



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Cherry Hill Public Library**  
**February 3, 2020**

**I. IN ATTENDANCE:** Abe Ferdas (via phone), Lewis Gorman III, Mary Ellen Lane, Chris Shull

**II. UPDATES**

**A. Annual trail maintenance and status:** Lewis Gorman

Lew developed a spreadsheet to track the annual trail maintenance report items developed by Jim Rosenthal each summer. This spreadsheet is designed to keep an easier track of the maintenance and development items uncovered at the annual inspection. It will also track the progress toward completion or make notes that an item will not be performed as recommended.

Abe Ferdas recommended that the status report portion of the spreadsheet utilize the traffic light system of red yellow and green. This will be implemented.

Lew indicated that this system could work better if the spreadsheet could be shared electronically with real time updates being made by any board member who completed one of the maintenance items. Chris Shull volunteered to pull this together but requires that each board member have a Gmail account. All board members interested in live tracking of the annual trail maintenance spreadsheet please inform Chris of your Gmail address. Thanks to Chris for setting this up, to Abe for his suggestion on improvements, and to Jim for doing the inspections and posting the results on the spreadsheet in the future.

**B. Volunteer update:** Barbara Patrizzi

Barbara reported that 114 people are now on the CHEB email list. Regular announcements of CHEB activities are sent. This is a terrific and successful accomplishment. Kudos to Barbara.

**C. Thomas Paine Trails:** Lewis Gorman

Lew reported that this trail that was planned a few years ago is now open. Two Trails, the green and yellow, totaling just over a third of a mile, are open and marked at trailheads, a total of three, and at the one trail intersection.

Improvements in the trail surface will continue. A layout of the trail needs to be developed and posted on the CHEB webpage.

**D. CHEB meeting with Mayor:**

The meeting w/ Mayor Susan Shin-Angulo is scheduled for March 24, 2020 at 10 to 11 AM in the mayor's office at town Hall. Lew will draft key points to discuss with the mayor. Please let Lew know if you would like to attend this meeting along with him. Abe Ferdas indicated his preference to attend.

### **E. Council proclamation:**

This will be presented to CHEB for the 10th anniversary of the Cherry Hill Trails program on February 24, 2020 at the council meeting starting at 7 PM. All CHEB members and liaisons are encouraged to attend.

### **III. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

#### **A. Tree of Heaven removal:** Chris Shull

Chris reported that approximately 100 Tree of Heaven have been removed at the Bortons Mill trails. Future efforts are being planned to continue the effort. This open space likely has the most number of Tree of Heaven on Cherry Hill Open Space lands.

#### **B. Tree replanting:** Chris Shull

Chris presented the issue of replanting in areas on the Bortons Mills Trail open space where so many Tree of Heaven have been removed creating a great deal of open forest canopy. Maryellen suggested if bare root trees are used, to plant them first in large pots with good soil for a year or two and then plant them on site. Sources for potential tree material were discussed.

#### **C. Pollinator program:** Mary Ellen Lane

Mary Ellen reported there was a successful and encouraging meeting held at Carusi School. Mary Ellen and Lew spoke to two teachers and the principal, and all were interested in developing more pollinator gardens. It is hoped that the Endangered Species Coalition will continue its funding for Pollinator gardens in Cherry Hill. It is possible to have four separate garden locations: to at Cherry Hill trailheads, one by a Cherry Hill trail head and Beck school, and a series of pollinator gardens at Carusi School. An article will be in the spring edition of the Cherry Hill Township Community Magazine that focuses on Pollinator Partner recruitment to help with the maintenance of our pollinator gardens.

### **IV. CHEB TRAILS 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

#### **A. Concept:** Lewis Gorman

Lew presented his concept for an environmental film festival in Cherry Hill. He listed eight films found on-line and asked members to review them and rank them. It would be great to get the results by the 21st of February 2020.

#### **B. Scheduling:**

We will coordinate with the recreation department and the library for places to show the films and the follow-up discussions that our planned for each one.

### **V. OTHER ISSUES AND ITEMS**

All present reviewed the application to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for a wetlands permit. The construction project that was planned would replace a culvert under the high-speed line near Downs Farm Trail.

It was determined that access to the construction site would not require the use of the Downs Farm Yellow trail. Therefore, providing comments to NJDEP for this project was deemed not necessary.

Status of Nancy Brown's CHEB membership acceptance. Lew will follow up with Town Hall on the status.

Speaking events at Cherry Hill schools. Abe Ferdas brought up this idea that can be explored.

**VI. THE NEXT CHEB MEETING** is scheduled for March 9, 2020 at the Cherry Hill Public Library.

