

Bike/Hike Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2018

Present: Lynn Goldman; Tom Kelso; Marilyn Jacobson, Chalfont Borough; Larry Gage; Dan Wood; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township Supervisor; Judy Hendrixson; Mary Pat Holewinski; Louise Silberg, Buckingham Township; Chris Stanford, Michael Baker; Dick Patterson, Paul Gordon, Bucks County Planning Commission; and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Guest: Katie Maio, Turk Road Resident

Minutes Approval – The minutes from the March 20, 2017 – were approved.

Review of Projects

Neshaminy Greenway – Update – Mr. Stanford indicated that March was not a great month. New Britain Borough activity of plantings still needs to be completed.

The project is about 98% done however there is some landscaping and cleanup work that needs to take place. There are some questions about the asphalt base course in one area; the inspectors will look at that.

Talked about New Britain Township and their project is moving forward. There was a meeting last night on the project at Bristol and Upper State Roads, which is important. Ms. Jones from New Britain indicated that she appreciated all the people from the committee in attendance, it really helped and provided information as well.

Lower State Road – Update – Signing and striping still needs to be finalized should be soon as long as the weather holds. We could probably do an opening sometime late May or June.

Mr. Patterson asked about the pedestrian crossing at the railroad and the signage that is there.

Mr. Stanford explained that and that everything that was required is required by the railroad company and PUC and those are the rules that are followed. It's designed to ride through however we have to share the trail and it does say to dismount.

Turk Road / Pebble Hill Road – Update – Ms. Goldman indicated that a resident from Turk Road at the last meeting shared a study regarding access to trails that was dated from 2004 and 2009 she said that those are well over 10 years old and does not believe that the information is timely or pertinent any longer. Since that time the improvement record for trails being an asset to properties has proven out.

Mr. Kelso indicated that the Board will be reviewing the proposal from Baker Engineers at their meeting this evening. He will be there to share with the Board the goals of the project.

Resident, Cherry Lane mentioned that Mr. Kelso indicated that there needs to be some public meetings looking at constraints and opportunities that will present itself, we should probably plan to do something over the summer at the library and we will need to be flexible in addressing the needs for the Cherry Lane area as well. Once the document is executed copies can be made available to the public.

Bucks County Trail – Update – Mr. Gordon said that he had met with Mr. Tomko, Ms. Sweeney and Ms. Mason in the field to discuss the design for the trail along Almshouse Road over to Turk Road and into Warrington's King Park.

Boucher and James is doing the design, they will be meeting again in the field. The Committee and the Township will have the opportunity to look at a final design before anything proceeds further.

The hope is to be going out to bid for the Dark Hollow Park and having that become accessible as well.

The Upper Saucon Rail Trail is coming along.

The Pump Tract – Ms. Goldman indicated that Ms. Wykoff is doing yeomen’s work in bringing this project to fruition. She indicated that they have already started with moving the dirt around to form the tract and hoping for better weather to continue to move it along.

Look for events supporting it in the near future.

Other Business –

Mr. Gage had a question on the Neshaminy Trail Connector, procedures and authority for the public good and being able to established right of way. Working on compromises between what makes sense.

Mr. Kelso indicated that there is not one process but we look for opportunities. Most of the municipalities Subdivision Land Development Ordinances address requiring trails now so many begin through the development process also state law has placed a value and we try to avoid condemnation as much as possible. We always find that working with the property owner is much better. Being able to do a feasibility study helps lay things out, put things on the map.

Ms. Holewinski said that this became true through the 202 Parkway, we have heard it for years, and people knew it was going to happen but were still surprised when it did.

Mr. Kelso indicated that residents over time recognize the need for the trails and the interconnection that they bring to the community and you just have to have patience.

Ms. Silberg was impressed at the meeting with Mr. Stanford’s ability to stay calm with so many people during the presentation, she liked his information.

Ms. Jacobson indicated that they sent notice to residents in the area and as she likes to say happy people don’t complain.

Ms. Hendrixson indicated the importance of having trails for special needs people, many don’t drive and trails become their means to walk to or bike to work opportunities.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:41am. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 8:00am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager