

Doylestown Township Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Notes
February 18, 2025 8:00 am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building

Present: Tom Kelso, Judy Hendrixson; Larry Gage; Roger Clark; Louise Silberg; Marilyn Jacobson; Mary Pat Holewinski; Rick James; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Caitlyn Hernandez, Doylestown Borough; Nicole McElroy; Emily Valmore; Peter Norman, Warrington Township; Christian Regosch, Bucks County; Judy Dixon, Board of Supervisors Liaison and Stephanie J. Mason, Township Manager.

Absent: Lynn Goldman

Guests: Henry Friedberger, Pebble Hill Rd; Lee Sunderland, East Road

Welcome

Mr. Kelso welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Reorganization

Ms. Holewinski nominated Ms. Goldman as Chairman, seconded by Ms. Jacobson. The motion carried.

Ms. Hendrixson nominated Mr. Kelso as Vice Chairman, seconded by Ms. Holewinski. The motion carried.

Minutes Approval – January 21, 2025 – On motion of Ms. Hendrixson, seconded by Ms. Jacobson the minutes were unanimously approved with two changes. Ms. Dixon stated that under Guests Mr. Boyle should read Mr. Bowe. Mr. Clark stated that on the last page under Cherry Lane that the last paragraph should read “Mr. Clark indicated that the Cherry Lane at the Brooks Tract portion of the trail has been done.”

Easton Road Trail Township to Borough - Update

Ms. Mason indicated that the design engineers are working with PennDOT & DVRPC on the engineering for the design. Project is still several years away, it will take time. The Township engineer is working with the developer to move the PECO pole that was not moved prior to paving.

Pebble Hill Trail – Update

Ms. Mason reminded the committee that DVRPC awarded Baker a technical grant through the DVRPC program for the feasibility of the proposed trail. When grant rounds open later this year the Borough will be able to apply for their section.

There was a question about transportation funding through DVRPC. Mr. Regosch indicated that as of now transportation funding has not been affected for trails from the Federal Government through DVRPC.

New Britain Road Trail Project – Update

Ms. Mason reported that Baker has everything ready to bid the project. We are coordinating with PennDOT because of the proposed improvements to the New Britain Road Bridge. So, we asked for an extension of time under the grant. It was approved and now the expiration date is June 2026. We are also working with the HOA of Morgan Hill on retaining a portion of the concrete sidewalk, they will be responsible for maintenance.

Safe Cycling for School Children – Update

Ms. McElroy indicated that they started the Bike Education Program at Linden Elementary and will be finishing it up February 24th & 25th. They are planning a Bike to School Day, TBD.

Ms. Carly Wilbe, from TMA Bucks and the Kutz Elementary School principal and the P. E. teacher can be helpful in continuing to do the education program on bike safety. She did speak with Ms. Wyckoff, who indicated that Bike Safety is already in the curriculum for P. E. She also believes that putting a video together for the P.E. instructors for third & fourth graders might be the best way to go. She also believes that a one-day seminar summer course could be held. She thinks it can be about an hour long or so to introduce the topic to everyone. Getting this into other schools would be helpful.

Mr. Norman, Warrington Township said he would speak with the Warrington Township Bike/Hike Committee about Mill Creek or Barclay Elementary participating in the program. Ms. Mason indicated that perhaps the Telecommunications Advisory Board could work with Ms. Wilbe and Ms. McElroy putting together a video.

Currently the instructional program teaches children about the different parts of the bike, proper helmet fit, hand signals, etiquette and during the program they do a Q & A and also sometimes play Red Light/Green Light. The key is to get all the P. E. teachers familiar with the program and make sure that they're providing the instruction to the students.

Mr. Kelso suggested providing swag for the kids, like bells for their bikes. Everyone recalled providing bells at the Party on the Parkway event held back in 2012.

Update County Trail Projects

Mr. Regosch indicated that Neshaminy Greenway Phase III groundbreaking event at Core Creek Park will be sometime in April. Neshaminy Greenway Phase I, the County plan along 611, is moving along. BCPC is continuing to work with TPD, expecting something by the end of the year. He is updating the trail map for the Communities in Central Bucks, he would like Mr. Kelso and Mr. Gage to look at that and get back to him regarding any suggestions.

Mr. Kelso asked about Neshaminy Greenway Phase II, 611 going southeast. Mr. Regosch indicated that at this time the project is not advancing.

Pump Track

Ms. Hernandez indicated that the Borough has started fundraising. Ms. Wyckoff is working with Ms. Goldman in finding some major sponsors and donors. They are hoping to raise \$35,000 and have created a Go Fund Me and have raised about \$2,000. It was suggested for them to reach out to the Central Bucks Bike Club as well.

Prioritize List of Future Projects:

Proposed Trail at Pine Run

Mr. Kelso said he is arranging a meeting with the new owners of Pine Run. He's hoping that he'll be able to schedule a meeting sometime next week. During the meeting he wants to discuss how they could help with such a project. If that goes well, we'll begin work on a letter of intent for Board and County's approval.

Ms. Dixon indicated that it would be helpful to be able to work out the County addressing maintenance and taking the lead in getting the easements from the Pine Run Village as well.

Spring Valley – Hunter to Pebble Hill

Nothing new to report.

E-Bike Policy

Mr. Kelso provided a handout indicating that he and Ms. Mason met Chief Zeigler. The Chief indicated that enforcement would be difficult but the main part for the E-Bikes is going to rely on proper signage. He would like the committee to take a look at the attached and come back with any suggestions and then present to the Board later this year. (Exhibit A)

Ms. Hendrixson agreed that enforcement is going to be difficult but signage, perhaps with a phone number or hashtag where people could report violations would be appropriate.

Mr. Friedberger asked if there was any identification information by the cyclist needed or being provided?

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that there are currently no bike licenses or anything like that.

Mr. Norman indicated they really need to rely upon the public for assistance.

Mr. Kelso indicated that Mr. Mattheson, who does the Adult Enrichment Class at Delaware Valley University, was the one who prompted the Bike/Hike Committee to look into this. He also stated that safety and signage will need to be included in the budget as that is key.

Ms. Jacobson indicated Chalfont had received a grant for \$225,000 for connections of 1,000' of trail in Chalfont. This is for the Northern Neshaminy Trail – Patriot Drive to East Hillcrest Ave.

Mr. Sunderland from East Road raised concern about the need for a crosswalk, if and when a trail is developed in that area along East Road. Perhaps something with a raised speed table due to the downhill area of the pond on East Road.

Ms. Mason indicated that since there are no specific plans at this time, we will make the Bike/Hike Engineer aware of this when and if a project moves forward for that area. Most likely it will depend upon which side of the street the trail ends up being installed.

Adjournment – Being no further on the motion of Ms. Holewinski, seconded by Ms. Hendrixson the meeting adjourned at 8:55am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager

Preamble

The purpose of this ordinance is to address the increasing use of motorized bicycles, scooters and other wheeled devices on the Township's trail system and parks. The ordinance is aimed at keeping the trail system as safe as possible for all users and to provide community standards for users to be aware of and follow. The ordinance does not address the use of motorized bicycles and other wheeled vehicles on roads and streets. This is address by the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code.

SECTION:

Definitions

- 1.0 Traffic Laws Apply to Persons Riding Bicycles, E-Bikes, And E-Scooters
- 2.0 Required Equipment
- 3.0 Riding on Bicycles, E-Bikes, Or E-Scooters
- 4.0 Riding on Roadways
- 5.0 Using Provided Bike Lanes and Bike Paths
- 6.0 Riding Upon Sidewalks and Upon and Within Crosswalks
- 7.0 Passing Other Trail Users
- 8.0 Dismount Not Required When Stopping
- 9.0 Turn Signals
- 10.0 Riding in Groups
- 11.0 Bicycle, E-Bike, Or E-Scooter Parking
- 12.0 Use of Bike Paths and Bike Lanes By Other Non- Motorized Modes Of Transportation
- 13.0 Group Events
- 14.0 Unlawful Use of Bike Lanes and Bike Paths
- 15.0 Reckless or Inattentive Operation
- 16.0 Basic Rule and Maximum Posted Speed Limits
- 17.0 Notice of Violation and Procedures
- 18.0 Penalties

DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms, phrases, words, and derivations shall have the meaning given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future tense, words in the plural number include the singular number, and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory. Words used throughout this chapter, but not defined herein, shall have their plain, ordinary, and common meaning. Words in any gender shall apply to the feminine, masculine, and neuter genders.

ABANDONMENT: A bicycle, E-bike, E-scooter, or any part thereof, that is left or remains unattended or unused in a public place for seventy-two (72) consecutive hours or longer after it is tagged with a notice of intention to abate.

BICYCLE: Every vehicle having two (2) tandem wheels, or two (2) parallel wheels and one forward wheel, any two (2) of which are not less than twelve inches (12") in diameter, propelled exclusively by human power upon which any person may ride, except scooters and similar devices.

BIKE LANE: A portion of a roadway designated for preferential or exclusive use by bicycles, E-bikes, or E-scooters that is distinguished from that portion of the roadway to be used by motor vehicles by a painted strip and other pavement markings.

BIKE PATH (Trails): A separate right-of-way designated primarily for use by bicycles, E-bikes, E-scooters, or pedestrians, including but not limited to trails shown on the Bike and Hike Map as adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The term bike path is used interchangeably with "bike trails" and includes both the paved surface and minimum of two feet (2) on either side.

BIKE PATH APPROACH: That area where a transition is made between a roadway, parking lot, sidewalk or other facility and a bike path. This area is generally identified by wooden bollards, pavement markings and a parking prohibition.

BIKE/PEDESTRIAN CURB RAMP: A break in a curb designated to facilitate movement by the operator of a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter, pedestrian, or person with a disability from a street or parking lot to a sidewalk or bicycle facility.

BIKE ROUTE: Any roadway specifically signed for shared use by bicycles, E-bikes, or E-scooters, and motor vehicles.

ELECTRIC POWER-ASSISTED BICYCLE (E-BIKE): A vehicle having two (2) tandem wheels or two (2) parallel wheels and one forward wheel, any two (2) of which are not less than twelve inches (12") in diameter, that is designed to be operated by human power with the assistance of an electric motor that has a power output of not more than seven hundred fifty (750) watts that: a) is incapable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of more than twenty (20) miles per hour; and b) disengages or ceases to function when the vehicle's brakes are applied. An E-bike is not a motor vehicle for purposes of this chapter.

ELECTRIC POWER-ASSISTED SCOOTER (E-SCOOTER): A two (2) wheeled device that has handlebars, has a floorboard that is designed to be stood upon when riding, and is powered by an electric motor that has a power output of not more than three hundred (300) watts that: a) is incapable of propelling the device at a speed of more than fifteen (15) miles per hour; and b) disengages or ceases to function when the device's brakes are applied. An E-scooter is not a motor vehicle for purposes of this chapter.

OBSTRUCTIVE BICYCLE, E-BIKE, OR E-SCOOTER: Any bicycle, E-bike, E-scooter, or any part thereof, left in a public place that obstructs or impedes vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

PUBLIC PLACE: Any publicly owned property, including, but not limited to, sidewalks, streets, alleys, parks, and plazas located within the Township jurisdictional limits.

1.0: TRAFFIC LAWS APPLY TO PERSONS RIDING BICYCLES, E-BIKES, AND E-SCOOTERS:

A. Requirements: Every person, regardless of age, who operates a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter upon a roadway, public parking lot, sidewalk, bike path, bike lane or other public vehicular right-of-way in Doylestown Township shall be granted the same rights and shall be subject to the same responsibilities applicable to a motor vehicle operator by the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, and the provisions of this title not in conflict with and as authorized Pennsylvania Vehicle Code; except where provisions of those laws and ordinances by their very nature can have no application to bicycles, E-bikes, or E-scooters, or where portions of this chapter direct otherwise.

2.0: REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

No person shall operate a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter without the following equipment:

A. Brakes capable of causing the bicycle, E-bike, E-scooter, or other wheeled device to stop within twenty five feet (25) at ten (10) miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement; and

B. A bell, the human voice or other audible warning device capable of being heard at a distance of at least one hundred feet (100¹) away, except that no bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter shall be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter any siren or whistle; and

C. When in use at nighttime, a red light on the rear visible from three hundred feet (300'), and a forward-facing white light attached either to the bicycle, E-bike, E-scooter, or the operator that is visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet (500') in front of the bicycle; and

D. All bicycles and E-bikes shall have a permanent seat designed for the bicycle or the E-bike being operated. E-scooters shall not have any attached seats-

3.0: RIDING ON BICYCLES, E-BIKES, OR E-SCOOTERS:

A. No person riding or operating a bicycle or E-bike shall ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto.

B. No bicycle or/and E-bike shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

C. No E-scooter shall be used to carry more than one person at one time.

D. No person shall operate a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter that is either too large or too small for such person to operate safely.

E. Every person operating a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter shall always keep at least one hand on the handlebar, and shall carry nothing that prevents full control of the bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter, or obstructs the operator's vision.

4.0: RIDING ON ROADWAYS:

A. Any person operating a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter on a roadway is subject to regulation under the Vehicle Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

5.0: USE OF TRAILS AND SIDEWALKS BY E-BIKES AND E-SCOOTERS

E-bikes and E-scooters are prohibited from trails and sidewalks less than 8 feet (8'0" in width and where specifically prohibited by signs posted by Doylestown Township.

6.0: RIDING UPON SIDEWALKS AND UPON AND WITHIN CROSSWALKS:

A. Except for use by those under the age of 16 and accompanying adults, a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter shall not be operated upon a sidewalk and upon and within a crosswalk.,

B. Any operator of a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter riding upon a sidewalk as allowed for in item A above, or across a roadway upon and within a crosswalk, shall have all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances.

C. Any operator of a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter riding on the sidewalk shall not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and move into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

7.0: PASSING OTHER TRAIL USERS:

The operator of a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter may pass another trail user upon the left after giving sufficient warning.

8.0: DISMOUNT NOT REQUIRED WHEN STOPPING:

Whenever a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter operator is required to bring the bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter to a stop in conformance with the official traffic control devices, the operator shall halt forward motion but shall not be required to dismount or remove their feet from the pedals or the floorboard.

9.0: TURN SIGNALS:

The operator of a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter intending to turn shall signal his intent to turn with the appropriate hand and arm signal at least one hundred feet (100') prior to turning. The hand signal need not be continuous.

10.0: RIDING IN GROUPS:

Persons riding bicycles, E-bikes, or E-scooters shall not ride more than two (2) abreast except upon bike paths of ten feet (10') or more. The operator of a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter operating two (2) abreast upon a bike path, shall return to a single file configuration when approached pedestrians or other wheeled vehicles.

11.0: BICYCLE, E-BIKE, OR E-SCOOTER PARKING:

Bicycles, E-bikes, or E-scooters shall not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct or impede the movement of pedestrians, motor vehicles or other bicycles, E-bikes, or E-scooters, or to cause damage to trees, shrubs, or other living plants.

12.0: USE OF BIKE PATHS AND BIKE LANES BY OTHER NON- MOTORIZED MODES OF TRANSPORTATION:

- A. No person shall drive, lead, or ride a horse or other animal upon a bike lane or bike path.
- B. No person shall roller skate, ride or operate a skateboard or gravity-operated or human powered vehicle not classified as a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter upon a bike lane or bike path except where specifically designated.
- C. Pedestrians shall not travel upon a bike path where a separate foot path has been provided or upon a bike lane where a sidewalk is provided.
- D. When a pedestrian is traveling upon a bike path or bike lane:
 - 1 . The operator of a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter approaching the pedestrian from the rear shall be required to give audible warning when overtaking and passing such pedestrian; and
 - 2. The operator of a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter and a pedestrian approaching each other shall each be required to move to and remain upon their right-hand half of the surface.
- E. The operator of a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter shall always yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian who has a disability.

13.0: GROUP EVENTS:

A race, parade or other group event for bicycles, E-bikes, or E-scooters may be conducted upon public rights-of-way in the Township City if a permit is obtained. Permit applications shall be made through the Township Administrative Office

14.0: UNLAWFUL USE OF BIKE LANES AND BIKE PATHS:

It shall be unlawful for any person without authorization from the local authority having jurisdiction thereof to cut, alter, break, injure, damage, or perform work upon any bike path or bike lane in the Township.

15.0: RECKLESS OR INATTENTIVE OPERATION:

A person who uses or rides a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter on any public or private property open to public use inattentively, or carelessly and heedlessly, in light of the circumstances then existing, or without due caution and circumspection, or at such speed or in any other manner as to endanger or be likely to endanger any

person or property shall be guilty of reckless or inattentive operation, a misdemeanor and, upon conviction subject to the penalty as provided in this ordinance.

16.0: BASIC RULE AND MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMITS:

A person who uses, operates, or rides a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter on any public or private property open to public use shall obey all posted maximum speed limits. Maximum speed limits may vary depending on location and pedestrian traffic levels. It is the responsibility of the operator of a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter to know and obey all applicable maximum speed limits in the area of operation. Notwithstanding any posted maximum speed limit, no person shall use, operate, or ride a bicycle, E-bike, or E-scooter at a speed greater than 15 MPH and is reasonable and prudent under the conditions or circumstances then existing and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing.

17.0: NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND PROCEDURES:

- A. Upon observing any violation of the provisions of this chapter, the Township Police Department is authorized to serve a notice of violation, "citation", by personally serving the person violating the provisions of this chapter with a citation.
- B. Every citation shall include the following, if applicable to the observed violation:
 - 1. The date and time when the violation was observed;
 - 2. The location where the violation occurred;
 - 3. The Code section violated and a brief description of the violation;
 - 4. The fine amount;
 - 5. Instructions explaining how the violation may be paid and the fine amount associated with the violation; and
 - 6. A statement describing the process by which the citation may be contested.
- C. One copy or an automated record of each citation shall be filed with the Township.
- D. Each person served with a citation shall within ten (10) business days from the date on the citation:
 - 1. Pay the corresponding fine amount on the Township's fee schedule;
 - 2. Pay the corresponding fine amount, plus any applicable fees, using an online payment system authorized by the Township Administrative Office; or
 - 3. Appear at the Township Administrative Office to contest the violation through the Township's administrative process to avoid an administrative fee being assessed to the citation in addition to the original fine amount.
- E. Failure to either pay the fine or appear to contest the violation within ten (10) business days from the date on the citation shall result in an additional fifteen dollar (\$20.00) administrative fee being assessed for each violation to defray the administrative and personnel costs and mailing expenses arising from such overdue fines

18.0: PENALTIES:

Unless otherwise provided, any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of an infraction and upon conviction shall be punishable by civil infraction penalty as established by the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors and listed on the most current Township fee schedule.