

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes
 November 19, 2024; 6:30 PM

Attendance

District	Appointee	Present (in person)	Present (virtual)	Absent
At Large	Amy Latalladi-Fulton (VCH)		✓	
	Bill McCarty		✓	
Brentsville	Liz Cronauer (CHR)	✓		
	Catherine O'Connor	✓		
Coles	Mike DePue			✓
	Joe Marshall (SEC)	✓		
Gainesville	Duane Martin			✓
	Ken Johnson	✓		
Neabsco	Jason Williams	✓		
	Rich Wilson			✓
Occoquan	Eileen Sheridan	✓		
	Neil Nelson	✓		
Potomac	Steven Cover	✓		
	VACANT			
Woodbridge	David Brickley		✓	
	Lynda Silverstrand	✓		

Staff persons David Kroeger, Patti Pakkala, Yolanda Hipski, Robert Boyd and DPR Deputy Director Janet Bartnik were present. Bryce Barrett attended virtually.

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

- October 22nd T&BC minutes were approved through a motion by Neil and seconded by Eileen.
- A resolution (24-20) for virtual access by Bill McCarty was made by Jason and seconded by Steve and approved.

- Resolutions for remote access were sought by David Brickley and Amy Latalladi-Fulton but denied because they had already attended two virtual meetings in 2024. It was subsequently discovered that the rules actually allow for three remote participations per year rather than the assumed two and sincere apologies are offered to David and Amy for not closely examining the rules before excluding them from the meeting.
- The September 25th Gap Stakeholder Notes were approved through a motion by Neil and seconded by Eileen.
- Acceptance of the PHNST October 23rd Subcommittee meeting minutes were approved through a motion by Eileen and seconded by Neil.
- Nominations were received and accepted by the following members for 2025 positions:
 - Chair – Liz Cronauer
 - Vice Chair – Catherine O’Connor
 - Secretary – Neil Nelson

Citizen’s Time.

- Charlie Grymes mentioned the Joint Environmental Task Force and Comprehensive Safety Action Plan that he is working on with Bryce Barrett. Their assignment is to assess gaps in sidewalks and trails at intersections and capture results using an app. They are looking for help – takes about 5 minutes per entry. Catherine volunteered to work with Bryce. Linda and Jason each identified many of these gaps in their list of CIP improvements.
- Kimberly Palacios introduced herself and is on tap to become the second Potomac T&BC member on December 10th. She is especially interested in the PHNST and its intersection with PWFPP.
- Russell Bryant thanked the T&BC for their district and at large trail priorities. He recommends all members follow up not just with their supervisor but also the supervisor’s chief of staff. Janet includes the chief of staff on the notes she sends to districts each month. It was suggested that appropriate resolutions also be shared with Park Commission representatives.

County Agency Representatives

PWC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Janet Bartnik, Patti Pakkala, David Kroeger, Robert Boyd

- David reported on the FLAP Grant Gaps Study Project for the PHNST. They have had some targeted stakeholder meetings in late October and early November. The study should complete by March. There will be a public stakeholder meeting in January.
- The Powell’s Creek Crossing project is finalizing scope for pricing the selected design. They are trying to get a reasonable price range for building the crossing.
- There was a meeting with local HOA’s surrounding Dove’s Landing Park in the past week. They received lots of inputs from the HOA and collected specific concerns with the master plan. They plan to have a public meeting showing their 10% complete design heading toward 35% on January 8th at the Pat White Center. It was especially recommended that advocates for blueways attend. There should be a webpage for the project available in December.

PWC Transportation. Bryce Barrett

- Bryce reported that the trail counter on the bridge over 234 at the Brentsville Overpass has collected significant data showing hundreds of bike users and thousands of walkers. He is impressed with what he can do with the data on the counter’s app. He will pass this data on to Janet so it can be placed on social media to show the value of that bridge. He plans to use both

counters on Sudley Road to baseline numbers for the Sudley Road Urban Land Institute (ULI) Tap Grant study.

- Bryce described the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and its compressed timeline so it can produce data for some upcoming grant applications. There will be a first meeting during the second week of December. Anyone from the T&BC is welcome to join the group – contact Bryce.
- Bryce has been working on new additions to the 2025 Bike-to-Work Day. He has been working with Chloe from Manassas. He hopes to sponsor bike safety classes and send bike repair kits to the libraries by May.
- Eileen asked about why the new Opitz road sections do not have the required high visibility crosswalks that are not VDOT required.

PWC Planning, Yolanda Hipski

- Yolanda is working on the Sudley Road ULI study along with Bryce.
- Planning is busy adding more staff.
- The Vint Hill Study is moving forward.
- The second revision of the Manassas Mall application has been received.

Community Development Applications

- David Kroeger discussed the Stack Infrastructure Update and how there will be a trail completed from Route 28 to Saybrook and a spur route to Hornbaker Road.
- It was mentioned that some of these trails are being built as part of the data centers. Thus, in some cases good is coming out of the data centers and should garner some support.
- See attached list of recent rezonings received.

Presentations/Reports.

Belmont Bay Development, Liz Cronauer

- A resolution was brought forward that supports the transfer of open space in Belmont Bay for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) so that it can stay near the water. Though Parks are supposed to get three open space parcels, only one will be used for the PHNST. The resolution was edited to emphasize this. The final edited Resolution 24-21 was made by Eileen and seconded by Ken and passed unanimously.

Land Acquisition Process, Janet Bartnik

- Janet provided a presentation and report (attached) of the various methods of land acquisition used by the Parks department. Parks will meet in closed session with the supervisors to discuss and prioritize acquisitions. Janet can only talk about the process, not any active acquisitions.
- Janet's birthday and contributions over the past year were recognized by the T&BC and celebrated with a cake.

Organization Representatives' Time

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC). Eileen Sheridan

- The next GPWTC quarterly meeting will be in January 2025.

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

- The Second Sunday hike in December will be around Belmont Bay and its waterfront on December 8th.
- Neil and Lynda will be at the Neabsco Boardwalk on Nov 21 to support DPR with their presentation to the Leadership Prince William class.

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

- Earlier in the month 16 volunteers worked to improve a jump line at Locust Shade Park.
- A trail on the north side of Locust Shade Park was reopened in November.
- Rich and Jason were named Trail Builders of the Year by the local Free Masons lodge.

Trails Keepers. Catherine O'Connor

- There will be a cleanup along Wellington with the PW Water and Soil after Thanksgiving.
- They are looking for donations to reach \$15K so they can add a trail at James Long Park.
- Thanks to a supporting letter from Supervisor Gordy, there are now over 100 members of Trails Keepers.

Members' Time:

- Amy:
 - No report.
- Bill:
 - No report.
- Catherine:
 - No report.
- David:
 - No report.
- Duane:
 - Duane was not present.
- Eileen:
 - No report.
- Jason:
 - Jason described the Neabsco Community Day with food, activities and music.
- Joe:
 - Joe showed an old Prince William County Parks Master Plan from 1993. According to Patti, this is the most recent plan created.
 - Joe reported that at that day's BOCS meeting Supervisor Vega asked that the recent T&BC's resolutions on federal funding of trails and state proffers be included in the Legislative Agenda for 2025.
 - Joe thanked Janet for installing the bike rack in front of the Parks building.
 - Joe showed maps and a page of pictures from his recent trip to American Samoa National Park. He highlighted coconut crabs and the large fruit bats that were native on those islands.
- Ken:
 - No Report.
- Liz:
 - Liz is interested in forming a short-term subcommittee to address the many Vint Hill rezonings in progress to get inputs to these ready. Janet will participate in this group.

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- Lynda:
 - Since there was no rain in October, the Bandalong stayed clear. She plans to clean it in the next few days.
- Mike:
 - Mike was not present.
- Neil:
 - Neil asked about the progress being made with the Kayak launch at the Neabsco Boardwalk. Additional parking is being created though one will still have to walk a quarter mile from regular parking to launch a canoe or kayak.
- Rich:
 - Rich was not present.
- Steven:
 - Steven described a ride with a trail builder at Locust Shade.
 - He reported that easements are in place near Victory Lakes.

Meeting Recap:

Next meeting agenda items:

- Officers will be elected at the December meeting.
- The 2025 calendar will be set and voted upon at the December meeting.
- Please get any agenda items to Liz, Joe or Amy by December 3rd, especially if they require some work by the Parks staff to respond to.
- Joe will summarize the goals sheet from 2024, and the T&BC will look forward to goals for 2025. See attached goal sheet for progress through November's meeting.

Next meetings:

- At Hellwig: Full T&BC – December 17 at 6:30 PM.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM based on motion by Eileen, seconded by Lynda.