

**Notes from Bike/Hike Meeting
April 21, 2015**

Present: Lynn Goldman; Paul Gordon; Dick Patterson; Bill Wert; Andrew Hamilton; Marilyn Jacobson; Bruce Hochman; Phil Elinger, Doylestown Borough; Judy Hendrixson; Tom Kelso; Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers; Mary Pat Holewinski; Taylor Thompson, Heritage; Shawn Touhill, Board of Supervisor Liaison; Sam Bryant, Special Projects Coordinator

Budget Work Session Follow Up Questions for the Bike and Hike Committee

Mr. Touhill gave a synopsis of the Budget Work Session held in early April. He explained that it was an earlier session that usual to discuss ideas and fund development.

The Ways and Means Committee is looking to get a full grasp of existing projects for their financial modeling, and had some questions for the Bike and Hike Committee. Specifically, they are interested in knowing how many more miles of trail will ultimately be built in the Township? How many in the next five years? What is the overall plan and realistic vision for the trail system?

Mr. Kelso noted that a few years back the Bike and Hike Committee drew up crude trail plans with assigned priorities and basic cost estimates. He could provide this information, as well as use these questions as an opportunity to update plans, review successes, and examine priorities.

Mr. Touhill stressed that the Ways and Means Committee doesn't want to direct projects, but want to know what the existing budget variables are and capture information relevant to the Township financial picture.

Trail Awareness Day

Mr. Patterson reported that the Trail Awareness Day planning group was thinking of holding Trail Awareness Day as part of the September Arts Weekend/Bike Race, as the Manion Foundation moved the date of their annual run to the originally planned Trail Awareness Day date (September 27th). Ms. Goldman mentioned she had discussed this idea with the Township Manager, who had logistical concerns about crowds and parking.

Mr. Kelso agreed that logistical issues would be tough that weekend, as a lot of people/traffic would be on the streets around that time.

Mr. Patterson said that another concern from last year was that the day was too long. This year, Trail Awareness Day could only be that morning, and conclude before other events begin. He also felt the new parking garage by the courthouse would help with parking issues.

Mr. Kelso stated that a big advantage of last year was that families, and especially young children, were able to park at the hospital and have direct access to the trails. Many people are uncomfortable with bicycling in the streets, which would be necessary in Doylestown Borough.

Ms. Hendrixson suggested advertising the Trail Awareness Day at the art show/bike race and then holding it in late September or early October. She said that for many families, doing one event is more than enough to take up a whole weekend, let alone multiple activities.

Mr. Clark suggested the Bike and Hike Committee set up a booth at the arts festival to promote the trails and Trail Awareness Day.

Mr. Wert said that he felt the Travis Manion Run was for a different audience than Trail Awareness Day, and wouldn't interfere if they were held on the same day.

Mr. Ehlinger informed the Committee that Doylestown Borough is working to formalize its parade and event regulations, so the appropriate permits and paperwork should be turned in once a date is set. He also said that the Bike and Hike Committee would be able to have a booth at the festival.

Lower St Road

Mr. Stanford said he had conversations with SEPTA about this trail. He stated that grade differences may require a small retaining wall. Environmental analysts from PennDOT recently examined the area and had a few concerns. Until the environmental analysts are done with their reports, further progress cannot continue. Once that process is completed, easements will need to be obtained. Delaware Valley University is fine with the current trail plan, and Mr. Stanford spoke with Mr. Joseph Guckavan at Delaware Valley University.

Neshaminy Phase III

Mr. Stanford showed a draft plan for a trail to connect to the New Britain train station crossing over Cook's Run and Aarons Ave. Speaking to residents in the area, Mr. Stanford found that many of them had complaints about drainage issues around Beulah Road that could be fixed with the trail construction.

The existing map showed two crossings at Aaron's Avenue. The Committee suggested an alternative trail route be considered that reduce the crossings to one, as well as to mitigate elevation and width concerns.

Mr. Stanford said that once the plan is completed that it should be shown to residents to acquire easements. Ms. Hendrixson said that she spoke with residents in this area informally and that stumps would need to be removed, drainage fixed, landscaping or fencing repair provided.

Mr. Stanford also noted that Chalfont Borough and New Britain Borough also still need to garner support for the project. Mr. Stanford said that Chalfont is working to complete a portion of trail from Lenape Ln to Blue Jay Rd.

Other Business

Mr. Gordon said that Bucks County was now ready after some years of planning to begin actual trail construction with the support of the Commissioners. The County considered four projects: expanding the trail on 202 to New Hope; Upper Bucks Run; Newtown Railroad; and Quakertown. After examining a variety of factors, the County approved funding for the Upper Bucks Rail Trail and had a pre-proposal meeting the previous week. DVRPC has also expressed interest in helping Bucks County with the Newtown Railroad trail through Round 4 of William Penn funding.

Mr. Kelso was pleasantly surprised by the amount of interest in trails at PSATS, and thought Township Manager Stephanie J. Mason did a great presentation of developing trails and trail partnerships.

Mr. Hamilton provided attendees with draft plans for the September 11th National Memorial Trail that would connect the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and Flight 93 Memorials. The alignment has not been set yet, but will certainly go through this region of Pennsylvania. There is talk of connecting this trail to Washington's Crossing, the Garden of Reflection and Valley Forge. This project should help mobilize the building of a trail bridge over the Susquehanna River. There are applications pending for several state and federal grants to make this project happen. Mr. Hamilton has also begun talking to officials in Montgomery County about connecting the Schuylkill Trail to the 202 Parkway Trail. Mr. Hamilton asked participants to ask their elected officials to issue a resolution in support of this project.

Mr. Kelso announced the East Coast Greenway Summit will be held at Boathouse Row in Philadelphia on May 1st at 9am. Leslie Richards will be speaking, and Mr. Kelso plans to attend. There will be a celebration following the speakers.

Mr. Patterson mentioned that one of the races in the Bucks County 5K series will use the trail at Shady Retreat Rd that connects to Memorial Drive and Doyle Elementary for their race course.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be June 16, 2015 at 8AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Bryant".

Sam Bryant
Special Projects Coordinator