

Bike/Hike Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2021 8:00am – Meeting was held via Zoom
DRAFT

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Judy Hendrixson, Vice Chairman; Tom Kelso; Mary Pat Holewinski; Andy Hamilton; Larry Gage; Shelle Clancy, New Britain Township; Marilyn Jacobson, Chalfont Borough; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Liz Wyckoff; Roger Clark; Randy James; Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers; Steve Disciullo, Baker Engineers; Andrew Oles; Paul Gordon, Bucks County; Shaun Curran, Borough Manager, Chalfont Borough and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Reorganization

On motion of Mr. Kelso, seconded by Ms. Hendrixson – Lynn Goldman was selected to serve as chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion of Ms. Goldman, seconded by Mr. Kelso – Judy Hendrixson was selected to serve as vice chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes Approval – Approval of the minutes from **December 15, 2020**, on motion of Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Kelso the minutes were unanimously approved.

Review of Projects

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

Mr. Disciullo shared the link to the virtual room and how he has finalized the program so that it will be scheduled. He indicated that a short movie which he showed of Ms. Goldman talking about the committee and the project is being finalized and final touches are being put on the room. FAQ's are updated, the room is easy to navigate, and arrows show people how to move around, local contacts, alternatives of 1A & 2A are being clarified. Easy to give feedback as well, there is a letter that will be shared with the Bike/Hike Committee, when it goes out to the residents, also it will be put on Facebook and shared with newspapers as well. All of this goes into the final findings.

It was suggested making sure that the manager at the Doylestown Country Club is contacted personally so that they are aware of the project and can participate.

Mr. Clark indicated that if people view it and sign up they will be able to be added to the master mailing list for future information as well.

It was suggested to add that the alternative routes which are southern or northern as it may be easier to clarify.

Old New Road - Update

No Update

Neshaminy Greenway – Bristol to Upper State – Update

Mr. Stanford indicated that he project is 99.9% done final inspection.

New Britain Township was coordinating moving a utility pole relocation.

Trail Ribbon Cutting is anticipated for the spring, COVID dependent.

Signage is slowly getting installed by New Britain Township. Suggested a sign at Chalfont New Britain Sewage Treatment Plant is needed.

Discussion regarding the fence along the bridge, Penn Dot did eliminate the railing to improve the site distance at that location.

Ms. Jones indicated a connection through the Coleman Property and a grant is being applied for to bring trail through there. They acquired that property as open space. Grant rounds expect to be announced sometime in March.

Ms. Clancy said that she would look into the moving of the pole.

Turk Road Area Feasibility - Implementation of Study Findings

On hold.

Mr. Clark indicated he saw an article in the Intelligencer regarding land water conservation fund and that funding for the American Great Outdoors and potential for trail upgrades. He indicated that it was in the January 15, 2021 page 4A of the paper.

Mr. Hamilton indicated that with this legislation in place groups like ours will not have to fight for funding for trails. It will help eliminate gaps in trails as well.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – Update –

Waiting on the easement from Stonington Farms, Legal Description was provided to them according to Mr. Disciullo.

Penn Dot has a few concerns regarding pedestrian access during construction, things are moving along, anticipate as let date sometime in June. Mr. Disciullo indicated more engineering will be needed.

Bucks County Trail – Update –

Mr. Gordon indicated that the Planning Commission has formed a Trail Design Committee that will include residents as well as representatives from the Doylestown Township EAC and Bike/Hike Committee, representatives from Warwick and Buckingham Townships are being invited as well. Meetings will be virtual to begin with.

Ms. Goldman indicated that she would like Ms. Hendrixson to be the Committees representative to this group. Ms. Hendrixson indicated that she would be happy to represent the Committee. She indicated that she and many of the EAC members walked the area with Supervisor Dan Wood back in December. She noted that some of the residents and EAC members indicated some concern for the environment, many indicated that they have not really been on the Township trails especially those near the Neshaminy or other waterways. She hopes that will occur in the future.

Mr. Gordon said that if everyone is willing to take walk on the existing trails near waterways that would be great.

Ms. Hendrixson also indicated there seems to be two separate issues, dealing with erosion along the existing stream banks versus trails in natural areas. Hopefully, through a design process dialogue will occur and address both issues.

Pump Tract – Update –

Closed for the winter.

Other Business / New Projects for Consideration

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that she received the proposal from Mr. Spindler. She reviewed it with the Committee to have him assist us develop a virtual map for the website, one that can be easily downloaded.

His proposal was reasonable at \$1,099 to set up the map in addition indicating that photos and other areas could be highlighted as part of the map, it would also show the streets with sharrows in Doylestown Borough. A \$750 per year maintenance fee is required. However, if the work can be done in house that fee could be reduced.

Mr. Kelso indicated that he would like to see a little bit more detail in the proposal but that it seems appropriate for what the Bike/Hike Committee is hoping to do. He believes it is important to get these things spelled out up front. Having a mobile response and zoom able map everyone agreed was ideal.

Before moving forward Ms. Hendrixson will have him revise his proposal.

Ms. Jacobson, Chalfont Borough, indicated they have just recently updated their trails map and are happy to work with their neighbors for links for the future.

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that the software is supposed to be very easy with training and zoom videos so that others in the future can access and do updates to the map.

It was suggested to add the mapping project on to future agendas.

Grant Opportunities

Mr. Stanford indicated that there are grant opportunities through DCNR that are due in April and DCED has opportunities for grants due May 31st. Obviously there are some challenges in that the right of ways are needed to be in place ahead of time.

Mr. Kelso indicated that meeting individuals at this point in time may be the appropriate thing to do.

It was suggested looking at the East Road Connection at this time and seeing about making contact with the property owners where easements are needed.

Along Pebble Hill Road it was indicated to probably take trail along the north side of the road where the dam is located. Although, we want to stay away from the dam itself, if we can span it without touching or making any impact on the dam, we may be in better position keeping the trail on that side of Pebble Hill Road. At this time the current plan is to cross Pebble Hill at Pebble Valley Drive, use the easement area bordering Pebble Hill and Cherry and then go along Pebble Hill Road and jumping over the dam property with some sort of a span.

It was indicated that having a park destination such as Fanny Chapman may be a better destination so taking East Road from Springs and running the trail up there and having that as a destination may be more beneficial and desirable for the grant.

Mr. Gordon indicated that Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority has been extremely receptive to having their access drive used as a trail, they are a little concerned now and we may run a trail parallel to their driveway as part of the County's project.

The Tiles Works

Ms. Goldman indicated that Katia McGurke is now the director at the Moravian Tile Works. She is hoping that having them as a resource could be helpful. Katia used to make the Bike/Hike Tiles herself. Ms. Goldman would like a meeting with Ms. Mason, herself and Ms. McGurke.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:21am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 8:00am via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager