

Doylestown Township Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Notes
November 19, 2024, 8:00 am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Tom Kelso, Vice Chairman; Judy Hendrixson; Larry Gage; Mary Pat Holewinski; Marilyn Jacobson, Chalfont Borough; Caitlyn Hernandez, Doylestown Borough; Emily Valmore; Nicole McElroy; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Louise Silberg, Buckingham Township; Mike Szilagyi, Michael Baker Engineers; Rich Brahler, Bucks County; Board of Supervisors Liaison Judy Dixon, and Stephanie J. Mason, Township Manager.

Guests: Angie Nagle, Director of Bucks County Parks & Recreation & Alexander Rollins

Welcome

Ms. Goldman welcomed everyone to the meeting, the committee introduced themselves to the guests.

Minutes Approval – October 15, 2024 – On motion of Ms. Holewinski, seconded by Ms. Hendrixson the minutes were unanimously approved.

Angie Nagel – Director of Bucks County Parks & Recreation

Ms. Nagel reviewed the transitional process from the long-time park and recreation director to herself this past three years. She also indicated that the Conty is working on a comprehensive plan update to their Parks & Recreation Open Space Plan, working with DCNR and that will be completed towards the end of 2025.

There is also a section for trail connectivity in the document and she is hoping to obtain key person interviews or have their consultant attend a future Bike/Hike meeting. She indicated that maintenance of park infrastructure, including trails, is part of the plan update. In addition to maintenance, they are looking at staffing and funding sources and management of park resources, efficiency and ways to move forward to address the County's Park system. She agreed with the committee that safe access to parks is important.

Mr. Kelso discussed the Destination Peace Valley Study from 2011, which Ms. Nagel indicated is referenced in the County's Comprehensive Plan now as is the Bristol Road Extension. She agreed that the County's Plan enables connection for people to places is important. Mr. Kelso reiterated that people move here that want to be connected.

Mr. Kelso also discussed the Pine Run Reservoir and would like to work with the County Bike Hike Committee to extend it more, from the Pine Run Community. He has talked with residents who would like to be able to come across the dam at Pine Run make a connection.

Ms. Goldman indicated that finding another way to connect with Peace Valley besides Iron Hill Rd., perhaps Chapman Rd., are options that this committee has discussed over the years.

Mr. Kelso indicated that being able to draft a letter and share that with the County and their future on that topic is something they're going to work on.

Ms. Goldman also mentioned how nice the benches that are being installed around Peace Valley Park are and the trees being planted. Ms. Nagel indicated that they now have a deputy, who deals with naturalization and resource management for the County Park System.

Ms. Jones indicated that Township asked the County about land recently acquired on Chapman Rd. in New Britain Township near the park. Ms. Nagle confirmed that there is an additional 2.6 acres that the County has obtained to be part of the park.

Easton Road Trail Township to Borough - Update

Mr. Kelso, Mr. Stanford & Ms. Mason met with Mr. & Mrs. Nice on Easton Rd., talking about the project. Some of the property corners were identified, how the project would go and acting tying into existing trails. Mr. & Mrs. Nice were very receptive to the project and appreciated the time. Some sketches will be prepared to review with them in the future. Project is most likely on a 2027-time frame.

Pebble Hill Trail – Update

Ms. Mason reviewed an email from Mr. Stanford along with the map for that four-phase project. Ms. Hernandez indicated that the Borough Council budgeted \$5,000 to prepare a grant application for a TASA Grant in the spring of 2025 to work on the development of phase one.

It was discussed that this project with all four phases talking to DVRPC could take quite a while, maybe even 10 years to come to fruition. The Committee is determined to see that it continues to move forward and doing it in phases makes the most sense.

New Britain Road Trail Project – Update

Ms. Mason indicated that she, Mr. Tomko and Mr. Stanford had a zoom call with the HOA representatives and their management company. Mr. Stanford will put a sketch together of the area and then a meeting in the field will take place, anticipation of bids later this fall.

New Britain Township – Quick reminder that the Trail Ribbon cutting Thursday at 3PM, everyone is welcome.

Bristol Road Extension – Callowhill

Looks like design & engineering are occurring sometime near the end of 2025 with construction completing in 2028.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – Update

Everyone commented on how wonderful the ribbon cutting was last Thursday (11/14), there is still a little money left in the budget for the project with PennDOT. Still having the guide rail looked at to see if that is a possibility. Overlapping the guide rail might be an option. If not, there are other items where it could be utilized to complete the project.

Safe Cycling for School Children – Update

Ms. McElroy had a meeting with Mike Testani, Principal at Linden Elementary School along with Ms. Wible, TMA Bucks, they are in the process of putting that educational program together for third and fourth grade students. Early winter with a Bike to School Day in the spring. She is also going back to Ms. Adelberger, Principal at Kutz Elementary School, for a Bike Education Program that was done for every grade but perhaps focusing on new third graders this year and of course a Bike to School Day which will be coordinated with Ms. Wible.

Ms. Goldman asked about Doyle Elementary School. Ms. McElroy indicated that the principal is very interested, focusing on third grade to be consistent, she will follow up with TMA Bucks to see if funding will be available.

Buckingham Friends School is looking to roll out a Bike Education as well.

Update County Trail Projects

Mr. Brahler indicated they are working on upgrading phase one at the complex, the consultant is going through all of PennDOT's comments and updating with DVRPC.

Neshaminy Greenway Trail at Core Creek Park is out to bid, construction is anticipated in early 2025.

They did not receive the money from DVRPC for Frosty Hollow, they are waiting for funding from DCED.

Pump Track

Mr. Rollins indicated that he attended today's meeting to discuss the Pump Track. He has concerns about the proposal that the Borough has to put the track in concrete. Ms. Hernandez indicated that this has been approved in the Borough's budget and that if Mr. Rollins has questions, he should reach out through the Borough to Ms. Wyckoff who is on the Borough Council and has been an advocate and supporter for the Pump Track.

Ms. Goldman indicated that she was one of the initial supporters of the Pump Track as well but appreciates the Boroughs' concerns about ongoing maintenance, keeping it in dirt.

Mr. Rollins indicated he believes that it makes more sense to keep the track dirt and not redo it in concrete and he sees a lot of pros & cons and has thoughts on the subject that he would like to share. He was again directed to reach out to Doylestown Borough and Ms. Wyckoff.

Prioritize List of Future Projects:

Proposed Trail at Pine Run

No updates previously discussed.

Spring Valley – Hunter to Pebble Hill

No updates.

There was a quick discussion on bike repair stations and whether or not people utilize them. The consensus was that they have been used.

Adjournment – Being no further the meeting, on motion of Ms. Hernandez, seconded by Ms. Hendrixson the meeting adjourned at 9:09 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager