

Bike/Hike Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2020, 8:00am – Meeting was held via Zoom

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Judy Hendrixson, Vice Chairman; Bill Wert; Roger Clark; Randall Cohen; Larry Gage; Mary Pat Holewinski, New Britain Borough; Katie Maio; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Tom Kelso; Rick James; Nancy Santacecilia, Board of Supervisors Liaison, Steve Disciullo, Baker Engineers; Paul Gordon, Bucks County; and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Visitors:

Minutes Approval – Approval of the minutes from July 21, 2020, Ms. Hendrixson moved to approve, seconded by Ms. Holewinski. Minutes approved unanimously.

Step into September Flyer - September 12th PA Trails Celebration Month –

Ms. Mason indicated that the Township received the DCNR/PEC \$500 Mini Grant for the project. She asked if Mr. Clark, Mr. Gage and Ms. Hendrixson would meet with Andrea Susten and herself to create a brochure.

Ms. Goldman indicated that she created a short video as an example of how one could be made. It's of her grandchildren trying to promote the event. She wasn't sure if it was done well enough to use but shared it anyway.

The Committee thanked her for her for the video.

We'll reach out to the other municipalities and share the flyer as well as have information available for the event, especially as we get closer.

Review of Projects

Route 202 Trail Feasibility Study – Update

Mr. Disciullo indicated that he is looking at routes for the feasibility of a trail location, he has walked both of them the southeast and northeast side of 202 Parkway. There was a coordination meeting with the Penn Dot Trail Coordinator regarding accessing a limited access highway.

Design ideas will continue to flow. Hopefully we'll do a public meeting which will have to be done virtually. Thought is to do it sometime in October.

Working outside the box to create this mile and a half trail is necessary.

It was suggested that we could promote the Zoom Public Meeting for October at the trail celebration event on September 12th.

Old New Road – Update

Mr. Kelso shared his concept ideas indicating that he and Ms. Mason met virtually with Warrington Township Officials, they had three people interested from the Township. Moving the trail from Old New Road / Bristol to C B South access at Folly. Warrington is also interested in seeing the trail continue along Bristol Road to the Parkway.

Mr. Kelso put together photos showing that the path could stay on the Doylestown Township side all along Bristol Road from Old New to the Parkway.

Need a feasibility plan at some point and study but not a lot of major obstacles, looked at the area where we might need some crossings on the Warrington side of Bristol. He also looked at the Tri-municipal plan and it would tie in nicely with the work being done in New Britain Borough, Township and Chalfont. Also, it is not far from Neshaminy Greenway trails as well and eventual trails proposed in Hilltown going north.

There will be a couple of culvert crossings near Lower State Road. Will have to work with the gas station at Lower State & Bristol to see if there will be enough room. Might be an opportunity to see that property cleaned up.

Ms. Hendrixson indicated the in and out there is difficult.

Another culvert at Bristol and Upper State to cross will be needed, also it will tie into the trail that Toll Brothers is required to construct as part of their proposed development. There will be an internal trail there that loops along the Neshaminy as well, it won't be paved but it will be pedestrian and natural in nature. Continuing along Bristol we will need a crossing at Red Oak, Neshaminy Dell and Dell Drive, open the area to the northern route Bristol at Stump those two crossing may need a rapid flashing beacon. Eventually connecting with the Parkway, thinking 10' wide would be a good project. At some point will need to meet with Central Bucks School District representatives. Will also need to develop a cost estimate for the project and look around for appropriate grants and timing.

At some point we will go back to Warrington Township with at ballpark estimate.

Neshaminy Greenway – Bristol to Upper State – Update

Mr. Discuillo indicated that construction managers, concrete, ADA ramps are being installed. Clean up work in the next week. Guiderails next week as well. There is no project completed at the moment but the signal is supposed to be completed by August 31st.

Turk Road Area Feasibility - Implementation of Study Findings

Mr. Discuillo indicated that the Committee is in a holding pattern at the moment as we start to look for construction funding grants. TAP is not open to funding options at the moment.

Crossing at Pebble Valley seems to be the preferable way to get across Pebble Hill Road. Discussion with Chief Logan indicated that's most appropriate.

The next step would be to start to communicate with Penn Dot and moving that concept forward with a three-way stop at Pebble Hill & Pebble Valley.

It was suggested from the Committee that Mr. Discuillo sketch things up a little bit to give an idea of what it will look like.

Ms. Goldman suggested putting wood chips down along Mercer Gate easement to start to show the trail coming.

There was some discussion about runoff concerns that the wood chips may not be a good idea.

Ms. Maio asked if the Committee is going to the Traffic Advisory Committee and Mr. Discuillo, said no because a meeting with Chief Logan had occurred.

Once something is sketched up further discussion with Penn Dot will need to take place since Pebble Hill Road is a state road. That may occur now or it may occur when grant opportunities present themselves.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – Update –

Mr. Discuillo indicated that Mr. Kelso, Ms. Mason, Mr. Stanford and Mr. Tomko met with two property owners last week along the project. Luckily those areas did not sustain significant damage due to the tornado. However, the meetings in the field were very helpful in explaining the project.

At this time various stages in the plan process with Penn Dot are moving along.

Bucks County Trail – Update –

Mr. Gordon had left the call at this time but Mr. Kelso shared his screen and indicated that once the County brings the trail from the 611 area to Turk Park that the next project to work on with the County is taking a trail from Turk Park along Almshouse and crossing the Neshaminy and connecting to the back side of Neamand Park and eventually into the Neshaminy Greenway Trail System.

There are steep slopes along Almshouse that will have to be dealt with, but the Township does own some land across the stream and we will have to look at that area for the appropriate crossing and the appropriate grant that would assist with design, construction of such a trail.

Pump Tract – Update –

No Update – Although Ms. Goldman indicated a self-help station was covered up at the Pump Tract.

Other Business / New Projects for Consideration

Electric Bikes – Mr. Clark indicated that he had a friend that was on the 202 Parkway and that was almost hit by a rider on an electric bike texting.

There was discussion that some of the electric bikes can go up to 30 miles an hour, some are motorized via pedal power others have a throttle on them. It was indicated that most people whether they are walking or riding a regular bike and some bike riders can go pretty fast on their own power need to self-regulate.

Ms. Mason indicated that there is a restriction for motorized vehicles on the trails especially in the Central Park.

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that a neighbor had been using ATV but she spoke with them about how they are not allowed on the trails.

Ms. Goldman indicated that at Peace Valley people are racing through there as well.

Safety needs to be the word, it was suggested that perhaps information be put into the brochure that could be handed out on September 12th.

More study needs to be done on this topic and the electric bikes become more popular.

Pine Run Reservoir Trail – Ms. Holewinski indicated that although the County is not cutting the meadow because the EAC and Bird Towns want to keep the flora and fauna and birds healthy, the edge of the meadow is encroaching on the trail and asked if the County could be contacted and asked to just move the edge of the trail.

Ms. Mason indicated that she would reach out to the County.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:15am. The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 8:00am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager