

**Notes from Bike/Hike Meeting
October 20, 2015**

Present: Lynn Goldman, Tom Kelso, Dick Bach, Dick Patterson, Paul Gordon, Mike Silagi, Baker Engineers, Andy Clark, Judy Hendrixson, Bob Ruddy, Shawn Touhill, Board of Supervisors Liaison and Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township Manager.

Trail Awareness Day 2015, September 20, 2015 – Recap

Due to the weather we believe we had a smaller turnout than we did last year, but those who participated enjoyed the event.

We discussed the fact that we had a small hiccup on some of the alley ways that we had selected in Doylestown Borough, apparently one of them is not maintained by Doylestown Borough but is actually a private alley. Some of the residents did not want it to be used for public use. A reroute was done at the last minute – all worked out well.

People participating enjoyed the rides; once again the Ice Cream Ride was very well attended.

For next year think about moving start location, adding additional trails and making sure the Ice Cream ride starts and is publicized to start later.

Review of Projects

Lower State Road – Concern that SEPTA will not be funding the portion of the crossing; they have agreed to fund the New Britain Train Station crossing 100%.

The new estimate is up significantly on the crossing to \$380,000 from \$150,000. We have an \$800,000 grant so the majority will have to be used to take care of making an improvement for safe crossing at Lower State Road.

It was indicated that Mr. Stanford is speaking with DVRPC and it is intended that additional funds will be allocated from the TAP Program, the Township may have to apply for a grant but additional funds will not have to come from Doylestown Township.

There may be in-kind services that are required, perhaps putting in fencing, doing some trail work or tree planting no additional funds that has been made very clear to DVRPC.

They are excited to see this work completed so they intend to work with the Bike & Hike Committee.

It was discussed and agreed that at 9:00am on November 17th we would hold a Lower State Road meeting and invite the resident of the properties impacted by the project to a meeting.

Heritage Trail – The Heritage Trail work began late summer the barriers are installed, fencing stills needs to be done, things are moving along.

Neshaminy Greenway Phase III – Ms. Hendrixson recapped the meeting that was held in September with residents in New Britain Borough and Doylestown Township present discussing the plans.

There are three properties in New Britain Borough that easements are needed from. One of the property owners is not necessarily in favor of the trail on their property, however they didn't quite understand what it could look like so Mr. Stanford's office will be meeting with the property owners Friday and Monday to show them and stake in the field where the trail will be located and how it will impact their property and what type of landscaping could be done to lessen the impact.

There was some discussion about moving to the other side of the roadway into Doylestown Township after we exit from the cemetery however there is a lot of wetlands and that would require significant permitting and wooden boardwalk bridge to cross the wetlands. Hope is to work with the New Britain Borough residents.

Mrs. Smith was present; she indicated that she has concerns about the path on her property.

The area in New Britain Township will be able to be in the right of way, only one property owner will need to have an easement. Ms. Hendrixson said that is an acquaintance of hers who is very excited about having a trail and had already bought a bicycle.

Other Business –

A gentleman named Joel was present; he indicated that he is an avid Bike & Hike Trail user and he is interested in getting move involved with the committee.

Green Street –

Mr. Gordon from the County Planning Commission indicated that he had contacted the State Bike Coordinator to discuss Bike Route S with him. Bike Route S connects in Lower State Road should be put on the Parkway Trail as well since they connect now.

It was suggested that we try to connect with him on November 17th and have him attend the meeting.

Bray/Long Tract –

Mr. Kelso indicated that this is a property at Lower State and Bristol Roads being developed by Toll Brothers. He and Ms. Hendrixson who is also on the Planning Commission walked the property. The property goes down to the stream, it would be very easy to put a trail in along there and connect into the Neshaminy Greenway Trail. This would be further vetted with the applicant during the planning process. Also trails proposed along Bristol Road. It could be very valuable for the properties out there with this additional trail.

2016 Budget –

Mr. Touhill indicated that the Township Board of Supervisors are working on the 2016 Budget and asked if the committee had any questions or projects. He also said the Bike & Hike Committee should realize that things are not the way they used to be and that projects will need to be scrutinized even further going forward.

Mr. Kelso understood that and said that the Bike & Hike Committee can do things to try to address needs of the trail system going forward as well.

Regional Transportation –

Rail Trail Comments: Mr. Gordon indicated our moving forward with Upper Southampton is on board with Newtown and Northampton encouraging the George School to bring trails further in the area.

Newtown Borough has not public works so they are having difficulty figuring out how they might maintain trails.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be November 17, 2015 at 8AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager