

Prince William County  
**TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL**

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes  
 April 25, 2023; 6:30 PM  
**Approved by the T&BC on May 23, 2023**

**Attendance**

| District    | Appointee            | Present<br>(in person) | Present<br>(virtual) | Absent |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| At Large    | Amy Latalladi-Fulton | ✓                      |                      |        |
|             | Bill McCarty         |                        | ✓                    |        |
| Brentsville | Tom Coyle            |                        |                      | ✓      |
|             | 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   | ✓                      |                      |        |

Staff persons Kevin Costello, Patti Pakkala, and DPRT Deputy Director Janet Bartnik were present. George Phillips and Mark McCaskill attended virtually.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Liz Cronauer at 6:31 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Administrative:**

- March 28, 2023, minutes were approved through a motion by Neil and seconded by Jason.
- Janet talked about how the Arts Council enabled virtual voting. A T&BC resolution will be required to allow and establish the procedure. She will bring this to the May meeting.

### **Citizen's Time.**

- No citizens present.

### **County Agency Representatives**

#### **PWC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.** Patti Pakkala, Kevin Costello, Janet Bartnik

- An update was provided on the transfer of 90 acres of Dominion Energy land near Possum Point. A first report was just released. It contains no timeline. There is a monthly meeting with staff and discussions include the route of the PHNST. There may be enough land for a possible canoe/kayak launch point. Land between the Power Plant and Possum Point is also included in the discussions. There is currently no plan to cross the railroad tracks; one option would be to receive permission to use the bridge to the Asphalt plant. David urged Parks not to miss this opportunity while plans are being made.
- Plans are still being made for the June 3<sup>rd</sup> (Trails Day) opening of the Discovery Trail at the Landfill. Joe brought up the ugly clear-cut road that now crosses and blocks that trail in three places. This is a result of miscommunications and an undisclosed utility easement. This may interfere with the June 3<sup>rd</sup> opening.

#### **PWC Department of Planning.** Mark McCaskill, Bryce Barrett

- Transportation Open House for the Planning Commission on 4/27 at 5 PM covering long range transportation planning.

#### **PWC Transportation.** George Phillips, Bryce Barrett

- Construction started in March on the Pedestrian Bridge over Route 234 at the Brentsville interchange. This interchange should be completed by Summer 2024.
- The Balls Ford interchange on the 234 Bypass opened the weekend after this meeting. It has a shared use path along Balls Ford, but it has no shared use paths along the Route 234 Bypass at this intersection even though required by the Comprehensive Plan.
- The University Road interchange along the Route 234 Bypass will be completed by 2024. There will be a Shared Use Path along Route 234 Bypass for part of this intersection but not all as required by the Comprehensive Plan. This is also coordinated with an adjacent Small Area Plan which may lead to a Pedestrian Overpass in the future. George will provide more information at the May T&BC meeting.
- The Clover Hill interchange along the Route 234 Bypass will have shared use paths along Clover Hill Drive but will not have the required shared use path along the Route 234 Bypass. Since this touches the county boundary with Manassas, there is coordination between the county and the city of Manassas.
- George was asked why someone didn't take some time NOW and determine the best sides for the shared use path along Route 234 bypass so that these intersections could include them and not have to be fixed later.
- There was significant discussion of the Route 28 Bypass since its first public meeting with design details happened five days earlier. The east side of the Bypass will have a shared use path but nothing on the west side. The design will require the removal of the baseball field at Splashdown Water Park with no new home yet identified. Discussions of connections to the various neighborhoods showed that the current design is lacking. There was also discussion about adding a kayak/canoe launch point somewhere between the bypass and Bull Run or Flat Branch which would contribute to the county blueways. Once again, the T&BC requested to be

kept in the loop as there appeared to be several elements that could be improved for better community access.

- The developer is overseeing the design of the Riverside Pedestrian Bridge which the county will take over.

### **Presentations/Reports.**

#### **PHNST Subcommittee**

- David, the chair, provided a summary of the first meeting of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Subcommittee on April 20<sup>th</sup>. It included members of the subcommittee as well as Seth Hender-Voss and Janet Bartnik from DPRT and Rebecca Murphy from NVRC. The goal is to identify and advocate for solutions to all gaps in the next 5 years.
- Each gap was delegated to one of the committee members: David, Liz, Lynda, Joe, Jason, Neil and Eileen. Janet created a Google Spreadsheet where data for each gap can be collected.
- David described how money for bikes and other trails are historically included mostly in road / transportation projects. There is a Virginia Trails office in VDOT that is a potential source of money for these gaps and George should tie into this. If a proposed trail or upgrade is safer than the existing configuration, it will get a better score in competition. He stated that there is more funding for trails than there has been in decades.
- David also stated that it be important to pitch for a grant writer for Parks to go after the money.
- There was a specific gap example where Townhouses are being built right up to the bluff where the PHNST should go and thus the subcommittee's efforts are very timely.
- There was discussion of the Powell's Creek crossing – RFP should cover – 1 of 2 potential consultants will provide 3 proposals for the crossing and then citizen input will help in the selection. There was also discussion of one gap that currently exists where it shows it going through a subdivision when a potential path around the subdivision may be more attractive. This has not yet been finalized.
- The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM in the Hellwig Parks Building.

#### **Office of Sustainability Workshop**

- The BOCS has established goals for greenhouse gas emissions and climate change by 2030 and 2040. To make this happen they created an Office of Sustainability which is holding a series of workshops to narrow down focus and plans. Liz has been participating in these workshops.
- They started with a list of 63 items. Of these, three are of interest.
  - #18 – Improve Bike/Ped infrastructure,
  - #19 – Improve Trail Interconnectivity, and
  - #25 – Improve Ebikes/Scooters Infrastructure
- They are now asking for public comment and Liz invited all in the T&BC to weigh in by May 15<sup>th</sup> at noon or attend a virtual town hall on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Patti reported that each state is getting money to improve active transportation to reduce deaths.

### **Organization Representatives' Time**

#### **Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC).** Eileen Sheridan, Vice Chair, Neil Nelson, Secretary

- The April quarterly meeting was held on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Science Center; six T&BC members were in attendance.
- On May 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a hike at Blooms Park.

- On May 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a second Sunday hike at Potomac Shores.

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

- There is a school work day coming up.

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

- MORE is sponsoring a family oriented SMORES program to show how to ride a bike and perform bike maintenance for new riders. The pilot will be on May 9<sup>th</sup> with formal rides on May 16<sup>th</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>. Ice Cream and Popsicles will be handed out at the end of the ride.
- MORE will take part in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade in Dale City.

**Members' Time:**

- Amy:
  - No comments.
- Bill:
  - Bike to Work Day is scheduled for Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- David:
  - Thanked Neil for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday hike in April.
  - As a member of the Historical Commission, he receives a briefing package monthly before meetings. He asked if the T&BC could be provided something like that.
  - There is interest in opening the historic road from Delaney Rd to Bel Air Plantation as a historical walk – about ¾ mile
- Duane:
  - He spotted material in Silver Lake Park for a stream crossing but has not seen any movement to fix it.
  - He asked why 1/3 of the acreage there is fenced off.
  - He asked about the Silver Lake Park Master Plan. DPRT let the current consultant go and is working behind the scenes while waiting for the new Supervisor to provide some direction.
  - He asked about whether there will be a connection from the Digital Gateway to MNBP.
- Eileen:
  - Asked about the I-66 underpass trail reopening. There is no plan to fix it – may need to work directly with the Service Authority.
  - Bike workshop on May 11<sup>th</sup> – Mike Depue will attend; others may listen in.
- Jason:
  - He visited Cloverdale Parks, and it looks very good. The grand opening is being worked.
  - The Dale City Elementary School will have a build / repair event by the Keep Prince William Beautiful group for an Outdoor Classroom on May 13<sup>th</sup> as well as to cleanup and reroute the attaching trail.
- Joe:
  - No comments.
- Liz:
  - No comments.
- Lynda:
  - Continuing to clean the Bandalong on a regular basis. Patti stated that some signage is coming to explain this further.
- Mike:
  - For his presentation next month on blueways, Mike requested that he have Google Earth access – will make it easier to show maps and locations.

- Neil:
  - Occoquan Greenway trail bridge is under construction.
- Raheel:
  - Not in attendance.
- Rich:
  - Not in attendance.
- Tom:
  - Not in attendance.

**Meeting Recap:**

- None

**Next meeting agenda items:**

- Janet: Virtual Meeting Resolution
- Mike: Discussion of Blueways and Blueways Access points – 30 minutes
- Mike: 28 Bypass ideas – 15 minutes
- Duane: Bull Run Loop Trail Crossings – 10 minutes
- Reports from the PHNST Subcommittee – 10 minutes
- George Status on Bypass/Interchange Transportation Projects – 10 minutes
- Agenda items for the May meeting should be forwarded to Liz, Amy or Joe by May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Next meetings:**

At Hellwig: PHNST Subcommittee – May 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM

At Hellwig: Full T&BC – May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM.

**Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM based on motion by Lynda, second by Mike