

Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2023, 8:00am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Judy Hendrixson, Vice Chairman; Tom Kelso; Marilyn Jacobson; Larry Gage; Roger Clark; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Nicole McElroy; Emily Valmore; Caitlin Hernandez; Christian Regosch; Bucks County; Dan Wood, Board of Supervisors Liaison; and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Guests:

Minutes Approval October 19, 2023 – The minutes were unanimously approved with one change: Under Pebble Hill Trail – Update – last paragraph last sentence should read - If we knew when PennDOT will be repaving the bridge it could be addressed, we need to do a design analysis.

Pebble Hill Trail – Update

Mr. Stanford will need to follow up with PennDOT regarding the bridge. The property owner next to the bridge will need to be contacted. Doylestown Country Club design is in the budget for 2024. There was some discussion about volunteers helping with the construction of the little bridge that goes over a little stream near the Country Club. A fundraiser to get people involved may be helpful. Also, some publicity about the project along with bringing the Borough into the project and PennDOT since it is a PennDOT roadway should be on the list of things to do. A 5K Run was suggested to raise awareness, especially if we can make the newspaper and identify it as a safe pathway for the community. Create energy to get people to participate.

New Britain Road Trail Project - Update

Baker Engineers is working on the final design, they're getting the project ready to go out to bid, as the grant is up in 2025.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – TASA Grant

The bid was open about \$200,000+/- more than the grant amount, DVRPC will add to the grant amount to cover that expense. The Township, as in the initial grant and just like Lower State Road, is still responsible for the inspection costs. After the trail is done, roadway paving will occur.

Pump Track

The Borough is planning a fundraiser for the spring. It is very active, the dirt situation is ok at this time, they usually get it from Sparks, because it has to be a specific type of dirt. Ms. Wykoff is now going to be on Borough Council, but the Pump Track has always been her baby and Ms. Goldman assumes it will continue to be going forward.

Bucks County Trail Projects – Updates

Mr. Regosch indicated that the consultants are working with DVRPC and PennDOT to move the Neshaminy Greenway Phase I along Rt. 611 forward. The portion for Dark Hollow is on hold, it needs to go to next phase, but it is not moving forward at this time as the County is focused more on Core Creek Park project.

Prioritizing list of Future Projects

Ms. Goldman indicated that we worked with Feeney's Nursery, the Bucks County Historical Society and two neighbors on Steeplechase that had requested some trees to block the Wawa in the Borough. Fortunately, Ms. Goldman was able to obtain several Green Giant Arborvitae that were planted behind 1 & 3 Steeplechase. The neighbors seem very happy. The Township communicated with the property owners to let them know that they will need to assist with watering and keeping the trees alive as these trees were donated gifts to the Bike/Hike Committee from Feeney's. Ms. Goldman thanked Ms. Mason for coordinating all the efforts.

Ms. Jones indicated that New Britain Township awarded a bid for the trail along Upper State Road at the bridge near Bristol. The pole barn on the property is going to stay, they will figure out how it will be used in the future, public works will be utilizing it now, they are adding a wearing course and bringing the trail up making it sturdier from the wood chips

along the water. She is hoping to have some vision for the property making it more of a comfort stop for people along the way.

Mr. Wood indicated that trail maintenance is a concern, he indicated that Sandy Ridge & Iron Hill are being done this year but looking forward he's hoping to loop the committee involved regarding maintenance of trails. He indicated that the Bike/Hike Committee has the best eye out on the trails and can identify areas that need to be put onto a future maintenance list and into budgets of the Township going forward.

Mr. Kelso thought this was an opportunity for maintenance and preventative maintenance as well. He believes that preventative maintenance is a good thing and certainly with a trail system that is 30 years old. Budgeting for maintenance is important. What should be budgeted in terms of designs and materials should be discussed with the Director of Operations. It was suggested that a small group from the committee get together with Mr. Tomko and Mr. Wood to discuss various concepts. Mr. Kelso indicated that drainage and root intrusion are the main problems, and those are easily addressed.

A subcommittee of Dan Wood, Tom Kelso, Dave Tomko, Chris Stanford was suggested. Reporting any potholes to the Township is also important. Mr. Clark suggested letting people take a photo and email it to the Township, a way to address things quickly. Ms. Goldman indicated that it is the right thing to do.

Mr. Clark discussed the connection of three properties along East Road to connect across the bridge near the Farm, this area needs to be put on the books and discussed further, especially with PennDOT owning the bridge over the bypass. Mr. Stanford could look into this.

Adjournment - Being no further the meeting adjourned at 8:50am, Ms. Goldman wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 18, 2023 at 8:00 am** at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager