

Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2023, 8:00am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building

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

Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers via Zoom

Guests: Judy Dixon and Lee Griggs

Minutes Approval November 21, 2023 – On motion of Ms. Hendrixson, seconded by Mr. Gage the minutes were approved unanimously.

Pebble Hill Trail – Update

Mr. Stanford indicated that he did talk to PennDOT about the bridge, we're not going to be able to hang anything from it. The pedestrian/bicycle crossing will have to be a separate trail bridge over the stream. Share The Road is not going to work in that location either. PennDOT doesn't like to mix facilities, there are safety issues with pedestrians and bikes because it is rather narrow. A separate structure is the way to go, Mr. Stanford will look into the right of way and trail easements that may be needed for the properties that own the pond. He will stay on top of it, preparing for a grant.

Mr. Lee Griggs, 581 Pebble Hill Rd, indicated that he would love a way to be able to get into town. He lives near the small frog pond next door to Ms. Wheeler he is very interested in a path. Mr. Stanford indicated that he would get the information, he is working with DCC's timeline because it is limited. There will be a bridge over some wetlands as well.

New Britain Road Trail Project - Update

Mr. Stanford is working on the final design, preparing for bids sometime in 2024 and coordinating with PennDOT.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – TASA Grant

The project has been bid and awarded by PennDOT. The project is anticipated to start at the end of January. Ms. Mason will finalize a letter to the property owners, signed by Ms. Goldman, that will go out at the end of the year to let them know the trail is forthcoming.

Pump Track

Closed for the winter. Ms. Goldman indicated that we should expect maintenance in the spring.

Bucks County Trail Projects – Updates

Mr. Regosch indicated that the County is working on the trail for Neshaminy Greenway Phase 1. LVL Engineers is responding back to PennDOT incorporating comments on the plans. Mr. Kelso inquired about the extensiveness of the review. Mr. Resch indicated that he did not know.

Phase II was finished in terms of planning and design; however, the County does not have the funds at this time in terms of grants to move the project forward. They're focusing on Phase I as well as the Newtown Rail Trail and Phase II of that project.

Mr. Kelso brought up the Barn Cinema indicating that the project would be moving forward shortly, and that this committee should look at ways of incorporating sidewalk and/or trail as part of it. The plans will probably come to the Planning Commission sometime in the new year. SALDO requirements were discussed as was the topography which may be a bit difficult, if not an offsite contribution may be considered. Mr. Gage commented that a strip mall development being car oriented makes it difficult for people to walk to these facilities without a trail.

There was some discussion regarding the bridge over Neshaminy and how PennDOT took the sidewalk out some time ago.

Prioritizing list of Future Projects

Signage – there was some discussion with the County. Mr. Wood suggested that the PRB is working on design concepts for Way Finding in the Parks. Perhaps collaboration should occur between Bike/Hike and Park & Rec.

Ms. Jacobson indicated that the Bucks County Herald misquoted Chalfont about their 2024 Budget. The Borough did increase millage but not by as much as they said, however, they are moving forward with the interconnection of trails in their township to some of their parks.

Mr. Kelso indicated that long term the Neshaminy Greenway is being developed with trails but being done in pieces and as segments are completed it attracts a lot of people from outside our area, but proper signage will help to guide them to rest stops, food etc. Proper signage for Warrington Township and Newtown signage such as mile markers etc. is a good start and could be helpful, similar to what was put in for the Chalfont New Britain Sewer Authority property along that trail. This was the first area to be identify.

Ms. Hendirxson indicated that more signage is always helpful, it gives people a heads-up as to where they are heading and where they can take a rest.

Maintenance – Mr. Wood indicated that he will be talking to Mr. Tomko, about maintenance that will be occurring along the Kutz Trail in 2024 The Township is looking for long term improvements where needed on associated trails, such as coordinating with New Britain Road when that trail goes under construction.

Mr. Clark asked about Cherry Lane and when we thought the developer would start construction on that segment on their property. The Township Engineer will have to be contacted.

Ms. Goldman talked about Ferry Road and the Church of Latter-Day Saints and the authority's property and if there was a way to cut up from Chapman over to the back side of Lake Galena. This is a long-term project she has always had in mind.

Ms. Jones indicated that New Britain Township's new trail near Upper State Road and Bristol is being completed. It's a great project and a good connection to get one from this area to Chalfont.

Ms. McElroy indicated that she has been meeting with the schools to bring spring event for bike safety in the new year.

Ms. Jacobson indicated that the trail through Neshaminy Greenway connecting Chestnut Street Park and Linden Field and Patriots Place housing developments is coming along.

Adjournment - Being no further the meeting adjourned at 8:48am, with Ms. Goldman wishing everyone a happy holiday season. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 8:00 am** at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager