

Notes from Bike/Hike Meeting
January 19, 2016

Present: Judy Hendrixson, Chris Stanford; Baker Engineers, Bruce Hochman, Ethan Osolynski; Intern Baker Engineers, Mary Pat Holewinski, Sam Bryant; New Britain Borough, Paul Gordon; Bucks County Planning Commission, Tom Kelso, Elizabeth Wyckoff, Andy Clark, Dick Patterson, Joel, Louise Silberg, Lynn Goldman, Bill Wert, Andy Hamilton and Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township Manager.

Review of Projects

Heritage Trail – The trail is in. The vendor is having difficulties with the supplier related to the fence installation as it is a 54” fence on the bridge as a bicycle barrier to the 611 Bypass.

PennDot has changed their requirements since we did the initial fences for the 202 Parkway so the design had to change.

Installation is going to be a little tricky because of that. Mr. Stanford is going to coordinate a meeting with the contractor and we will get this squared away and hopefully get the fence installed shortly.

Neshaminy Greenway Phase III – Progress for the easements is moving along. Mr. Bryant from New Britain Borough indicated that the Boroughs attorney, Mike Samona is working with the church and the Magee and Jared Properties which seem to be wrapped up. They are just waiting on a signature from the Erickson Property where they have hired an appraiser, efforts seem to be moving along.

Mr. Stanford indicated that he had communicated with the sisters regarding a potential fence on their property in New Britain Borough, they seemed rather pleased with what they could put there and the amount of room to have a fence and landscaping, he is working on draft easements.

Across the street, where the pedestrian bridge will be going on Mr. Hoffman’s property, the Township met with him and he is very willing to provide the necessary easement. Mr. Garton, Township Solicitor, is drafting that paperwork.

The Emmell Property, next to the trail station, we will begin the process of the appraisal, we will continue to speak to him but we may need to make a condemnation, that will be the first one ever since 1992 when the Bike/Hike Trail System started.

Mr. Stanford said that he would follow up with the Chalfont/New Britain Sewer Authority about their easement. Redesign on the parking lot was done so it will be less expensive, but things are moving along. He will call New Britain Township and talk to them about the easement on the one residential property, paperwork has already been sent to them.

Anticipation of construction from the existing trail to the cemetery should begin this summer.

Lower State Road – Correspondence was received from Mr. Ball’s attorney indicating that they do not want to be cooperative regarding the trail. Mr. Stanford pointed out that the PennDot already did the historic boundary survey and there is not a legal impact on the property. The right of way there is 33’, 16.5’ from center line we need about 5’ outside of the road right of way. There is a water line easement line there that we are going to check on. Question on shifting the traffic in order to put the trail in.

Mr. Kelso indicated that there is a drainage problem, perhaps we could address that. The matter is going before the Board of Supervisors to start the appraisal process. We have two quotes, one from an appraiser and

one from a reviewer because there is a Federal TAP Grant involved and those are requirements under the Federal Guidelines. Most likely the Township Solicitor will communicate with attorney and try to get a meeting. We believe that if a meeting could be had that the project would move forward. Obviously if we have to go to Board of View we want letters of support from the university, school district, YMCA, the Borough etc.

Other Projects – Discussion on Phase IV of the Neshaminy Greenway, the County indicated that there is CMAQ Federal Dollar funding available upwards of 20 million for competitive grants. The suggestion would be to run a trail from backside of Central Park along Turk Road to 611 through the County Fish and Game coming out at 611 crossing near the Barn Plaza Cinema.

Mr. Gordon indicated that this is part of the Master Plan for the County Trail Program but he is not sure if the County would take this grant on at this time, although it would fit in nicely with the overall County Plan.

Ms. Mason indicated that at this point in time the Township is certainly supportive of the project however, would not have the cash match. Perhaps we would be able to do some in kind work. The amount as the project may be estimated over \$1,000,000.

A suggestion was that we could match it with William Penn Foundation money; it is a Great Regional Circuit Program.

Ms. Goldman pointed out that the February 2nd meeting of the Board of Supervisors is the Annual Presentation from the Boards and Commissions, she asked Ms. Hendrickson to prepare a power point. Ms. Hendrickson said that she would.

There was an article shared on from Nice to Have and to Need to Have that was put out by the Pennsylvania Parks and Recreation Society. It is a very informative article.

Pebble Hill Road – Mr. Hamilton, East Coast Greenway is looking over the NACTO Standards for spacing of sharrows. There may be a difference for installation and cost from Green Street to along Pebble Hill Road. It is part of Bike Route S; the speed limit has been reduced and he believes this would be an excellent location for sharrows. He indicated that he would be up in Harrisburg Wednesday talking to DCNR about ways of getting maintenance funds for things such as sharrows.

He also indicated that the Bucks County Bike Meeting has not been scheduled.

Pools Corner Update – Things are moving forward, construction is ongoing, the parking lot will have 25 spaces in the trail head but the trail is not continuing into Buckingham.

Doylestown Borough Broad Street Park – Ms. Wyckoff indicated that Doylestown Borough will be hosting a meeting February 1, 2016 at 7:00pm at the Heritage Conservancy Building (Aldie Mansion) to get feedback on their proposed gateway park on Broad Street it is a public meeting.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00am. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 16, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager