

Doylestown Township Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Notes
August 20, 2024, 8:00 am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Tom Kelso, Vice Chairman; Judy Hendrixson; Roger Clark; Louise Silberg; Mary Pat Holewinski; Marilyn Jacobson; Caitlin Hernandez, Doylestown Borough; Liaison Judy Dixon, and Stephanie J. Mason, Township Manager.

Guest: Chris Smerga

Welcome

Ms. Goldman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes Approval July 16, 2024 – On motion of Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Hendrixson, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Easton Road Trail Township to Borough - Update

Ms. Mason indicated that this trail that goes from Steeplechase / WAWA in the Borough to Mercer Hill in the Township. Chris Stanford, Bike/Hike Consultant is beginning the work on design of the trail. This will take several years before construction begins. The Township received a \$2,000,000 grant for the project.

Pebble Hill Trail – Update

Ms. Mason indicated that the Township applied for a regional trails grant to help with preliminary engineering design. Unfortunately, we verbally heard that we did not receive the grant. However, Mr. Stanford believes DVRPC may still work with us under another program. They have a program that assists with design and engineering as well. We are waiting to hear.

In the meantime, we met with Borough representatives and no doubt that there's opportunities to bring them in, doing a phased project. Also, it was suggested we do some work on the Country Club Easement that has been received, clearing, grubbing, getting some stone put down as well. That would be a goal to show action sometime in 2025 or 2026.

The bridge remains the biggest obstacle and not having a specific landing area after passing the Country Club property in the Borough. This is why having the Borough participate will be beneficial.

New Britain Road Trail Project – Update

Mr. Stanford has finalized the plan and is working with the Township Engineer and Mr. Tomko, Director of Operations to get this project ready for bidding late this fall with the hope to begin in 2025.

With the Round-a-bouts open this project is certainly a high priority.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – Update

Everyone shared their compliments about the project and seeing the work that has been completed to date, anticipation of the project finishing later this fall.

There was some discussion that Ms. Mason indicated that she heard from Bob McMullin, Township's Arborist indicating that a couple of the oak trees along Shady Retreat have leaf scorch. He indicated that there is treatment but no cure and eventually those trees may die due to the leaf scorch. Mr. McMullin

indicated that it has absolutely nothing to do with the work we are doing because we are protecting the root structure of the trees. Leaf scorch is a disease.

There was some discussion about also adding silhouettes to the bridge over Limekiln. We will check with Marino to see if they're able to do that as part of the contract or if we will have to install them after they've completed their work.

There was some discussion regarding the grade for the trail, everyone thought it was going to be down further, but it actually comes up, it was great that the Township was able to contribute 1500 cubic yards to the project.

We'll begin to plan the ribbon cutting soon.

Safe Cycling for School Children – Update

Ms. Goldman indicated that Ms. McElroy is away but she is working on coordinating with the schools for 2025 along with TMA Bucks'.

Update County Trail Projects

Mr. Regosch indicated that he couldn't be at the meeting but the County plans to award the outstanding signed contract for the Neshaminy Greenway Phase I Almshouse Road to Turk Road Trail Project to TPD. The County will formally award the contract to complete the design phase at the August 28th Commissioners meeting.

Neshaminy Greenway Trail Phase III Core Creek Park Project should go to bid in the fall. The new trail in Chalfont Borough has been added to the County's Trail Map.

It was suggested that if you have not been to the New Britain Township Trailhead at Upper State Road you need to go. Everyone agreed that it's amazing. You can walk 1.6 miles to and from Upper State Road to Bristol Road. Anticipating groundbreaking later this fall hosted by New Britain Township. It was indicated that this project has been planned for a while and it's nice to see it come to fruition.

Pump Track

Ms. Hernandez indicated that the Pump Track is busy and that the Bucks Composite Team is utilizing it as a training location. The Borough sold out for it's Wheely Wednesday Bike Training program as well.

Prioritize List of Future Projects:

Proposed Tail at Pine Run – Mr. Kelso indicated that he would be presenting the annual report to the Board of Supervisors for the Bike/Hike Committee and that he intends to mention and request that the Bike/Hike Committee begin a conservation with those at Pine Run. Expanding this section of trail would connect all those living the Pine Run access to the existing trail and park.

Ms. Goldman indicated that she believes the Pine Run is just a continuation of the Destination Peace Valley Plan. From Pine Run there was also some discussion about connecting to Peace Valley Park via Cheesecake Factory Road and from Chapman Road to the backside of Peace Valley Park.

Spring Valley – Hunter to Pebble Hill – No work here but Mr. Kelso’s power point was in the packet. He’ll share information with the Supervisors that residents who are interested in seeing trails in their neighborhoods still come to the Bike/Hike Committee seeking assistance.

There was also some discussion that reaching out to County as they sit on DVRPC Board may be beneficial to the group.

Ms. Dixon commented that speaking with Ted Durand from PECO indicated that there is money for projects but not capital projects. It was suggested that consideration for a PECO Green Region Grant may be worthwhile.

It was also suggested that Mr. Stanford go back to DVRPC and see if any support from them can be provided.

Adjournment – Being no further the meeting, on motion of Mr. Kelso, seconded Ms. Jacobson the meeting adjourned at adjourned at 8:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager