

Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2023, 8:00am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Judy Hendrixson, Vice Chairman; Tom Kelso; Roger Clark; Larry Gage; Rick James; Caitlin Hernandez; Mary Pat Holewinski, New Britain Borough; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Emily Valmore; Glen Maxon; Rich Brahler, Bucks County Planning Commission; Parker Frohlich, Bucks County Planning Commission; Steve Disciullo, Baker Engineer; Dan Wood, Board of Supervisors Liaison; and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Guests: Libby Wheeler

Minutes Approval April 18, 2023 & June 20, 2023 – On motion of Ms. Holewinski, seconded by Ms. Hendrixson the minutes were unanimously approved.

New Britain Road Trail – Update

Mr. Disciullo indicated that all the preliminary design work has been done, the Board of Supervisors has approved the final design work and engineering bid package for the trail. Discussion is needed as to how much of the trail work will be done by the Township, when New Britain Road may be paved and the timing of PennDOT's work on the New Britain Road Bridge as well as the roundabouts. This could occur during 2024.

A meeting with Morgan Hill HOA is still needed since we may need a temporary construction easement from them for the installation of the ADA ramps.

The traffic pattern with the stop at Rolling Hill and the movements on New Britain have been reviewed by Matt Johnston of Pennoni.

Ms. Goldman asked if she could meet with Mr. Johnston so that she could understand the layout of the area better.

Mr. Maxson asked about the connection on the bridge. Mr. Disciullo indicated that there will be bike lanes on both sides of the New Britain Road bridge. The area gets reduced in width on the bridge and New Britain & Rolling Hill intersection.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail - Update

We have movement at PennDOT with the traffic signage, pavement marking plan being approved and moving along, the three-way stop is still planned as part of the project and a requirement of PennDOT, cross walks will be added as well. We are not touching wetland area, anticipating a TASA Grant, all work is being done online through ECMS. Had to work through traffic operations for nine months alone. It has been a year and a half just on that aspect of the project and engineering. We have 2.3 million in grant funds; we started the project in 2018.

Mr. Kelso indicated that costs are stabilizing, the hope is that grant bids will go out later this year. There will be a cross walk at Olde Colonial Greene and the first segment of Chestnut Valley Dr.

Pump Track

Has been busy. The Bucks County Wheely Riders have been out there. The Borough is going to clean it up for some work and events occurring in the woodlands which they have created obstacle courses for the Cross County Biking Group, which has 20 riders.

Ms. Wheeler made a comment that her grandson recently did an Eagle Scout Project in the Borough. He built several bridges and bike apparatus at the Pump Track.

Bucks County Projects – Updates

Mr. Brahler indicated that he's been working with the engineers for the project and trying to keep it moving along at this point in time with PennDOT.

Prioritizing list of Future Projects

Ms. Goldman indicated that she was contacted by Dave Zipf, Bucks County Planning Commission about having a ride on Friday night September 8th prior to the Arts Festival, the ride would be in the evening, would go from the Tile Works into Buckingham and back. He's looking for support and not having to provide a certificate of insurance.

Ms. Mason indicated that an event being held by an outside organization needs to provide both the Borough and the Township with a certificate of insurance naming the Township & Borough as additional insured.

Since the gentleman works for the Bucks County Planning Commission there was some discussion on whether or not the County could host the ride. Ms. Goldman will follow up with Mr. Zipf.

Pebble Hill Road to the Borough

Ms. Goldman indicated that she has spoken with most of the property owners along Pebble Hill, there is a letter being sent to the residents, follow up will be needed to obtain easements where necessary and documentation.

Mr. Disciullo shared the information about the bridge and that fact that it is a stone arch and cannot hang anything off it according to PennDOT. He will reach out to them again as well as the state bicycle coordinator and bridge coordinator from PennDOT and see what we can work out with getting bicycle/pedestrian bridge along there.

Ms. Hendrixson asked if there any to do with poles and Verizon and electric lines that sit out there and getting them underground, it's very expensive. She wondered if anyone could look at the potential of putting all those utilities underground.

Ms. Goldman asked if she could meet with Mr. Johnston to talk about the three-way stop at Pebble Valley & Pebble Hill.

County Grants

Mr. Kelso inquired to Mr. Brahler what other projects the County was working on. They indicated that they are doing a TASA Project Grant for the Levittown Trail, it would be a construction grant also multimodal.

In Central Bucks at the moment, they do not have any projects. Pebble Hill may be something they could help support. Dark Hollow dose not fit for a TASA Grant at this time.

The other project they are doing is the construction for Core Creek Park.

Mr. Kelso said that perhaps Bucks County Planning Commission could look at Pebble Hill since it is part of Bicycle Route S through the TASA Program, there are a few easements that need to be obtained. He also indicated that TASA funding is looking at aspects of diversity, equity and including as part of the grant and that perhaps another project with the County would be the Pine Run Community connection to the Pine Run Reservoir in County Park.

Mr. Brahler indicated that the County Park & Recreation Department was working on updating their Comprehensive Park Plans and that perhaps that trail segment could be included as part of that.

Mr. Kelso suggested that representative from the Community Bike/Hike Committee be on any study committee with the Park & Recreation Department.

Ms. Hendirxson indicated that she has a bike rack that has a trailer hitch for three bikes if anyone is interested contact her.

Adjournment - Being no further the meeting adjourned at 8:51am. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 8:00 am** at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager