

Prince William County  
**TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL**

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023; 6:30 PM

**Approved by the T&BC on October 24, 2023**

**Attendance**

District	Appointee	Present (in person)	Present (virtual)	Absent
At Large	Amy Latalladi-Fulton	✓		
	Bill McCarty	✓		
Brentsville	VACANT			
	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	✓		

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff persons Patti Pakkala, Janet Bartnik, and Eugene Loew were present. Bryce Barrett (Transportation) and David Kroeger, new DPR Planner, attended virtually.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Liz Cronauer at 6:30 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Administrative**

Minutes Approvals

- The August 22, 2023 meeting minutes were approved through a motion by Eileen and seconded by Jason.
- The August 9, 2023 Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) Subcommittee meeting minutes were approved through a motion by Neil and seconded by Eileen.

- The September 20th, 2023 PHNST Subcommittee meeting minutes were approved through a motion by Eileen and seconded by Amy.

### **Resolution 23-6**

Liz summarized the resolution addressing specific alignment gaps in segments of the PHNST. Eileen noted that the hope for this resolution is that its format can serve as a future example by using the same language to propose additional resolutions to fill other PHNST segment gaps. Goals discussed included staying close to the water, doing whatever is needed to do to stay close to the water (emphasis on “scenic”), instead of the connections being put on some road.

Lynda mentioned that she met with Supervisor Margaret Franklin’s fellow appointees on Saturday, September 23, 2023, and Lynda and David provided a handout showing the PHNST connections under the I-95 & Route 1 overpasses.

The resolution was adopted through a motion by Lynda and seconded by Eileen.

Following the adoption of the resolution, Eileen and Neil said that they wrote to VDOT to ask about rights of way, etc. and whether they can even connect the PHNST under the (proposed) I-95 & Route 123 intersection. This was done in order to make desires known before the public hearing. Eileen said that a VDOT mentioned something about “limited access” that gave her trepidation. Eileen said that, ultimately, the worst-case scenario would mean taking concerns to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to approve of such “limited access.” Eileen and Neil said that they saw the “use permit” as a separate action from the CTB. Eileen concluded by saying that the proposed design has the first multiuse trail going over ramps and I-95 and the TBC needs to be loud about how awful it is due to high speeds of entrance/ exit ramps.

### **Attendance Update**

Janet explained that, due to our subject matter at the August meeting regarding attendance impacting quorum, changes have been made. Janet has a reminder that virtual does *not* count as attendance. Janet reached out to supervisors’ offices to provide an update on attendance. Tom Cole resigned after not attending any of the meetings in the last year, with regrets.

TBC Bylaws state that after three subsequent absences in one year, a member is due to resign  
Current TBC vacancies: 1 Brentsville, 1 Potomac, 1 Gainesville

### **Citizens’ Time**

- No citizens present.

### **County Agency Representatives**

#### **PWC Department of Parks and Recreation (Patti Pakkala, Eduardo DeLeon)**

- Patti introduced new DPR employee David Kroeger, Planner. David came from Loudoun and Fairfax Counties’ zoning offices, spent time with VDOT, and had an internship with VA Rails Conservancy. David’s hobbies (including hiking, mountain biking, whitewater and sea kayaking) were met with TBC enthusiasm. David also noted that he has training as a VA Master Naturalist and Swift Water Rescue.
- **FLAP Grant Gap Analysis Project:** In a Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) Resolution last week, the County approved the transportation part of the match, and staff are now working to get the full budget allocated. This is awaiting a board agenda date; once funds are allocated DPR will bring on consultants.
- **Occoquan Greenway update** (Ed DeLeon): Updates on segments of the Greenway included:

- Segment 2, consisting of roughly 700 feet of trail rerouting and 50 foot fiberglass bridge, is at the 50% concept phase.
- Jason said that he and Neil were there and cleared logs off the trail after looking at the eastern side of segment, and suggested keeping that section high rather than “rav/nous”; Ed said they will meet offline to look at it.
- Hedges Run bridge should be completed in next few weeks after sign off from county inspector.
- Segment 4: 40' fiberglass bridge off of Antietam Rd., between Alton Hotel Court and Edgemoore Court. The second submission of minor sight plan is completed and should be approved in the next few weeks. The building permit is under design and will be submitted in the next few weeks.
- Segment 6: Another installment of 130' bridge, including a mile of public trail segments, is awaiting building and site approval over next month.
- Easement rerouting: DPR working with Lake Ridge Parks and Recreation Association (Jason said he and Neil would reply to email on this subject). Eileen asked if this was rerouting away from private property, as a concern – Ed said that might be another segment. Neil mentioned a segment off of Colby Dr., and Ed said there are several private property issues they're working to resolve.
- Segment 8, by town of Occoquan: Installing 450 feet of new sidewalk on Ellicott St. and ADA ramps on existing sidewalk in the vicinity; Eileen asked where exactly sidewalk is, and Ed confirmed that the sidewalk is on Tanyard Hill Rd./Union Street UP to Ellicott St. including continuation of Ellicott St. sidewalk to Mill St. Ed said this project is getting kicked off and the site survey will only be completed in October. Jason said he'd like to walk and talk with Eduardo about the trail segment in that area as it's not currently sustainable.

## **PWC Department of Planning (Patti Pakkala)**

### **Development Applications**

Patti said she and Yolanda are still trying to work on how to present TBC with development updates going forward instead of just raw DAPS, similar to how Patti previously presented them. Patti gave a rundown of current projects of interest using County Mapper.

- **Thomas Farm & Bristoe Station:** Staff is seeking an open space/trail connection between the two separated BSBH Park parcels. The proposed residential development is fairly dense, planned mixed residential, and does not provide much open space and/or a connect of the BSHP properties. Liz noted a railroad track crossing might be needed as a future connection to Valley View Park per the trails shown on the Trails Plan. The big issue with Thomas Farm is there needs to be a green space/ buffer by tracks and eventually how to get a trail connection over the railroad tracks. (Per Liz.) Per Patti, there are a lot of routes that still need to be evaluated to make the connection to Valley View.
- **Bristow Campus Data Center Rezoning:** The plan originally was for high rise buildings but they didn't fit well with the airport overlay district. The portion of the property along Broad Run is designated Parks and Open Space in the County comp plan; Patti is seeking a property dedication or trail easement for a continuation of the trail along Broad Run. Youth for Tomorrow had a trail easement in their previous SUP approval, but it was not retained in the most recent SUP approval. The data center developers have so far been open to DPR's interests for getting trail segments back in this area. Patti stated a trail alignment along both sides of Broad Run is desired, with a potential bridge crossing to the County-owned parcel to the east,

next to Target.. Bill asked about easements further to the north on the east side of Broad Run; DPR is aware of issues/gaps in the easements on that side and is and will be working with the landowners to correct concerns.

- A more detailed update on the Broad Run Greenway status was suggested for the next TBC meeting.
- **Manassas Logistics Center** – DPR is seeking a trail easement to continue the Broad Run Greeway Trail south of Rt. 28.
- **Bristoe Station Development (Vint Hill & 28)**: Current plan is for single family houses at the back with townhousetoward Rt. 28, including a set-back shared use path along Rt. 28 with fitness stations proposed, which are not desirable to DPR staff.. There may be a possible famers market structure/ pavilion that could be rented out by the HOA. It will connect across by the Giant shopping plaza on Linton Hall Road.
- Bryce confirmed what Patti said about early stages of development process/es for the projects Patti detailed.

#### **PWC Transportation (Bryce Barrett)**

- **Old Bridge and Prince William Parkway** update: The north side will have shared use path. The location of these SUPs will be moved/ substantially changed. The south side will have sidewalks, with sidewalks tying into existing sidewalks on Old Bridge Road (existing sidewalks don't appear on plan). Limited access facility – parcels can't have curb cuts.
  - A question from Eileen regarding crossing lanes to access the Chinn Rec Center as a pedestrian started a lively discussion on safety. Bryce said the design is similar to PW Parkway and Hoadly, which is an improvement for drivers, but tough and unsafe for pedestrians. Eileen said the right turn onto Old Bridge from Parkway is a safety problem for pedestrians with current and proposed car movement. Eileen asks for Transportation to remove grade crossings because of the extreme difficulty with crossing high volume lanes of traffic – solutions are needed, e.g. a bridge over Old Bridge, to get people safely across.
    - *“At grade is not a solution” – Eileen Sheridan*
  - Liz suggested a possible resolution addressing the pre-design of the project. Bryce noted at this stage in the project that they will have to address all comments received, both from general public and BOCS/ TBC like organizations. *(Patti suggested drafting a uniform comment for all TBC members to share to send to respective supervisors' offices to expedite transmittal of concerns, rather than 1-2 meeting delay of resolution process.)*
- **Yorkshire Multimodal Corridor Grant**: A consultant has been awarded: Foursquare (who also did the Innovation Shuttle Feasibility Study).
- **Design and Construction Standards Manual (DCSM) Update**: Good progress, deep in the weeds. Working on addressing changes needed to standards – bike/ ped components still pending. Parking is a big piece to be addressed. Bryce will continue to share DCSM updates with TBC going forward, especially as they pertain to bike/ ped. Working to include by-right trail components in DCSM (big TBC cheers!!!). Patti noted that trail standards are included, but those need to be concurrent with new County standards.

#### **Early Member's Time/ Org Time**

- Bill: Prince William Trails & Streams Coalition is having their fall cleanup this weekend, September 30, 2023 (postponed from weekend of September 23<sup>rd</sup> due to poor weather

conditions). There are still open spots for water cleanups. Registration has closed for the land cleanup at the launch point below the Lake Jackson dam.

### **Presentations/ Reports**

#### **Underpasses for Planned Trails (Liz Cronauer)**

Eileen quickly pointed out to be mindful in general of crossing over roads, crossing over water, especially if the Comp Plan has SUP (per Liz).

- Example: Catharpin Creek had a trail change due to County departments not speaking with each other during improvements, and it is now virtually impassable to pedestrians.
- Example from 2024 Mobility Chapter: Powell's Creek. ...
- Liz provided list of Brentsville District examples for examination/ consideration, including blueway targets (Aden Road over Cedar Run, Route 28 over Broad Run, and Sudley Manor Drive over Broad Run). Liz emphasized getting in on the planning/ proposal stages of road projects via resolution to suggest that these planned trails (or bridges) get accommodated ahead of time, even if full project is not built. Janet said Liz' district examples are perfect to use as examples, and asked TBC members to ponder where examples in other districts lie. Eileen suggested Neabsco Greenway and Jason nodded enthusiastically. Patti agreed so that the resolution includes all of the above, and current suggestions that should be monitored (looked out for).
  - Mike asked for clarification of *\*just\** what a blueway target would be: Liz suggested clearance (no giant culverts, no tunnel effect (per Mike)), access points e.g. existing parking easy to blueway (*\*COUGH\** Aden Road *\*coughcough\**). *Bryce said there will likely be no updates to Mobility Chapter until DCSM updates – blueway chapter may be done in one fell swoop in the next year or so (Summer 2024).* Liz emphasized that if the trail is not there, don't completely give up.

### **Organization Representatives' Time**

#### **Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC) (Eileen Sheridan, Vice Chair)**

- The October Trails Summit is currently full of speakers. Jurisdictions include Manassas, Manassas Park, Town of Occoquan, PWC, several people from Loudoun, a representative from Arlington, many from Fairfax, and someone from Alexandria. Sessions/ presentations are still being finalized; the goal is to prompt discussion. Eileen said they may want to consider a focus on people and connections, in order to understand the process of how to get things done and who is making that happen.
- Related question (Eileen): Has PWC ever gotten Chesapeake Gateway grants? (Conversation between Eileen, Patti, Janet regarding possibilities will be taken offline.)

#### **Prince William Trails & Streams Coalition (PWTSC) (Neil Nelson)**

- Occoquan cleanup on Saturday, September 30, 2023.
- The second Sunday hike in October will be October 8, 2023 on the Neabsco Greenway in Cloverdale and Darbydale. It should be open, but, per Jason, entrance still being cleaned up.
- Stand by for an announcement on the First Friday hike on October 6, 2023.

#### **Mid Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE) (Jason Williams)**

- SMOREs turnout continues, and turnout is great. Available outside of PWC, too. Includes women's ride, too.

Eugene noted that he can provide volunteer update on future agenda, when time permits.

**Additional Updates (Patti Pakkala):**

- Rollins Road Park ribbon cutting is the morning of October 7, 2023.
- Signs arrived for the Landfill/ Discovery Trail! (Great enthusiasm from the TBC) An interpretive sign for Smith's Rock history will be included.
- DPRT is now just DPR; T(ourism) is now under the Economics Development. Per Janet, this will help align County departments to the County strategic plan.

**Members' Time**

- **Jason:** Jason and Rich met with new Neabsco Parks Commissioner, Joseph George. They have many common interests. Rich and Joseph walked local trails. A suggestion for supervisors' monthly newsletters: *Parks & Rec Corner*, including TBC highlights?
  - One goal is to revitalize batting cages at Logan Field behind Sharon Baucom Rec Center (Patti noted some difficulties with that.)
- **Rich:** Continuing Jason's comments, went on Neabsco Greenway walk with Jason and Supervisor Angry the next day.
- **Janet:** Choose your polos!!! Jason's idea to boost TBC recognition at public events (after he first got Parks & Rec sunglasses from Janet LaFleur).
- **Amy:** Please be patient regarding attempt at drafting minutes! (And feel free to send copious corrections/ edits/ additions.)
- **Liz:** Very grateful for staff's help (particularly Patti and Janet running meetings and putting together agenda packages.
- **Mike:** Appreciates Liz bringing up topic of trail/ SUP grade separation. Very difficult to address after the fact.
- **Lynda:** No comment.
- **Neil:** No comment other than the questions raised earlier about the significant sewer line construction project within the landfill, which has disrupted the Discovery Trail. Tom Smith (Public Works) called it a private sewer line in an update to the BOCS on September 19th.
- **Eileen:** No comment.

**Meeting Recap:**

- None

**Next meeting agenda items:**

- Draft resolution for trails and underpasses (Liz)
- Duane: I-66 underpass ribbon cutting ceremony

**Next meeting(s):**

At Hellwig: Full TBC – October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

**Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM based on motion by Lynda, second by Jason.