

Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2024, 8:00am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Tom Kelso, Vice Chairman; Judy Hendrixson; Marilyn Jacobson; Larry Gage; Roger Clark; Louise Silberg; Rick James; Cynthia Jones; Nicole McElroy; Emily Valmore; Caitlin Hernandez, Doylestown Borough; Christian Regosch; Bucks County; Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers; Judy Dixon, Board of Supervisors Liaison; and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Reorganization:

Chairman: Lynn Goldman - On motion of Ms. Hendrixson, seconded by Ms. Jacobson the motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman: Tom Kelso – On motion of Ms. Hendrixson, seconded by Mr. Gage the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes Approval December 19, 2023 –

Safe Cycling and School Children - Update

Ms. Valmore indicated that she hasn't talked to the schools yet, but they are looking at working with Doyle Elementary in the spring. She will connect with Ms. McElroy in order to organize this project.

Pebble Hill Trail - Update

Mr. Stanford indicated that he is still working on the right of way information for PennDOT. There is some hope for state support and to track that DVRPC has a new program which Baker Engineering is part of. They will assist with pre-project design and assistance, especially when it comes to TASA Grants preapplication process.

Ms. Mason will reach out to DVRPC to see if we will be eligible for that program. Typically, it takes about two years of planning to be ready for submission of a grant.

The consensus of the committee is that we should be as ready as possible with right of way in place to be able to move forward with the project along Pebble Hill Road.

New Britain Road Trail Project - Update

The Township does have the DCED Grant. Mr. Stanford is coordinating with the Township and Mr. Tomko, Director of Operations regarding the finalizing the plans for bidding and aligning it with the paving along New Britain Road.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School – Update

Mr. Stanford indicated that a pre-con meeting was held with Marino Construction and a notice to proceed has been issued for the project, which is based on a unit price.

Ms. Mason indicated that Mr. Strauss from Shady Retreat Road contacted her about setting up a meeting with other neighbors. The consensus of the Committee was to address individual concerns with property owners directly.

The Committee also discussed the communication that has occurred and the planning that has gone into this project, and how the Township has positively addressed individual concerns regarding the design, and trees along Shady Retreat Rd. It was indicated that Mr. Strauss would like copies of the right of way plans and wants to know what would occur with his tree and the gray color asphalt being used so it would be distinguished for the typical black top.

Mr. Kelso asked if having a cut sheet may be helpful, but he and the rest of the Committee are comfortable with moving forward with this project as it and working to complete it in a timely manner under the grant.

Bucks County Trail Projects – Updates

Mr. Regosch indicated that there is not much to report on the Neshaminy Greenway Phase 1, the engineers for the project are working with PennDOT and addressing their concerns. The County is moving forward on the Newtown Rail Trail Plan and also doing work on the County's Core Creek Park Trail.

There was a question regarding the Peace Valley Trail through the woods and some concern for the way it drains in that location. It was suggested that the new County Park & Recreation Director attend a future Bike/Hike meeting as well. Mr. Regosch indicated he would reach out to Ms. Nagle.

Mr. Kelso indicated that the cranes are back at the Pine Run Reservoir.

Ms. Dixon indicated that there was a complaint about the mowing at the Pine Run and wanted to know who took care of that. It was indicated that the County's general services department takes care of mowing the Pine Run as its County land. There is a schedule that they follow. Grasses can grow taller due to the wildlife habitat and ground nesting birds in the area.

Mr. Kelso commented that he believes that the connection to the Pine Run Community through the Pine Run Reservoir may be a good project for DVRPC as well.

There was some discussion regarding signage that ended up on the 202 Parkway about no E-bikes. It was indicated that the Township and the state, Bucks County Maintenance Bureau didn't know who put them there. It was clear the Township did not, it was suggested contact the state to have them removed.

Ms. Goldman discussed maintenance of trails and ongoing projects. Ms. Dixon indicated that she would be happy to communicate costs for those. After further discussion it was agreed that a subcommittee would be formed to meet to discuss that topic. It would include annual maintenance, preventive maintenance, repair damage and rebuilding. Mr. Kelso, Mr. Gage, Mr. Torpey, Mr. Tomko, Mr. Wood, Ms. Dixon, and Mr. C. Mason, Parks Superintendent, will form the subcommittee and discuss maintenance.

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that she would appreciate it if exploration on the use of recycled materials could be given consideration from an environmental standpoint, she believes it may be beneficial. Mr. Kelso indicated that sometimes oil and chips are a good way to go as well. Ms. Goldman suggested that it's one way to get away from the blacktop look, especially if it is a red tipped look.

Mr. Clark indicated that he is anxious to have letters regarding easements sent to property owners for the Pebble Hill project sent out. It was pointed out that those letters cannot be sent out until we know exactly what the right of way is and where we're going to need any easements. This information will be finalized by Mr. Stanford. The area right now focuses on the easement provided by Doylestown Country Club. If there is work that needs to be done out there several members of the Bike/Hike Committee indicated that they would be happy to help.

Adjournment - Being no further the meeting adjourned at 8:59am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager