

**Notes from Bike/Hike Meeting
March 17, 2015**

Present: Judy Hendrixson; Tom Kelso; Bruce Hochman; Liz Wycoff, Doylestown Borough, Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers; Dick Patterson; Paul Gordon, Bucks County; Dick Bach; Sandra Zadell, Chalfont Borough; Andy Clark, Doylestown Borough; Mary Pat Holewinski; Louise Silberg, Buckingham Township; Taylor Thomson, Heritage; Art Glass, Delaware Valley College; Shawn Touhill, Board of Supervisor Liaison and Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township Manager.

Trail from Beulah Road to Butler Ave (New Britain Borough)

Mr. Stanford indicated that the developer is building a connection between Shady Retreat and Beulah Roads. It is gravel, not paved there is still some work that they need to do at the end. Some sharrows may need to be added to Beulah which would be appropriate and a connection to Delaware Valley College may also be worthwhile to look at.

There is concern about the SEPTA line and site visibility. Concern for discussion with traffic and perhaps the Traffic Advisory Committee to weigh in as well, but it is a step in the right direction. Drainage issues on the Delaware Valley College side, pipes would need to be installed.

Review of New Projects for 2015

Trail Awareness Day – Still slated for Sunday, September 27, 2015, it is in progress, some inquiries from Quakertown. Ms. Silberg indicated that Buckingham is thinking of doing something, certainly set forth a model. Still concern on whether or not the Pope's visit to Philadelphia that weekend is going to have an impact. Still needs further discussion. However, things are moving along.

Review of Projects

Lower State Road – Delaware Valley College to the YMCA, need to look at the easement for Delaware Valley College, Mr. Glass was there and indicated that he would be happy to look at that. There was some discussion that moving the easement closer to Lower State Road coming around trying to save the trees and accessing onsite versus crossing the driveway might be safer.

Mr. Stanford will look further at that as well.

Working with SEPTA on the crossing and the additional easements that will be needed from the residents on Lower State Road. This needs to be done by August by 2016 under the project.

Heritage Trail – That project is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors. The bids came in relatively high however, with some discussion with the low bidder we believe we will be able to get the bridge work done in association with the project. The Township will have to apply for another grant, which we are also doing for materials and things in hopes that we will be able to build that in house perhaps with volunteers as well.

Neshaminy Greenway Phase III – From the sewer treatment plant, the wetlands need to be viewed in that area, also create trail head parking at Upper State Road possible near the soccer fields.

We also discussed once the weather breaks and walking proposed trail.

The Chalfont section aligning feasibility studies that for funding and design. Ms. Zadell indicated was taking place in discussions, they have come up with a number of different alignments and hopefully one of those will come to fruition shortly.

Peace Valley Park Update – Mr. Gordon indicated that the County received a \$500,000 grant and is going to be making repairs and expansion of the Bike/Hike Trail in the park and would actually be completing the loop. Anticipate RFP's being put out sometime in 2016.

Mr. Gordon also indicated that the County Commissioners are looking at several different projects extending trails in the county; one is the Saucon Valley Rail Trail that would connect the trail from California Road in Quakertown and up to the Coopersburg Rail Trail. Also a Newtown Trail Line is being considered which is about 3 miles and goes from County Line to the Churchville Station. All three commissioners are on board with moving with one of these ahead of course the price tag is still of concern. He indicated that the county hasn't forgotten about the Neshaminy Greenway but does not look like it is one of the projects being considered. He also indicated that Montgomery County was working on the Byberry Project to County Line.

Chalfont Project – Ms. Zadell indicated Butler Avenue is almost out to bid under a Safe Routes to School Project utilizing a PennDot grant for \$103,000.

Neshaminy Greenway Trail – Blue Jay to Lenape Lane is also under way.

Bucks County Planning Commission met with Plumstead Township and they are developing a Bike/Hike Trail plan under feasibility study as well.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned a little after 9:00am. The next meeting will be April 21, 2015 at 8AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager