

Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2024, 8:00am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building

Present: Tom Kelso, Vice Chairman; Judy Hendirxson; Marilyn Jacobson; Mary Pat Holewinski; Larry Gage; Roger Clark; Cynthia Jones; Nicole McElroy; Emily Valmore; Caitlin Hernandez, Doylestown Borough; Christian Regosch; Bucks County; Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers; Judy Dixon, Board of Supervisors Liaison; and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager. **Absent:** Lynn Goldman, Chairman

Guest: Chris Mergen

Mr. Kelso, Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes Approval January 16, 2024 – Mr. Clark suggested the following change on page 2, third paragraph he suggested we add “grasses can grow taller due to the wildlife and ground nesting birds in the area.” On motion of Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Jacobson with the change, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Safe Cycling and School Children - Update

Ms. Valmore did not have an update at this time, she was waiting on Ms. McElroy.

Pebble Hill Trail - Update

It's been suggested that the staff reach out to DVRPC on their TASA Technical Assistance Grant to see if we would qualify for assistance to help with the concept planning and right of way aspect of the project. Getting over the bridge and additional easements, researching the right of way in detail is important for this project. Obviously, the bridge is a high priority and of major concern for the committee. It was indicated that this project was designed to help less fortunate communities, but the consensus of the committee was to go ahead and apply anyway, since it is 100% funded and see if this project was worthy of the Technical Assistance Grant. Mr. Kelso indicated that there is a lot of preliminary engineering that has to go into a project like this and having the TASA Technical Assistance would be beneficial. Adding a pedestrian bridge near the stone arch bridge is not going to be an easy task.

There was discussion regarding the Country Club easement, the project needs to be started by January 2027. Perhaps a spring clean-up to move forward is appropriate. Mr. Stanford indicated that there is a small bridge needed for pedestrians because there are also wetlands to cross. However, they need to be identified. It was suggested that perhaps Baker Engineers could begin that process, a quote will be provided, it will be determined if funding is available to start that process.

New Britain Road Trail Project – Update

Mr. Stanford indicated that he needs to get with the Township Director of Operations and Engineer to go over the plans for the roadway. There is some partnership in the road paving time with the trail work, potential meeting with Morgan Hill for a temporary construction easement which may be needed. Figuring out the roundabout situation and eventual connection. Mr. Kelso indicated that it's currently difficult for pedestrians to navigate the area. He asked if the Township could reach out to the contractor to see if they could do something about that.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School – Update

On Monday, February 19th there was a two hour walk through of the entire trail project, starting at Burpee Road and East Butler. The contractor will be staking out the area and clearing, grubbing and tree removal along various properties. The group in attendance included Mr. Kelso, Ms. Mason, Mr. Stanford and representatives from Marino Corporation, the contractor.

The group met with Mrs. Freed, Shady Retreat Road, there are three trees on her property that are within the road right of way that need to be removed. She is going to be looking for new trees to be planted outside the road right of way after the project is completed. A separate meeting will take place with the Strauss' next door they have an evergreen type of tree that they would like to save. This tree is out of the right of way but overhangs it. The committee discussed the proposed coating that goes over the blacktop that would make it more grey in color, it was indicated that there was only a five-year

warranty and that if the coating is not used a \$19,000 savings could go to help with the additional tree protection for one of the properties and also any new trees that may be needed. The contractor will guarantee new trees planted for one year. It is going to be a 9' macadam path. After discussion it was the consensus of the committee not to do the coating and to work with the neighbors who might need trees.

Ms. Hendrixson questioned using recycled concrete, not on this project but on future projects. Seal coating is something that the maintenance subcommittee should discuss going forward. That group met recently and is looking at various alternatives that could be used in the future for trail maintenance.

Pump Track

Ms. Hernandez, Doylestown Borough indicated that it was closed but, in the spring, they will be doing some work to it. It is in its fifth year, and they need to make repairs.

Bucks County Trail Projects – Updates

Mr. Regosch indicated that there is nothing new for the Almshouse / Turk Road Trail. They are working on the Core Creek project.

There was discussion regarding the Bike Coalition and a grant, it was suggested to contact John Boyle at Bike Coalition, however, it was mentioned that there may be new leadership and a new director may need to be contacted.

Mr. Regosch indicated the members of the bike committee met with Angela Nagel, the County's Park, and Recreation Director. They discussed Mr. Kelso's goal to connect the existing trail at the Pine Run with the Pine Run Community on the opposite side of the dam. This trail could eventually connect to Cheesecake Factory Road and Peace Valley Park. Further work is needed on the concept and how the connections could be made but it was a positive discussion.

Ms. Dixon asked about the slope and if it would hinder access. Ms. Hendrixson indicated that she did not think it was that steep, perhaps walking from Iron Hill Road could be achieved somehow.

Mr. Kelso is going to continue to work on ideas for this project.

Mr. Regosch indicated that the Parks Department is actually updating its Park Comprehensive Plan, a two-year process, the Bike/Hike Committee should definitely provide feedback to that planning process.

Prioritize List of Future Projects

Maintenance Subcommittee – during the snow storm a few weeks ago the sub-committee met on Zoom and discussed the different ways to identify maintenance needs for the trail system. Mr. Gage indicated he's very excited that the Township has a software program with data on roads and trails that can be used. Mr. Tomko indicated that he could provide access to the committee and the committee can go in and identify areas where maintenance is needed. The committee could be the eyes for this group.

Mr. Kelso discussed that the trail has developed over the years, a third by the developers, a third by Township and third by grants. We really haven't needed to do much maintenance in the 25 – 30 years but obviously areas are starting to be uplifted by root intrusion or drainage issues and maintenance is needed. More information will be forthcoming.

Silhouettes – Ms. Hendrixson indicated that she has been in touch with Bucks County Institute of Technology, they have the ability to do the them using sheet steel. Someone suggested considering aluminum. They could do the logo as well, these could be added, she will need to know the thickness and how much we could spend from the Bike/Hike fund to make this go forward.

South Easton Road – Ms. Mason indicated the Township received \$1.5 million in a grant from DVRPC, this will take the trail and improvements, taking back some of the wide road from WAWA in the Borough all the way to Tabor and connect there.

Ms. McElroy indicated she has been in discussion with TMA Bucks and talking about a walk/bike roll to school in the spring. Looking to do something at Kutz Elementary, she's been in touch with the school, and they're interested. She is looking to get parent volunteers and perhaps the police involved as well for safety information for this program. She'll

share more at the next meeting. If we can find giveaways that would be great. Mr. Kelso said we did bells years ago. TMA Bucks has helmets available.

Adjournment - Being no further the meeting adjourned at 9:19AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager