

## Butler Freeport Community Trail Council Meeting Notes

www.butlerfreeporttrail.org

May 4, 2009

In Attendance: Bobbi Diller, Debbie Swettenam, Connie Sutara, Drenda Gostkowski, Chris Ziegler, Angelo Quaranta, Anne Quaranta, Dave Adams, Frank Sidari, Rick Carr, Bob Selvagio, Jim Meyer, Fritz Emmerling, Ben Brugmans, Ouch Roenigk, John Haven, Dave Ziegler, Colleen Cook, Karl Knechtel, Kevin Knechtel, Jared King, Ray Heltsley, Franny Ritchie

### A. Announcements/President's Report

1. Guest speaker Frank Sidari brought us up-to-date on the progress and intention of the Winfield Sewage Project, as portions of the Trail are directly involved. There have been 37 numbered wetlands that could be affected by excavation, but none are located directly on the Trail. A survey of threatened species, such as the Massasauga rattlesnake and Indiana brown bat will be conducted. Construction is scheduled to begin in February 2010 and last through November 2010. One side of the Trail will remain open, unless circumstances change.
2. Chris met with Butler Downtown manager Becky Smith, and Chuck Davey, Jonathan Dreher, Brian McCafferty and John from the Governor's Community Action Team. Butler's Downtown is a Community Action Town and funds are available for linking rural areas to downtown. During phase I, we will seek funding for a traffic study, which is necessary for the routes to be developed. Phase two will implement these routes.
3. A hearing was held for the person(s) charged with illegally removing the gate from the Trail. The settlement issued was that they will pay for the cost of the gate (\$90.00) and give us 20 hours community service within 30 days. The first project will be re-installing the new gate.
4. Chris, Jen, Fred Como, Anne & Angelo, John Fleishman, Bobbi and Bob and Colleen Cook attended the LL Bean promo. It was a beautiful weather day as well as the first day of trout season.
5. The Butler Housing and Redevelopment Authority agreed to support the parking lot at Kaufman Dr, with CDBG funds.
6. Butler Area Multi-Municipal Plan (BAMM) is outlining a 10-year plan, including ideas for a camping/parking on the Trail's 10-acre lot in Butler.
7. Freeport is donating the old train station building to the Trail.

### B. Open Issues

1. Membership (Anne Quaranta)  
Renewal reminder cards were sent and over \$500 was received within the first week.
2. Finance Committee/Treasurer (Bob Ingoldsby)  
Usual business to report.
3. Maintenance (Bob Corbett & Ouch Roenigk)
  - a. The parking lot at Cabot needs attention.
  - b. A workday is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> at Bonniebrook Rd.
  - c. An area south of Sarver needs fixed.
  - d. April 22<sup>nd</sup> work evening was used to clear the trail for the 5K

4. Buffalo Township Liaison (John Haven & Ouch Roenigk)
  - a. The soil tests from the site of the proposed new bridge in Butler have been submitted and the results are expected back soon.
5. Volunteers
  - a. Eagle Scout Kevin Knechtel continues to seek funding for the 'In Memoriam' benches he is building. There have been three ordered by trail patrons. Home Depot, once again, has our heartfelt thanks for offering and giving a discount on materials. Kevin and associates will build the benches on May 25<sup>th</sup> and install in June.
  - b. A work day is scheduled for May 22, in the evening. Look for details on the website.
6. Half-marathon (Anne Quaranta)
  - a. Submitted request for official township approval of race date and will seek PennDOT approval.
  - b. Sponsorships are coming in.
7. Butler Tourism (Debbie Swettenam)
 

Chris attended a bowling event hosted by Butler Tourism Bureau.
8. Website (Dave Adams)
 

None to report.
9. Newsletter (Bobbi Diller)
 

Time to schedule a meeting for the next edition.
10. Advertising (Art Borland, Bob Ingoldsby)
 

There have been 5,000 new trail brochures printed, compliments of The Medicine Shoppe (Bob Ingoldsby)
11. Activities/Events (Frances Ritchie)
 

Thank you to all the volunteers and participants that made our first northern-side-of-the-trail Butler Bound 5K race a success. There were 29 participants. We look to promote and expand for next year.

We are sad to say goodbye to Franny. Her internship with Audubon is coming to an end soon. We very much appreciate the time and effort she has devoted to our organization. We wish her the best!

#### Up-coming Events:

- May 9<sup>th</sup> – Venture Outdoors ride on the Trail
- May 14 – Geocaching with DCNR
- May 16<sup>th</sup> - Birding walk for Audubon sign dedication and Venture Outdoors (Point State Park)
- May 17<sup>th</sup>-Butler Historic Downtown Walk \$15. Visit their website.
- May 30<sup>th</sup>-Freeport Flash 5K
- May 31<sup>st</sup> Buffalo Community Day
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> BSH health fair
- June 11 – evening geocaching – check website for more details
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> Boyers health fair
- August 20<sup>th</sup> Brian Ellis community day

12. Geocaching!
 

Binky the Buffalo, the icon representing our trail, has been released as the travel bug, his mission is to visit rails to trails. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, he began the journey and is headed to a RTT in the cacher's hometown. Look for more adventures with Binky.

13. Outreach Liaison (Connie Sutara)

Connie continues to meet with contacts of local businesses to develop personal relationships and invite them to hold events on the Trail.

C. Issues Pending

1. We would like to host Happy Hour dates trail members at Rockafellas Lounge before our usual monthly meetings for casual get together 'mixing'.
2. A Massey Harbison, Indian Captive event will be held at the place and on the anniversary of her abduction May 22, 1792. (meet at noon, at River Forest Golf Club, Freeport) Drenda Gostkowski will have a multimedia presentation. Visit our website for more details.

Please join us for the next regular meeting (occurs on the first Monday of each month) of the Butler Freeport Community Trail Council, June 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m., in the community room at King's restaurant in Sarver.

Respectfully submitted by Bobbi Diller, Secretary