

Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2023, 8:00am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Judy Hendrixson, Vice Chairman; Tom Kelso; Larry Gage; Rick James; Roger Clark; Caitlin Hernandez; Mary Pat Holewinski, New Britain Borough; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Rich Brahler, Bucks County; Christian Regosch, Bucks County; Steve Disciullo, Baker Engineer; Dan Wood, Board of Supervisors Liaison; and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Guests: Nicole Rodowicz, TMA Bucks Project Coordinator

Minutes Approval July 18, 2023 – The minutes were unanimously approved.

Pebble Hill Trail – Easement

Ms. Mason indicated that Mr. Cahill contacted her to indicate that he would like to have a meeting in the field to discuss the letter regarding the easement.

Mr. Disciullo indicated that it may only be a temporary easement because of slope, he will try to coordinate dates in the next couple of weeks to meet with him.

We will need to make sure that all right-of-way pieces are in place before a TASA Grant can be applied for.

There was discussion regarding the bridge, getting with PennDOT and most likely needing a joint Army Corp and DEP Permit to create a pedestrian / bicycle bridge.

Mr. Disciullo indicated that he has reached out to PennDOT but had not heard back from them yet regarding the arched bridge.

Some discussion occurred regarding a flashing signal for crossing the bridge so that motorists would stop so that pedestrians and cyclist could safely cross the bridge, make it more of a shared road at that point. It was suggested to find a time to meet in the field and follow up with PennDOT.

New Britain Road Trail Project - Update

Mr. Disciullo indicated that it is coming along. We have not heard about PennDOT notice to proceed with their bridge rehabilitation project, but Baker Engineering is proceeding with final plan design. A meeting with the Morgan Hill HOA about the crossing.

Mr. Gage was concerned about the people who park in the roadway, edge of the road or off the road to access Harts Woods. It was indicated that parking would go away because of the trail. It's easy to access Harts Woods from Central Park and they can park at the New Britain Road parking lot.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – Update

At this point Mr. Disciullo indicated that there is no update, everything is still with PennDOT. Baker had to resubmit environmental information because DEP has a new requirement on bats.

Pump Track

Ms. Goldman indicated that it looks good, and Ms. Hernandez indicated that Wheely Wednesday is taking place at the track attendance has been good. There is also a Sunday Kids Bike Race that is coming together.

Ms. Goldman indicated that Ms. Rodowicz, TMA wants to follow up working with Doyle Elementary School for next year. Ms. Goldman indicated that Kutz Elementary School is also interested in the P.E. Class continuing the Rules of the Road Program.

Ms. Rodowicz indicated that Bucks TMA is working on a program with PennDOT to obtain further funding for the CTSP program, this is a program that Carly from Bucks TMA had done for the Bike Safety and Rodeo as well as the Teen Buckle-up for Safety and Teen Rodeo is taking some of that funding, to be able to continue the Safe Riders to School Program she is requesting a letter of support form the Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee be provided. TMP Bucks is working with Doylestown Borough on a Pop-up Bike/Pedestrian Lane Project on Doyle Street near the new Borough building. They have information out for a survey and so far, 165 responses have been received. Ms. Rodowicz provided some sample postcards that so people can respond to the survey. This will occur September 6th through 16th and also, the same weekend the Art's Festival takes place. They are referring to this event at DASH DOWN DOYLE.

Bucks County Projects – Updates

Mr. Regosch indicated that there is not update at this time regarding the Neshaminy Greenway, still waiting on their engineers to complete associated work. Mr. Braehler indicated that since their funding ran out it's a little tricky.

Prioritizing list of Future Projects

Mr. Kelso stated that this is still on his task list for Doylestown.

Ms. Jacobson indicated that the Chalfont Trail to the Neshaminy and Park Avenue and the connection to Patriot Place Open Space is under consideration but was tabled at the Chalfont Borough meeting, they have received a grant for \$250,000 from DCED, project bids came in around \$305,000 they have raised 15% from the 5K races as the match. Several residents on Patriot Place are concerned but this item will be back on the agenda for Chalfont in September. Consensus of the Committee was to send a letter of support for this trail as it ties into and supports trails regionally, especially the Park Avenue to Bristol Road extension project. Ms. Jacobson indicated that this was included in the Tri-municipal Trail Plan many years ago.

Ms. Jones indicated that New Britain Borough / Township and Chalfont all set aside easements which are in place for the Bristol Road extension which they anticipate sometime in 2027 from PennDOT.

There was discussion regarding Easton Road Connection from Steeplechase to Tabor. This was a previous application by Doylestown Township and was not received. Consensus of the Committee was to reapply for a grant in the TASA round coming in September.

Ms. Hendrixson gave an update on the silhouettes, the welding shop could not cut them as they did not have an intern, now that they are going back to school, the hope is that MBIT will be able to get this in the near future.

Pebble Hill Road – Mr. Wood indicated that the corner of Turk and Pebble Hill original owner was not interested in the trail project however, he has spoken to the new owner who seems to be very interested.

Brooks Tract Trail – Mr. Clark indicated he has noticed work taking place at the project site however he has not seen work on the trail. Ms. Mason indicated that usually comes later.

Adjournment - Being no further the meeting adjourned at 8:53am. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 8:00 am** at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager