

Notes from Bike/Hike Meeting

June 21, 2016

Present: Tom Kelso; Marilyn Jacobson; Judy Hendrixson; Sam Bryant, New Britain Borough; Taylor Tomlinson, Heritage Conservancy; Dick Patterson; Lynn Goldman; Andy Hamilton; Bill Wert; Mary Pat Holewinski; Mike, Baker Engineers; Paul Gordon, Buck County; Andy Clark and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Guests: Jim Laser and Al Korvach of Teversall; Keith and Case Fennimore.

Review of Projects

Heritage Trail – Mr. Kelso suggested that although the Township has money in the budget to finish this project it may be wise to postpone completing it and perhaps use the money elsewhere. The consensus of the committee was that it was a good idea.

Neshaminy Greenway Phase III – Bristol Road to Upper State Road – Mr. Kelso indicated that Mr. John, Ms. Mason and Mr. Stanford met with the Chalfont New Britain Joint Sewer Authority staff, did a walk through and the paperwork, outlined where the trail will go, they are going to provide a space for the parking lot with six spaces at the trail head, ADA accessible. Mr. Kelso said that he reviewed it at the Budget Work Session with the Board of Supervisors and the staff will begin the project in 2016.

Lower State Road – Two residents from the Teversal Condominium Association were present. Ms. Goldman indicated to them that this project is a dream for the Bike/Hike Committee and that this is a section of the trail that has been worked on for a long time.

Mr. Laser from the HOA, indicated that there are 58 houses with two car garages, the average age of a homeowner is 75+ but he is an avid cyclist and believes that the path will be greatly used and is truly needed. They support the concept of the trail. They do have some concerns regarding the ability to access their roadway, making sure that conflicts between cars and cyclist and pedestrians are at a minimum. He was very appreciative of Mr. Stanford's time in providing additional plans and suggestions for improvements at the intersection.

The Committee talked in detail about the circulation at that location and ways to improve cyclists, pedestrians and cars, addressing where stop signs could and should be located as well as modifications.

It was suggested that we continue to work with Teversal to address their concerns and that within the next two weeks or so there be a meeting to look at it and come up with further ideas. In addition, Mr. Kelso and Ms. Hendrixson said that with the plans for the Zaveta Project (Geotzberer Property) there may be opportunities to develop some traffic calming and slowing traffic as it approaches Teversal.

The use of bollards was also discussed to slow people on the trail down as well.

2017 Greenway and Trail Summit Proposal to Host – Ms. Mason shared a letter from the Pennsylvania Parks & Recreation Society indicating that Berks County submission to host the 2017 Greenway and Trail Summit was selected over the Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee proposal.

Neshaminy Greenway Trail – New Britain Township – Ms. Jacobson indicated that the grant is in place and that they are moving forward with their designs along with New Britain Township and looking forward to connect into the trail system in Doylestown Township.

Turk Road Trail Extension to Pebble Hill Road – Mr. Fennimore and his son Case were present at the meeting indicated that they have spoken with approximately 20 neighbors, 16 of which expressed interest in seeing the path continue along Sauerman from Bomaca and onto Pebble Hill into the Borough.

Mr. Kelso indicated that he again attended the 2017 Budget discussions with the Board of Supervisors provided a 5-year Capital Plan on the budget and this project was included.

The recommendation is that we apply for a feasibility study grant in 2018 resolving in 2019 would be the goal and being able to begin that process.

Mr. Fennimore wanted to know the time frame and money that might be needed.

Mr. Hamilton suggested a meeting with the residents and especially with PennDot, but before anything is unveiled, get a better handle on what the project at least in rough format looks like and of course, application for a feasibility study.

Mr. Hamilton also suggested that we look further at Pebble Hill Road and Bike Route S; maybe things can be done with sharrows prior to any other grants being looked at.

Other Business – Mr. Kelso talked about the 2017 budget process, he provided some handouts and indicated the projects and costs; even those being done by others were shared with the Board of Supervisors especially the Neshaminy Greenway Connections from Chalfont, New Britain Borough and Township.

Mr. Kelso again indicated that the Heritage Trail should be pushed off so that funds are available to address issues with the Ball Property and believes that if the County gets the CMAC Grant then this funding could be applied in future years for a match on the larger grant.

Paperwork from Baker Engineers that they need another \$24,000 and change to address the needs on the Lower State Road Project since that went up to a \$1.2 million grant from the original \$870,000 grant.

Mr. Hamilton moved and it was seconded by Ms. Goldman that the Committee recommends the Baker amendment for the scope of the Lower State Road Project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hamilton discussed Pebble Hill Road and that PennDot is looking for some early action items, especially related to sharrows and believes that they may be interested in putting those up especially now that there is a Bicycle Coordinator.

Mr. Hamilton also said he did the PEC Ride (Pennsylvania Environmental Council Ride), which took place recently and he decided to take a group on a detour through the Destination Peace Valley Trail and everyone on the ride was very impressed.

September 14 – 15, 2016 is the Eastern PA Greenway Trail Summit.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:15am. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 19, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager