

Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2022, 8:00am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building
425 Wells Road

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Judy Hendrixson, Vice Chairman; Tom Kelso; Marilyn Jacobsen; Glen Maxson; Bruce Hochman; Cynthia Jones; Rick. James; Steve Disciullo, Baker Engineers; Larry Gage; Christian Regosch, Bucks County; Peter LaMontagne, New Britain Borough; Paul Gordon, Bucks County; Dan Wood, Board of Supervisors Liaison and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Visitor:

Minutes Approval – Approval of the minutes from **March 15, 2022**, on motion of Ms. Hendrixson seconded by Mr. Kelso the minutes were unanimously approved.

Review of Projects

Electric Bikes (E-Bikes) – Continued Discussion

Ms. Hendrixson provided examples of class 1, 2 or 3 from Carlsbad California on types of signage and the various classes of bicycles with simple, easily accessible identification that could be easily installed along trails, in addition a pamphlet of rules could be shared as well.

There was discussion that e-bikes are heavier than regular bicycles. In Pennsylvania they are allowed to be operated under 20 mph if the weight is not more than 100lbs and the person operating the bicycle is at least 16 years of age, but of course that is on the street not a trail.

Ms. Goldman inquired what is the Bike/Hike Committee trying to do? We are trying to work with trails versus streets. We need to think about what the purpose of the trail, signage, being consistent in all the communities that rely on personal patrol versus what is allowed on the street.

It is suggested that the signage for e-bikes be placed at trail heads and various routes along the way. In addition, Bike/Hike rules could be shared as well with the e-bike information.

It was agreed that many of the municipalities have different rules at the present time. It was also noted that this does not include skateboards.

Mr. Kelso provided the Committee with a draft ordinance (see attached) that he would like the Committee to review and share any and all thoughts with him prior to next meeting of the Bike/Hike Committee.

Again, there is no authority except if by PennDOT unless of course the e-bikes are on streets. Having something standard and uniform written up will certainly be helpful. In addition, a standard of conduct versus equipment may also be helpful.

There was some discussion regarding setting a speed limit where the widths of the trails vary. Everyone agreed that e-bikes should only be used by people 16 years of age or older because of the trail safety issues.

Video and Mapping Project – Update –

There are videos of our various trail areas up on the Township's website. Baker Engineers is going to provide a quote to help create the map. It was suggested that a small group of Ms. Hendrix, Mr. Kelso, Mr. LaMontagne, and Ms. Mason get together and work on the maps.

Mr. LaMontagne indicated New Britain Borough is working on way finding signage for the covered bridge trail.

Mr. Kelso indicated that he has some information on the types of signage that Doylestown used, and he will send it to Mr. LaMontagne. He also indicated that extensions of New Britain Road project reminder that the Township received a grant to extend the trail along the backside of Central Park to where the Warden Road Trail comes in. In addition, the Borough and Township will be working on a trail from the WAWA to the bridge that crosses the 202 Parkway and then we will need to work on filling that gap. Mr. Kelso said that this would be a great grant opportunity.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail

Mr. Disciullo indicated that he is just finalizing all the designs with PennDOT, we are just waiting to hear about the TASA grant.

We discussed the trail along Shady Retreat and whether it would be sidewalk of asphalt, it was suggested making it stamped asphalt in the bid docs to reflect the appearance of a sidewalk.

Bucks County Trail – Update –

Mr. Gordon introduced Mr. Regosch from his team at the County who will be participating in future trail projects.

The County is working on finalizing things with PennDOT regarding the Almshouse Road Trail to the Turk Parks, anticipate these getting underway late summer or fall 2022.

The Dark Hollow Study of Design is wrapping up. Public comments are expected by end of June.

They are having a ribbon cutting for the trails in the Newtown Rail Trail and are also working on trails to extend into Northampton to the Nature Center.

Prioritizing List of Future Projects –

Mr. Kelso discussed the extension of the Pine Run Trail, he thinks having something to the Pine Run Community would be beneficial, it would link them to Covered Bridge Park as well. He feels this is an area that is currently underserved.

Mr. LaMontagne indicated Covered Bridge Park is going to see a facelift with bathroom facilities being installed.

Mr. Kelso indicated that William Penn and Bucks County Tourists Grants may be able to assist Covered Bridge Park as it is a nonprofit organization that owns the park.

It was suggested that they coordinate with the County Parks Master Plan that is being updated and be consistent with signage for way finding.

Mr. Gordon indicated that connecting to Old Iron Hill and the North Branch with easements will be of assistance in creating that going forward especially with the Bristol Road extension. People will be able to get to Peace Valley quicker. Updating the Tri-Municipal Plan, reflecting that option, and pulling it up on maps should be a priority.

In addition, having a connection to the Turk Park as suggested on the Master Plan and Bridge Point Park would be beneficial. Using the island as a connection point was discussed. However, it tends to flood, and the Fish & Game would not allow connection past their property when the County originally studied such a connection.

Mr. Wood indicated that the connection between the end of Turk Road off of Wells and to Turk Park 1 may be difficult as it is steep.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:07am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 8:00 am at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager