

**Bike/Hike Meeting Minutes**  
**November 17, 2020, 8:00am – Meeting was held via Zoom**

**Present:** Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Judy Hendrixson, Vice Chairman; Roger Clark; Mary Pat Holewinski; Louise Silberg; Andy Hamilton; Larry Gage; Shelle Clancy, New Britain Township; Marilyn Jacobson; Tom Kelso; Bruce Hochman; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Liz Wyckoff; Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers; Rick James; Steve Disciullo, Baker Engineers; Andrew Golds; Paul Gordon, Bucks County; Nancy Santacecilia, Board of Supervisors Liaison and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Visitors: Steve Spindler

**Minutes Approval** – Approval of the minutes from **October 20, 2020**, Ms. Hendrixson moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Gage with one correction under Route 202 (Central Park - Pooles Corner) Trail Feasibility Study. Change screened to screen. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Presentation: Steve Spindler**

Mr. Spindler is a Cartographer from Elkins Park, he has designed a number of bicycle maps. Ms. Hendrixson introduced him to the Committee and believes he can help the Committee with creating a new map.

Mr. Spindler indicated that in the early 1990's he promoted a lot of alternatives to driving and created a number of brochures, mostly paper and the key he indicated was that you really need to know your audience. He has worked with bike networks and plans for Philadelphia, New Jersey, Delaware and Washington, DC. He indicated that in the end it is the municipality knowing the efforts and taking on a map that is going to be better for the citizens. He has also worked in San Francisco, St. Louis, North Carolina and the Mid-Atlantic States helping cyclists, creating regional maps that they can use. He also indicated that cyclist are now going to websites such as STRAVA or a Google product, that cyclists like to share with fellow cyclists.

He looked at our current map and the legend indicates special places like the SEPTA Train Station, which helps from a visitors prospective. He has also assisted Burlington County create an avoidance map, what are the barriers that need to be considered that impact people and level of traffic stress.

Mr. Stanford asked if we can take the map from static to online ARC GIS.

Mr. Spindler indicated that he uses Mapbox to import and create the maps, it is easy to draw lines in the program. He said the cost relative low for acquiring the program and be pretty easy to use. He can set it up so that the Township can make various updates in the future easily.

Mr. Gage indicated that he would like to see trails with names, not part of the map, could this be done as a leaflet in JAVA.

Ms. Santacecilia inquired if the maps can be done and seen on computers for avid cyclists vs. moms and kids. It was indicated that it could be.

Also having check boxes would be awesome regarding paths and connections to GPS.

Mr. Spindler also indicated that he has worked with Narberth and Ms. Hendrixson indicated that young moms with kids in buggies is a social aspect for meet ups. Ms. Santacecilia suggested that this is a great way of promoting that.

Ms. Hendrixson suggested a bulletin board at the bike shops for such information.

Mr. Spindler indicated that the group must understand what the focus is going to be and connecting it on to the Township's website. He is currently working with Friends of the Genessee Valley Greenway, he has a budget of about \$7,000 with them in developing the map. Friends of the Greenway has added information such as restaurants, hotels, points of interest, he provided the link to the map [friend@fogv.org](mailto:friend@fogv.org). Types of surfaces can be shared as well. It is 100 miles of trails that he is working as well in a guide book for the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Erie with points of interest as well. Ms. Hendrixson suggested the he share examples with the Committee.

Mr. Spindler is thinking cost for the type of maps that we would be looking for would be around \$2,500 with about 5000 copies at approximately \$500. Video links could be done on line, it was suggested to have a time line to work with a small group setting up the map and eventually working with google mind map to create the web page links.

Mr. Kelso mentioned that he had been working with the Visit Bucks and Paul Gordons team over at Bucks County Planning Commission and the proposal from the County to assist in creating the map.

Mr. Gordon indicated that there is a repository of information that is on file that the County is working on to create a story map through the entire County of trails. It is in an ARC JS system.

Mr. Kelso thought that this may be a prudent use of a map as well. It was suggested that funding through Visit Bucks be used but only nonprofits. Mr. Kelso suggested that Bike Bucks maybe able to help. However, with COVID it is probably over a year or more before that type of funding could become available.

Mr. Gage suggested being able to upload to Google and Apple the maps when someone is out on the trails would be beneficial. Similar to STRAVA who has a heat map.

Ms. Goldman thanked Mr. Spindler for his time and indicated that we would get back to him.

Ms. Goldman then asked the Committee how they would like to approach the development of such map.

Mr. Kelso indicated that the Committee should come up with a scope and figure out exactly what it is we would like this map to do and go on from there. Size of maps is important large and small that people can carry.

Ms. Santacecilia indicated that the scope has to address two things: the audience that we are trying to reach and the staff that we have available to maintain the map. How do we make it user friendly without a lot of technology? She also suggested that biking to school should also be incorporated as part of Safe Route's to School on the map, perhaps a tab that would highlight those safe routes

It was suggested that a core group that would consist of Tom Kelso, Judy Hendrixson, Lynn Goldman, Roger Clark and Larry Gage would discuss the development of a scope and work together to determine a process.

Mr. Kelso commented that the counters on the trails are up significantly since last year, they have doubled.

Mr. Hamilton indicated that the use on trails regionally has gone up between 88% and 400%. There is definitely a demand in the area. He also indicated that he has worked with Mr. Spindler in the past, it is important to make sure that a stable online platform is available.

There was a question on the goal. The goals is to bring more walkers and bikers, educate people about the trail system, focus on the trails being pedestrian friendly as Mr. Kelso pointed out is what we started with.

It was also suggested looking at things with a wide lens and what else is out there.

Ms. Santacecilia said to be cognizant of the trails becoming busier as more and more people find them.

Ms. Goldman indicated that visiting Bucks is very popular and people like to come to trails and use them.

Ms. Wyckoff indicated that true that people enjoy trails but cyclists tend to like longer rides and many of our trails are short and don't give seasoned riders that long ride that they are looking for, so our trails become more community orientated.

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that before she moved to Doylestown many times she and her family would take the trail from Jenkintown to Doylestown and get a picnic and ride some of the trails and areas and go to Lake Galena. She believes that is still done.

Mr. Hamilton indicated that the Circuit website has some of the key trails that run through our area as well and linking through the circuit to the circuit through DVRPC can be made available.

Mr. Hochman indicated that cyclists like to see elevation changes on maps, if that could be incorporated that would great. Locating benches, rest rooms and the like is beneficial.

Ms. Goldman suggested the small group get together in some Zoom meetings and start to lay out the scope.

Once Ms. Hendrixson receives the information from Mr. Spindler it can be shared and begin to work through the creation of such maps.

## **Review of Projects**

### **Route 202 (Central Park – Pooles Corner) Trail Feasibility Study**

Mr. Disciullo provided an example of a virtual meeting room that will be available in place of public meetings sometime in early December. The video introduction still needs to be made. He has incorporated the FAQ segment and the concepts maps as well. You can zoom in and out to see the various right of ways and photos that are being provided. He is looking for feedback to roll this out successfully. There is a question on environmental aspects that should probably be addressed.

Ms. Santacecilia said this was a tremendous effort and a friendly video explaining how people can register and what the value of their input will bring is very important.

It was also suggested to send it to the hospital and Central Bucks School District when the link is on the web.

Residents whose properties about the proposed trails will also be receiving direct mailing to go to the website and review the link.

Mr. Disciullo indicated that if anyone has suggestions in the small committee to reach out to him.

### **Old New Road - Update**

N/A

### **Neshaminy Greenway – Bristol to Upper State – Update**

Mr. Stanford indicated final inspection is taking place next week. He thanked everyone for a great beautiful day of planting the trees in the area. It was greatly appreciated by New Britain Township.

### **Turk Road Area Feasibility - Implementation of Study Findings**

Implementation at this point in time is on hold. Nothing new to report.

### **Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – Update –**

Baker Engineers is at this point responding to comments from PennDOT.

**Bucks County Trail – Update –**

Mr. Gordon indicated that a group, including Mr. Stanford met with some of the residents near the proposed Neshaminy Greenway Trail from Almshouse to Warwick, Valley Road area. He appreciated the members of the Bike/Hike Committee as well as Ms. Santacecilia and especially Mr. Stanford for participating in the call. The design plan for that trail is still in process. The residents had concerns and the Bucks County Planning Commission, heard those concerns and will take appropriate steps in further designing the project. The Committee will remember that this started six years ago and that some of the residents only moved in three years ago. The trail will be adjacent to the creek, there was some discussion about a trail head off of the Kohl Farm that may get changed in the future. He appreciates the support he has received, it has been some time since 50 or so people met at the library to discuss the feasibility study in 2014, since then the County has completed and built a number of trails. The opening of the Quakertown Trail is going to be on Thursday.

Mr. Kelso commented that he thought the County did a great job yesterday addressing the concerns and indicated that typically in the past when the Township has addressed situations like this had always gone out in the field. Certainly with COVID it made it difficult but he appreciated the County’s efforts to have a Zoom meeting to address it.

Mr. Kelso indicated that there was some mention about the distance from the trail to their properties, he believes that having those plotted out will certainly identify the property lines. In addition, the concern about horses, he indicated that the current trail on Delaware Valley University property goes right past the equestrian center, he does not believe we have had any complaints.

Mr. Gordon indicated that the County is not going to abandon the project.

**Pump Tract – Update –**

Ms. Wyckoff indicated that people are using it and will continue to use it until it closes when it begins to freeze.

**Other Business / New Projects for Consideration**

The Ribbon Cutting – Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 2PM in Quakertown for the Saucon Rail Trail connection. There are some small trail heads near Veterans’ Park and key links benefiting the Quakertown Area. Veterans’ Park, Heller Road, Walnut Bank Farm neighborhood with easy connection and 64 Shelly Road in Quakertown.

**Adjournment** - Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:45am. The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 8:00am via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason  
Township Manager