

Bike/Hike Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2021 8:00am – Meeting was held via Zoom

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Judy Hendrixson, Vice Chairman; Tom Kelso; Mary Pat Holewinski; Larry Gage; Shelle Clancy, New Britain Township; Marilyn Jacobson, Chalfont Borough; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Liz Wyckoff; Roger Clark; Randy Cohen; Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers; Steve Disciullo, Baker Engineers; Paul Gordon, Bucks County; Shaun Curran, Borough Manager, Chalfont Borough; Nancy Santacecilia, Board of Supervisors Liaison and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Minutes Approval – Approval of the minutes from **January 19, 2021**, on motion of Ms. Hendrixson, seconded by Mr. Gage the minutes were unanimously approved.

Review of Projects

BCPC - Citizen Advisory Design Committee – Neshaminy Greenway Trail Update

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that the design committee met last week and discussed the trail. She indicated that the County is revising the scope of the project and is reducing the scope of it from a two mile trail to a .7 mile trail that will be strictly in Warwick. It will be a loop on itself, it will be accessed from Valley Road where the County has a little park now, and access will be able to be obtained at Valley Road.

The reason for the redesign is that the County met with DEP and was directed in order to move the project forward they'd have to complete LOMAR engineering for the flood plain area where the access points on the bridges are located. These would have to be out of the flood plain making the bridge expanses much longer and anticipated cost associated with that much higher. In addition Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority, who was providing an easement asked that it not be a shared driveway but a separate lane going down to the creek on their property. These additional costs would have required additional engineering of close to \$100,000. At this time the County was not interested in incurring those costs.

The subcommittee will continue to meet to discuss the revised scope and hopefully develop a trail that can be used as a demonstration for future trails along or near streams successfully as other communities have done.

The partners that the County are working with DVRPC and DCNR both understand the situation and are working with the County to modify the scope.

Ms. Hendrixson indicated she was disappointed but Mr. Gordon shared his screen and showed the proposed location and indicated that information is on the County's website.

The other project that the County is doing which is the trail along 611 / Almshouse towards Turk Park & King Park is moving forward, hoping to go to bid later this year.

Route 202 (Central Park – Pooles Corner) Trail Feasibility Study

The flyer was sent to close of 500 property owners in the Borough and the Township. On Sunday, February 14th through February 28th the virtual meeting room will be open for people to respond. As of this morning there were over 55 responses that people have looked at room. It's a very exciting virtual use of technology and hopefully will prove successful.

It is very easy to go on, view the room and the information when people complete the survey form is easily exported and data received. That information could be put into an article for future newsletter.

Ms. Mason indicated that it is her intent to show the Board of Supervisors at their meeting this evening the virtual room.

Mr. Disciullo will be reaching out to Eric at the Doylestown Country Club making sure that they are aware of the virtual room and encouraging them to complete it.

Old New Road - Update

No Update

Neshaminy Greenway – Bristol to Upper State – Update

New Britain Township has installed the appropriate signs in the neighborhood. Ms. Jones indicated that DVRPC is working with them to reengineer the trail. It won't be as costly and a portion will be macadam but then they are going to be doing a nature trail as well as they are near the water. It is a nice compromise and will allow the area to stabilize near the creek.

The ADA benches will be on the macadam portion.

It was fortunate that they found an old farm road on the existing Colman Property and it is already pretty clear so they will be using that as well.

Mr. Kelso indicated he believes that is a win/win. He also indicated at some point being able to connect to the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve in New Britain Borough will be beneficial as well. He believes it could easily be done with a small pedestrian bridge and congratulated New Britain Borough on pulling this together it is nice that there is a parking lot.

Turk Road Area Feasibility - Implementation of Study Findings

On hold.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – Update –

The Committee is still waiting on the easement from Stonington Farms however things are wrapping up. They have indicated that they should have things in about two weeks. There have been a number of smaller submission two for the signal and bridge crossing requirements from Penn Dot.

Supplemental requirements for the ADA ramp, designs have been done and resubmitted. Due to requests from Penn Dot that were unforeseen additional supplemental design is needed and required in order to move the project forward. Baker Engineers submitted a proposal to complete this work for a little over \$19,000.

After further discussion the Committees consensus was that the proposal was reasonable and needed to move forward. It is being presented to the Board of Supervisors tonight. This work will enable the repaving and surfacing of epoxy on the bridge and the overlay, alternate pedestrian access while construction is going on as requirements of Penn Dot.

Bucks County Trail – Update –

Pump Tract – Update –

Ms. Wyckoff indicated that they have tarped the area to keep it safe for the winter and the trails in the woods will be utilized in the spring.

Mapping Project – Update –

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that Mr. Spindler wants to meet with the subcommittee which is Ms. Hendrixson, Mr. Gage, Mr. Clark and Ms. Goldman to work on the mobile app for interactive links for a revised Bike/Hike Map, having

important sites along the way identified with pop up pictures and information it can also have information on the slope or difficulty of the trail. She is hoping to be able to meet with the group and Mr. Spindler and work on the templates for the map. In addition the map is to be easily updated by Township staff. The group will be meeting via zoom with Mr. Spindler later that afternoon.

Ms. Santacecilia thanked the Committee and stressed how important it is to be working together with other groups such as Park & Rec and EAC. Having connectivity on a map like this is important.

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that the EAC has definitely expressed some concerns regarding some of the Township's trails, especially those along the Neshaminy even though they have been there a long time and many of the members that she has spoken with have never been on portions of those trails. She indicated that in her conversations many would like to see woodchips, however, woodchips are not always appropriate for ADA accessibility.

Mr. Kelso indicated that that he is happy to work with the EAC on the issues and there are places where nature trails are appropriate and can be easily worked into projects. It is just a matter of communication.

Ms. Santacecilia indicated that on the map identifying key areas and identifying the types of trails cinders, woodchips, macadam grade difficulty will be important. She also suggested a press release regarding the feasibility studies as well. She also reminded the Committee about the cost factors and the PROS Plans and needing to have a bigger strategy with the volunteers and how they are contributing to the Township.

Other Business / New Projects for Consideration

Mr. Clark inquired again about the American Great Outdoor Legislation that was recently passed and wondered if grant opportunities will be available through state agencies that the Township and Borough could benefit from.

Mr. Disciullo indicated that DCNR is requiring easements and right of ways to be in hand prior to projects moving forward. For example the trail proposed for East Road requires obtaining right of way.

It was suggested that a list of the property owners where easements are needed be obtained and Mr. Clark perhaps reach out to some personally.

Ms. Santacecilia shared an article about "Robots on Sidewalks and Trails" to provide deliveries for local businesses. This is new legislation that has occurred in Pennsylvania and focused on the Pittsburgh area. However, over time may trickle down to our local area, something to keep an eye on and perhaps learn how it could be legislated at the local level as well.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:06am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 8:00am via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager