

Berlin Township Parks and Trails Committee

of Delaware County, OH 43015

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 15 2023: 6:30 p.m.

1

CALL TO ORDER

2 The meeting was held at Berlin Township Hall, 3271 Cheshire Rd, and was called to order by
3 President Zach Brown at 6:30 p.m.

4 Committee members present: President Zach Brown, Vice President Hillary Cerny, Secretary
5 Christina Littleton, Summer Marshall, Coli Lucas

6 Also present: Trustee Raehll

7

AGENDA ITEM: VERIFICATION OF ADVERTISEMENT

8 Christina Littleton verified that the meeting was advertised in the Delaware Gazette as a regular
9 meeting.

10

AGENDA ITEM: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

11 Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/18/2023 Parks and Trails
12 meeting and dispense of the reading. Ms. Cerny seconded the motion.

13 Vote: Brown, yes; Cerny, yes; Marshall, yes; Littleton, yes; Lucas, yes

14 Motion carried; the minutes were approved.

15

AGENDA ITEM: MORPC UPDATE

16 Ms. Lucas shared with the committee some of the items that have been covered at the MORPC
17 (Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission) meetings, including various maps, population data,
18 and proposed future trail locations. Workshop dates were set. Representatives from MORPC
19 will complete a site visit after Workshop 1 with Parks and Trails Committee members.

20 Trustee Raehll reminded the committee that a complete list of stakeholders needs to be
21 provided to MORPC. The list includes Olentangy Local Schools, Olentangy Berlin Cross Country,
22 ODNR, DCRPC, Delaware County Trails Committee, Delaware County Engineer, Sylvia Chelf of
23 USACE, Silas Bowers from Orange Township, Moms on the Run, EPA, ODOT, City of Sunbury,
24 Delaware County Health District, John Wargo. Ms. Marshall asked about the invitation process.
25 Trustee Raehll said MORPC would be sending out the invitations.

26 Trustee Raehll told the committee that Berlin's application for the Technical Assistance
27 Program was the highest scoring and most comprehensive of this year's applicants, according

Berlin Township Parks and Trails Committee

of Delaware County, OH 43015

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 15 2023: 6:30 p.m.

28 to MORPC. She said there was some controversy over our application since we are not official
29 members of MORPC. This is something she plans on looking into.

30 Trustee Raehll mentioned MORPC had proposed a MUT (multiuse trail) along Africa Road rather
31 than Lackey Old State Road. It seemed to her, that if they recommend only one, Lackey Old
32 State Road would present fewer challenges. Ms. Cerny added that Lackey Old State would have
33 more connections to schools. Trustee Raehll recalled Africa has existing mountain bike trails
34 that could be tied in on the southern portion of Africa Road. Mr. Brown suggested the southern
35 part of Africa Road could be connected to Lackey Old State across the Cheshire Road causeway.

36 Trustee Raehll said they also discussed trails on N 3Bs and K connecting to the Kilbourne Project
37 and Hogback Park. There could be a pedestrian bridge across 36/37, tapping into N 3Bs and K.

38 Shanahan Road was also discussed according to Trustee Raehll. The county and schools would
39 like to see Shanahan Road extended. Orange Township has committed to a MUT on the south
40 side of Shanahan. She believes Berlin Township then does not need to consider MUTs on the
41 north side. Ms. Littleton added that there will be MUTs through Berlin Meadows and Evans
42 Farm that will make northern connections in Berlin Township. Trustee Raehll said there is a new
43 investor in Evans Farm, so their plans may be changing.

44 Ms. Lucas said another item of interest that MORPC is working on is blueways. These would be
45 designated trails in waterways.

46 Trustee Raehll asked if the committee had any topics that they would like to be discussed at the
47 next meeting with MORPC. Ms. Littleton asked if the overpass had been discussed. Trustee
48 Raehll said it had not. Ms. Lucas said she would add it to the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM: PROPOSED DATES FOR MORPC STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC PRESENTATION

50 In order to allow all committee members to attend, complying with Sunshine Laws, Workshop 1
51 with stakeholders will be held May 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Hall. Likewise,
52 Workshop 2 with the public, will be held July 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Hall.

AGENDA ITEM: LATE ITEMS

54 There was some discussion about new sewer and water construction in Berlin Township.
55 Trustee Raehll said this was largely to service the future Berlin Business Park, but would benefit
56 everyone, adding that the county is responsible for the planning decisions regarding sewer and

Berlin Township Parks and Trails Committee

of Delaware County, OH 43015

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 15 2023: 6:30 p.m.

57 water. She is going to work towards collaborating with Delco to include Berlin Township
58 branding on the new water tower.

59 Ms. Cerny asked if there was a township slogan. Trustee Raehll said that is something the
60 trustees have been discussing. Suggestions are welcome.

61 Trustee Raehll provided an update on the AEP wildflower program. AEP said they don't usually
62 replace vegetation unless there is a business related reason, such as removing invasive plants
63 and reducing mowing costs. The committee decided no further action should be taken until
64 work is completed with MORPC. Ms. Marshall said she may contact AEP about incorporating
65 the program in her neighborhood. She is working toward replacing mowed areas with
66 wildflowers. Her HOA received a grant from the Columbus Audubon to help fund plans they
67 have for improvements.

68 Ms. Cerny asked who is responsible for mowing under the high tension lines. Trustee Raehll
69 said if AEP owns the property, it is their responsibility. The township can only step in if it
70 determines the areas are posing a hazard.

71 Ms. Cerny said there is a trail that reaches to her road from neighboring development Berlin
72 Farms. She asked why it stops before it gets to the road and why many developments are
73 required to build MUTs when they appear to be incomplete. Trustee Raehll said this is
74 something the committee should discuss. This may be a good opportunity for grant funds. An
75 issue may be that even though the township approves the construction of the few feet of trail it
76 takes to meet the road, a maintenance agreement with Berlin Farms may be needed in order to
77 keep that portion in good condition. Trustee Raehll explained how increases in state funding
78 grants could be used to do smaller projects like this throughout the township. She suggested
79 Ms. Cerny and other concerned residents initiate a conversation with the developer to
80 complete construction of this particular trail. Ms. Littleton asked if situations like this could be
81 addressed in the CLUP (Comprehensive Land Use Plan). Trustee Raehll said it could be
82 something to consider.

83 She hopes the Parks and Trails Master Plan will be complete before the CLUP is updated. This
84 way developers will understand our MUT expectations. She believes our biggest challenge will
85 be constructing trails through yards of established home owners. When Ms. Lucas spoke with
86 Paul from Genoa Township, he said that was a challenge they encountered as well. They spoke
87 with individual home owners, where they eventually reached an agreement on plantings to
88 screen the homes from the trail.

Berlin Township Parks and Trails Committee

of Delaware County, OH 43015

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 15 2023: 6:30 p.m.

89 Ms. Littleton asked if the trustees had heard the Peachblow Crossing application and if they
90 kept the MUT. Trustee Raehll said they had just approved it. The MUT was removed and
91 pickleball courts were added. Ms. Littleton asked if they were not anticipating kids crossing
92 Peachblow Road to get to the new school. Trustee Raehll said there will be access from the
93 emergency access road. They will talk with the school about a crosswalk. She added that they
94 required an easement for a potential path heading north to the temple and at the entrance
95 along Piatt Road.

96 Mr. Brown asked about the Sherman property on Africa Road. Trustee Raehll thought that was
97 a location considered for a township park. She remembered Mr. Wargo had proposed MUTs
98 behind the homes along Africa Road as part of the Alum Creek Trail. Ms. Littleton said we need
99 to get that ball rolling. Mr. Brown asked how we can keep that rolling. Trustee Raehll said she
100 thought Jason Meyer was assuming that responsibility. She added there is plenty of grant
101 money out there to fund it. There are also grants to purchase land which would be helpful in
102 creating a township park.

103 The committee discussed potential locations for a township park.

104 **AGENDA ITEM: ADJOURN**

105 Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cerny seconded the motion.

106 Vote: Brown, yes; Cerny, yes; Marshall, yes; Littleton, yes; Lucas, yes

107 Meeting was adjourned.

108 _____
109 Zach Brown, President

110 _____
111 _____
112 Hillary Cerny, Vice President

113 _____
114 _____
115 Christina Littleton, Secretary

116 _____
117 _____

Berlin Township Parks and Trails Committee

of Delaware County, OH 43015

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 15 2023: 6:30 p.m.

118

Colynda Lucas

119

120

121

Summer Marshall

122

123

124

Eileen Faulds