

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes
December 17, 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	✓		
	Kimberly Palacios	✓		
Woodbridge	David Brickley	✓		
	Lynda Silverstrand	✓		

This is believed to be the first time all 16 T&BC members were present together at a T&BC meeting. Staff persons David Kroeger, Robert Boyd, DPR Deputy Director Janet Bartnik and DPR Director Seth Hendler-Voss were present. Patti Pakkala and Bryce Barrett attended virtually.

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

- November 19th T&BC minutes were approved through a motion by Lynda and seconded by Steven.

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- Kimberly Palacios was introduced as the new Potomac District T&BC member. She talked about being in PWC for the past 5 years and her interest in Quantico Creek and its Greenway.
- No new office nominations were received for 2025 positions. A motion by Bill and seconded by Duane to elect the three nominees was passed unanimously. The 2025 officers will be
 - Chair – Liz Cronauer
 - Vice Chair – Catherine O’Connor
 - Secretary – Neil Nelson
- 2025 Meeting Dates were accepted unanimously on a motion from Bill and seconded by Duane. Dates selected are 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/22, 5/27, 6/24, 7/22, 8/26, 9/23, 10/28, 11/18 and 12/16.
- Robert Boyd will update member contact information on the website and create a new list for T&BC members to use.
- New T&BC members are eligible to receive a T&BC Shirt. Please contact Janet with your size.
- Liz discussed a review of T&BC bylaws and asked everyone to review them and submit to Janet any potential changes. It was asked when we will update our rules to match the latest state direction on virtual access to meetings. We have to wait until such changes are rolled out to the BOCS and then we can copy their procedures.

Citizen’s Time.

- Russell Bryant thanked DPR for their work on the Neabsco Boardwalk boat launch and Blackburn ADA parking. He recommended that T&BC members talk to their supervisors to reprogram the \$200M for the sports center toward parks and trails.

County Agency Representatives

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

- DPR Director Seth Hendler-Voss attended the T&BC meeting and thanked the T&BC for their active role in engaging, advocating and sharing information that has led to tangible results. He singled out Janet for her attention and steady leadership leading to the DPR making more progress, generating interest from the BOCS and gaining board approvals. Their recent focus has been on completing 2019 Bond projects on time. He would like to get more western county trails funded and grow popular programs to meet demand. When asked about our challenges with landfill trails and their new management, he said he expects these will be worked out together. He was also questioned about the PHNST and Cockpit Point which caused him to mention the need for sustainable funding for parks and trails where he hoped the T&BC could continue to advocate.
- Seth announced that the State of the Parks community meeting will be held January 30th at Colgan High School which he hopes will have more casual users present.
- David reported:
 - Planning staff is mapping county trails with high-accuracy GPS as part of the trails Master Plan update. In addition, staff is photographing and collect data on trail access points, trail amenities, trail signage, and trail crossings. David expects it to take 4-6 months, and it will include some social trails. T&BC members are welcome to contact David to accompany him on any of his “hikes” collecting data.
 - The GIS analyst position will be open until December 23. We encourage members to share this information.
 - Dove’s Landing Park project update and community meeting will take place Wednesday January 8. 7-9 PM. Pat White Center at Ben Lomond 10501 Copeland Dr., Manassas, VA

20109. It is important that those who support the canoe/kayak launches be present at that meeting.

- PHNST Gap Study. We hope to have the next and final stakeholder meetings in early February.
- Occoquan Greenway. Segment 2 bridge replacement is complete.
- Staff continue to finalize grant documents for the extension of the boardwalk at Metz Wetlands Bank. They hope to begin construction by next summer.
- Staff continue to work on equestrian trail improvements at Valley View Park – this work will include parking lot improvements and a new trail segment from the parking lot.
- Ellis Barron Park improvements are in final design – these upgrades will include the County’s first futsal courts, tennis and basketball court upgrades and new fitness facilities, new pavilions, and new walkways/sidewalks/and trails connecting the two sides of the park to the adjacent sidewalks and pedestrian crossings.

PWC Transportation. Bryce Barrett

- The data from the trail counter on the Brentsville interchange pedestrian-bike bridge has been partially distributed. Janet will send it to all T&BC members for their reference.
- Bryce was asked about the major construction taking place near Sudley Road and Godwin Drive. He thought that might be Manassas adding a 3rd lane to Sudley Road in the vicinity.

PWC Planning, Yolanda Hipski

- No Report.

Community Development Applications

- None.

Presentations/Reports.

Meeting of HWES Boards, Councils and Commissions, Liz Cronauer

- Liz attended an initial meeting of the heads of the (citizen) T&BC, Parks and Recreation, Sustainability, Aging, and Housing boards, councils, and commissions. Focus on common barriers led to discussions of the FOIA restrictions, funding and resources, enhancing communication with the BOCS. It was also brought up that the different groups are potential players to share resolutions and goals, such as Parks and Recreation. The Deputy County Executive recommended that representatives are onboard with their supervisors’ ideas.

Trail Priorities with Costs, Janet Bartnik

- Janet reported on working through the T&BC priorities from the previous meetings. DPR and Transportation have been working together and identified a priority that appears to fit the \$1M in funding received this year. This will be adding/expanding a shared use path on a section of Dawson Beach Road from the Occoquan Bay NWR toward Route 1. The exact end point was not reported. This should be shovel ready and can start in the next quarter.
- Janet and the DPR team have been reviewing other priorities and doing a lot of work behind the scenes to come up with some level of planning numbers for the other priorities for all the districts. It was mentioned that she shouldn’t wait for all the projects to be sized before sharing some of the project numbers.

Goal Summary and Updates for 2025, Joe Marshall

- Attached to these minutes are three elements of the goals that Joe has been tracking. First, a month by month listing of activities that are supporting each of the 20 goals for 2024. Second, a summary of each goal and a RED/YELLOW/GREEN rating on how well this goal was completed. RED and YELLOW are not negative reports, they just show that more effort is needed toward a goal, or the goal changed during the year.
- The third element is a list of goals for 2025. These were discussed at the meeting and several changes and additions were made. An updated list with changes from the original list is attached. T&BC members should send any updates to Joe and Janet. The resulting 2025 goals list will be presented at the January meeting.

Organization Representatives' Time

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC). Eileen Sheridan

- The next GPWTC quarterly meeting will be at 10 AM on January 23, 2025, at the Science Center in Belmont Bay. The City of Manassas transportation plan will be presented as well as work on additions to the Aspirational Trails map.

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

- The Second Sunday hike in December around Belmont Bay was held with a turnout of over 20 people.
- The first day hike on January 1st will be at Doves Landing Park at 1 PM.

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

- Minor updates to trails occurred in Andrew Leitch Park. On one section they pulled up old boards and put down stone.
- Rich and Jason were named Trail Builders of the Year by the local Free Masons lodge. They are in the running for the state award.

Trails Keepers. Catherine O'Connor

- They are working with Bryce on the survey for the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

Members' Time:

- Amy:
 - Amy reported on the bad traffic created near the Neabsco Boardwalk light show.
- Bill:
 - Bill talked about the first day hike at Dove's Landing. He described his trip to hike the Redwoods and saw three trees over 400 years old. He suggested marking the best trees in the county. Patty responded that there is a Champion Tree Layer in the County GIS Mapper.
- Catherine:
 - No report.
- David:
 - David said that a January meeting of the PHNST subcommittee is needed and will be set shortly.
- Duane:
 - Duane mentioned that the Dove Landing Park map is damaged and needs refreshing. He said that the park has gained in Equestrian usage.

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- Eileen:
 - No report.
- Jason:
 - Jason described the recent fundraiser of the PW Park Foundation. After a donation of year-end funds from Supervisor Gordy, they are still about \$50k short of raising the money they need for completing Pump Track at Rollins Ford Park.
- Joe:
 - Joe reported that he scanned and sent to Janet the old Prince William County Parks Master Plan from 1993 he displayed in November. He also found a Parks Inventory from 1992 and a PHNST State of the Trail report from 2002.
 - He asked about a chart being presented at the BOCS meeting that day that mentioned a trail going along Catharpin Creek under Route 15. It did not mention the land acquisition required.
 - Joe recounted hiking the Green Circle trail around Winchester at Thanksgiving. He highlighted a section of the trail through Shawnee Springs that was made with glass beads. He wondered if DPR could use the glass from the landfill when it needed a trail cover.
- Ken:
 - No Report.
- Kimberly:
 - No Report
- Liz:
 - No Report.
- Lynda:
 - No Report.
- Mike:
 - No Report.
- Neil:
 - The next cleanup will occur on March 1st.
- Rich:
 - No Report.
- Steven:
 - Steven talked about a Cockpit Point revisit.
 - He also talked about focusing on Braemer.

Meeting Recap:

Next meeting agenda items:

- Please get any agenda items to Liz, Catherine or Neil by January 14th, especially if they require some work by the Parks staff to respond to.

Next meetings:

- At Hellwig: Full T&BC – January 28 at 6:30 PM.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM based on motion by Steve, seconded by Rich.