

Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2022, 8:00am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building
425 Wells Road

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Judy Hendrixson, Vice Chairman: Tom Kelso; Chris Regosch; Cynthia Jones; Steve Disciullo, Baker Engineers; Larry Gage; Mary Pat Holewinski; Paul Gordon, Bucks County; Bill Wert; Dan Wood, Board of Supervisors Liaison and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Visitor: Carly Mannon, TMA Bucks; Mr. & Mrs. Cook Doylestown Hunt; Mariann Davies, Doylestown Hunt

Minutes Approval – Approval of the minutes from **April 19, 2022**, were unanimously approved.

Review of Projects

Bike/Hike Path Doylestown Hunt

Ms. Mason reviewed a letter that Doylestown Hunt residents Mr. & Mrs. Wilmes asked to be shared with the Committee raising concerns about the recently cut in trail from Steeplechase to the traffic light along Main Street.

Ms. Mason provided history regarding the proposed trail there which dates back to 2018, communication with adjacent property owner and that the trail in is the PennDOT Road Right of Way.

Mr. Kelso commented that it is a part of major route for our trail system along 611 connecting all the way to Central Park. It will tie in as part of the overall multimodal path system for bicycles and pedestrians. The 10' trail is typical size for the Township. The Parkway Trails is over 12' wide. The 10' assists the Township maintenance crew for easy access especially with plowing.

Mr. Gordon commented on the overall system and the use of asphalt makes it a relaxed comfortable setting for users.

Ms. Davies thanked the Committee for all of their work in creating the Bike/Hike System in and around the community and that she is not against the trails system in general. However, she raised concerns regarding the residents who have worked voluntarily to maintain the entry walls and landscaping as there is not HOA for the neighborhood. She indicated that there is an informal group of neighbors who donate funds and do plantings and clean the wall were surprised that the trail was being installed. The bigger concern is that fact that the blacktop trail doesn't match the existing sidewalk on the opposite side of the street going into the Borough. She is hoping that the Bike/Hike Committee could look at ways to match the two sides.

Ms. Goldman indicated that she was out at the site and looked at it and agrees that she likes symmetry and things to match as well, although it didn't match before, she would agree that extending the blacktop path toward the Borough may be the best-case scenario and then both sides would match. She believes that the Committee should be exploring this going forward.

Mr. & Mrs. Cook indicated that they were concerned about the view shed in their back yard now that some of the trees have been removed from the Bucks County Historical Society Property. They would like some trees planted.

Ms. Goldman indicated that she would be happy to work with Feeney's Nursery to get them to donate some trees in the fall to be planted that would buffer their view from their backyard.

The consensus of the Committee was to explore removing the sidewalk and adding the trail in blacktop on the opposite side going into Doylestown Borough and to obtain some trees to plant on the Bucks County Historical Society Property to improve the view shed of the Cook's Property.

Easton Road Trail Connector Concept

Mr. Disciullo shared and reviewed the proposed trail from the traffic light at the 202 Parkway going south along Easton Rd connecting into the trail at the Callan and Tabor Properties. He indicated that this grant requires a resolution, but it doesn't have a match requirement.

It was suggested that perhaps tying in the Steeplechase Trail north towards the Borough might be considered as part of this grant application as well.

There was a little concern about the fact that the existing sidewalk ends at the parking lot of the nursing home. This may be difficult to put into the grant application but should be explored. The proposed trail southbound is 100% in PennDOT Road Right of Way. There will be the need for the appropriate crossings at the ramps of the 202 Parkway and eventually we will need to make sure everything ties with the proposed round-a-bouts at New Britain and Easton Roads.

Electric Bikes (E-Bikes) – Continued Discussion

There haven't been any suggestion changes at the moment, it is recommended that we move it forward for review by Mr. Garton and get it to the Board of Supervisors.

There was a concern that someone said they saw a go-cart on the 202 Trail, obviously these would be considered motorized vehicles and are not permitted. If seen again the police should be called.

Video and Mapping Project – Update

Mr. Disciullo, Baker Engineers indicated that there inhouse GIS person actually lives in Doylestown Township and is willing to work with the Committee and help create the layer to generate map that we can build out the trails on it as well.

New Britain Road Trail Project - Update

There was discussion regarding buffering the bike lanes rather than barriers that might need PennDOT's approval. The bridge is currently two car lanes and a shoulder, the alternative is making a one way 5' bike lane over the bridge.

The environmental study is under way right now, we need to work on the structure design along New Britain Rd staying behind the guide rail.

There were also some questions regarding delineators at the Hospital Trail that were taken out. Follow up with the Hospital is needed.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – TASA Grant

Ms. Mason was pleased to announce that Township did receive an additional 1.4 million dollars in funding for this project. We anticipate paperwork to be prepared by PennDOT and be submitted in the fall. Baker is still finalizing design and we're hopeful bidding will occur in the fall with construction occurring next year.

Bucks County Trail – Update –

Mr. Gordon said the Planning Commission is working with PennDOT to review and move forward on its various bike/hike trail projects. He also suggested looking at using a quick curb, which is solid piece ADA compliant and might be worth considering instead of delineators.

The County is advancing their projects, they anticipate construction in the fall for the trail along Almshouse, they are reviewing landscape plans for Valley Rd and going back for public comment on the proposed trail along the Neshaminy.

The County is also working on a County Wide Trail Map.

Mr. Gordon also announced that he will be retiring October 5th and moving to Ashville, North Carolina with his family and that Christian Regosch will be taking over as the BCPC representative to the Bike/Hike Committee.

The Committee wished Mr. Gordon all the best and Ms. Goldman indicated that he would be sorely missed on the Committee.

Pump Track– Update

The track is open, and it is getting good use.

Prioritizing list of Future Projects

Ms. Mannon from the Bucks TMA indicated that if the Committee has bike/hike issues that they want to educate the public on the TMA can be of assistance. TMA has a number of free programs regarding the use of helmets, trails, bike safety, etc. The TMA would love to partner with the Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee. They could help host a Bike Rodeo and the Committee thought this was great as it is one of their projects to continue with public education.

Ms. Goldman suggested coordinating with Ms. Wyckoff from the Committee that perhaps a program could be done at Linden and Doyle Elementary Schools.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:34am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 8:00 am at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager