

Notes from Bike/Hike Meeting
February 21, 2017

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Tom Kelso; Chris Stanford; Paul Gordon, Bucks County Planning Commission; Mary Pat Holewinski; Judy Hendrixson; Liz Wycoff; Andy Hamilton; Andy Clark; Taylor Tompson; Ken Snyder, Board of Supervisors Member; Dave Tomko, Director of Operations and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Guests: Kellie McGowan, representing Doylestown Hospital; Larry Gage; Joan McGill; Case & Christine Fenimore; Michael Gilletth and Stanley Hall.

Review of Projects

Chapman Road Bridge – The Township is replacing the bridge, working with Baker Engineering and Pennoni. How wide should the bridge be for the Bike/Hike Path? The feasibility study that was done years ago showed this as an alternate route to Peace Valley Park.

The steep ditches in the area and the big hill were discussed. There are no accidents; there are about 2,025 cars per day, 32' wide now. The change would be two 11' lanes with 5' shoulder on each side to accommodate in the future, could restripe it to 10' and 4' and the connect Peace Valley at some point. The consensus was that was the way to go, barriers did not seem to be appropriate.

Neshaminy Greenway – New Britain Borough has reached out to the residents, they have met with them. Doylestown Township has reached out to Mr. Emmell and is reaching out again, indicating that we would move to condemnation if necessary. New Britain Borough needs to press the residents to obtain it as this project needs to move forward.

Suggested press release for Central Bucks Bike Club, new photo for the Bike Station at Lower State Road and the Parkway.

Mr. Snyder, Board of Supervisor Liaison to Traffic Advisory Committee; the Traffic Advisory Committee wants to change what they do historically. Addressing speeding and way to solve it in various areas in the Township, they look at things and try to be result orientated. Such as number of accidents, improvements made at Easton, New Britain and Saureman Roads. The traffic accident history went down 50% but is that enough? In addition to looking at things from a historical perspective they have also started to look at whether they are getting the results they are trying to achieve. They have studied Rogers Road, reducing the speed limit and now they are focusing on putting in a stop sign to further reduce traffic speeding on that roadway.

They would like to see a better coordination with the Bike/Hike Committee and impacts from Bike/Hike projects such as Lower State Road Trail. Bike/Hike looked at it from a trial perspective and obviously when issues related to traffic came up, sent the residents from Lower State to the Traffic Advisory Committee. There needs to be more coordination, it appears that Mr. Tomko, the new Director of Operations is going to be attending both committee meetings so we can share information better internally.

Lower State Road – Mr. Stanford indicated that PennDot received nine bids. They range from \$1.3 to \$1.7; JDM was the low bid, only 6% higher than what was projected. The bid came in a little over about \$75,000. The Township is recommending that we use \$5,000 from the Bike/Hike fund that was monies fundraised from the sale of benches, etc. There is approximately \$12,000 in there now and put that towards the project and PennDot will pick up the \$70,000 it is on the Board of Supervisors agenda, the Bike/Hike Committee concurred with that recommendation.

Sharon, from Ford Hook Farms was present and wanted to know when things would get started, they have events planned between May and August of this year.

Ms. Mason will follow up with a phone call to Sharon with starts dates.

Turk Road Trail Extension to Pebble Hill Road – Mrs. Fenimore indicated that her husband couldn't be here this morning but he has put together a Facebook page for the Turk Road / Pebble Hill Road Proposed Trail. It was suggested as part of Trail Awareness Day in September that Ms. Wycoff, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Fenimore work together to do a ride from Turk & Pebble Hill to Scout Way in Doylestown Borough. Perhaps have a small event at the Scout Office parking lot with food trucks, games and information. Closing the road to show people how it could be if there was a trail there. It was suggested to work with Linden and Our Lady of Mt Carmel Schools.

Other Business –

Bucks County CMAQ Grant – Mr. Hall, neighbor of the Township property, indicated his concern for the proposed trail on the backside of Central Park to Route 611. He loves our trail system, thinks we have done an excellent job but he is very concerned about the deer, the snapping turtles and the wild life and the impact that having a trail behind his home would have.

Mr. Gordon indicated that the County has received a grant and has been working to develop said grant and is just about to engage an engineering company. Once the engineering company is on board we will be able to walk the proposed area and work with property owners and address concerns that they may have.

Ms. Goldman indicated that it is always the goal for the last 25 years of the Bike/Hike Committee to work with property owners.

There was also discussion about considering an alternative and bringing the trail up Wells Road from Turk Road. Mr. Gordon indicated that could be looked at as well. Of course the area that is being proposed is the area that the Township received in Open Space when the Carlson Property was subdivided.

Doylestown Hospital – Kellie McGowan, attorney for Doylestown Hospital, was present, she indicated that the hospital is expanding their Heart Wing and developing another pavilion for Orthopedic Surgery. They are in the land development process at the moment. They did receive Baker Engineering's, review letter on the proposed hospital and wanted to talk about a letter that Steve White, Director of Security sent the Township regarding the trail and path out near Limekiln and the need for safety improvements and the best way to approach it.

Mr. Stanford indicated that the minimum safety requirement is for an 8' path separated from the street. Typically there should be a 5' separator or buffer between the trail and driveway because of the backside of the driveway that the hospital drive creates.

There was discussion about extending the barrier because when cars get to Limekiln and the hospital drive some will merge onto the trail on the other side of the barrier thinking that is the right turn lane.

Mr. Kelso and Mr. Stanford indicated that they would look at that. Mr. Stanford indicated that he would reach out to Boucher and James and look at alternatives with them and they will come next month.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager