements issues and Patti confirmed they were being worked.
- Raheel:
 - No comments.
- Rich:
 - No comments.
- Tom:
 - Not in attendance.

Meeting Recap:

- None

Next meeting agenda items:

- Transportation is asked for trail status along the Route 28 bypass and 234 Pedestrian bridge at the Brentsville interchange. Also, updates on each interchange's trail status along Route 234 bypass from the Brentsville interchange to the Balls Ford interchange.
- Discussion of Blueways and Blueways Access points
- Reports from the PHNST Subcommittee.
- Agenda items for the April meeting should be forwarded to Liz, Amy or Joe by April 10th.

Next meetings:

At Hellwig: PHNST Subcommittee – April 20th at 1 PM

At Hellwig: Full T&BC – April 25th at 6:30 PM.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM based on motion by Eileen, second by Rich

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

MOTION: Jason Williams

March 28, 2023
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 23-1

SECOND: Rich Wilson

RE: RECOMMEND DCSM MODIFICATIONS TO ENSURE TRAILS IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ARE INCLUDED IN ANY SITE PLAN

ACTION:

WHEREAS, The Design Construction and Standards Manual (DCSM) identifies the requirements which apply to the review and approval of site development plans and plats, and construction in accordance with those plans. The current version of DCSM does not require site plans to include trails that have been identified in the Comprehensive Plan and specifically, the newly adopted Countywide Trails Plan; and

WHEREAS, Other jurisdictions in the Commonwealth of Virginia, using such as the attached document, have required development of their planned trails on public and private property through their Public Facilities Manual; and

WHEREAS, While Section 900 of the DCSM refers to trails, it does not make reference to those that appear in the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, Inclusion of the words "Trails shown on the Countywide Trails Plan must be constructed by the developer where these trails abut or cross property to be developed or improved. Construction of these countywide trails must occur in conjunction with development."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council recommends to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors that they ensure development compliance with the Countywide Trails Plan for all development that requires a site plan submission.

Votes:

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Absent from Vote: 1 (virtual attendance)

Absent from Meeting: 5

SIGNED: 

Liz Cronauer, Chair, Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council

8-0200 TRAILS

8-0201 General Information

1. 8-0201.1
The [Countywide Trails Plan](#) depicts the general location of proposed public trails along roadways, streams, and utility easements. The [Countywide Trails Plan](#) was adopted in 1976 by the [Board](#) as part of the [Comprehensive Plan of Fairfax County](#). On October 28, 2014, the [Board](#) adopted an amendment to the [Countywide Trails Plan](#) which updated trail cross sections and incorporated the [Bicycle Network Map](#) by reference.
2. 8-0201.2
The [Countywide Trails Plan](#) is implemented primarily through the rezoning, subdivision plan and site plan review process; the [Capital Improvement Program](#); the [FCPA](#) park development process; and occasionally through private community efforts.
3. 8-0201.3
Trails shown on the [Countywide Trails Plan](#) must be constructed by the developer where these trails abut or cross property to be developed or improved. Construction of these countywide trails must occur in conjunction with development as required by the standards and criteria set forth in [§ 8-0202 et seq.](#) and as required by other County regulations and [FCPA](#) policies.
 - A. A.
The final location of trails is approved by the [Director](#) after review by the [FCDOT](#) and/or [FCPA](#) and other reviewing staff as applicable.
4. 8-0201.4
In lieu of the required construction of trails shown on the [Countywide Trails Plan](#), an alternate trail or access facility (such as a road) may be approved by the Director upon favorable recommendation from [FCDOT](#) and/or [FCPA](#). Alternate facilities should be adjacent or roughly parallel to the street or stream designated on the [Countywide Trails Plan](#). The design and location of alternate facilities should provide equal or better access than the planned trail. A public access easement to the [Board](#) or [FCPA](#), as appropriate, is required where these alternate facilities cross privately owned land or coincide with private access facilities. This will ensure that alternate trails or access facilities become part of the Countywide Trails System.
5. 8-0201.5
As part of the requirements of the [Countywide Trails Plan](#), developers may be required to construct trail segments to link developments to countywide trails or to private community trails, recreation areas and facilities. Such access may be deemed to improve circulation and access. [FCDOT](#) and/or [FCPA](#) and other reviewing staff determine the trail type, surface and width in accordance with current standards and anticipated use.
6. 8-0201.6
When countywide trails are to be constructed, maintenance and operation jurisdiction must be determined during the site/subdivision plan approval process and depicted on the plan. Public access/trail easements must be conveyed to the [Board](#), [FCPA](#) or the [NOVA Parks](#), as deemed appropriate by the Director. The easement width and jurisdiction must be clearly indicated on the site plan and recorded in the County land records. Table 8.4 describes the maintenance and operation jurisdiction of proposed and existing trails.

Figure 1. Fairfax County PFM Section 8-0200 – attached to T&BC Resolution 23-1

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL
Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

MOTION: Bill McCarty

March 28, 2023
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 23-2

SECOND: David Brickley

RE: COMPLETION OF THE PHNST IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY BY DECEMBER 31, 2031 - IN TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN CELEBRATIONS OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

ACTION:

WHEREAS, The 250th Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence is on July 4, 2026 and regional events are planned that will attract significant tourism and other economic activity to the Northern Virginia area; and

WHEREAS, The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) could play a central role in highlighting the many historically significant sites in the County; and

WHEREAS, The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail is presently discontinuous in several places, which significantly diminishes its attraction; and

WHEREAS, These sections of trail are critical to creating a continuous PHNST trail through the County in order to take full advantage of regional events celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council recommends that the County creates a plan to ensure a continuous PHNST route within its boundaries by March 31, 2031, in order to fully participate in the commemorations of the 250th Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route.

Votes:

Ayes: 8

Nays: 8

Absent from Vote (virtual only): 1

Absent from Meeting: 5

SIGNED: 
Liz Cronauer, Chair, Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council