

**Notes from Bike/Hike Meeting  
December 20, 2016**

**Present:** Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Marilyn Jacobson; Andy Hamilton; Liz Wyckoff; Rebecca Fink, Buckingham Township; Peter Fernandez; Andy Clark; Tom Kelso; Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers; Paul Gordon, Bucks County; Mary Pat Holewinski; Dave Tomko, Director of Operations and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Guest: Keith and Case Fenimore, 71 Oak Drive

**Review of Projects**

**Neshaminy Greenway** – Mr. Stanford indicated that the first phase is done. Met with the three residents in New Britain Borough, discussed drainage and should be wrapped up in January. Sign offs with easements hopefully in the New Year so that we can complete that, we will need some donations from Feeney's for plants. Still need the Emmel easement in Doylestown Township.

**Lower State Road** – The state has increased the grant to \$1.3 million reimbursement with Penn Dot. Expecting bids to go out mid-February or March. SEPTA will be done hopefully by the end of June, South Tamenend should get underway as well at the same time.

**Turk Road Trail Extension to Pebble Hill Road** – Mr. Fenimore indicated that he thought working to raise the \$300,000 to cover engineering was doable with a go fund me campaign. It was suggested that he work with Mr. Kelso and Mr. Stanford in putting together a brief presentation to the Board of Supervisors probably in February. He believes the work to do the feasibility study, the first phase, working with Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Kutz Elementary School, YMCA, possibly getting a target article in the Herald or Intelligencer to do a call to action will help move the trail along Turk Road from Bomaca to the Borough line along Pebble Hill will move forward.

A grant submission to DCNR for the feasibility study in the New Year was suggested, probably due in April, it will be a 50/50 match.

Goal is to come to the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 17, 2017 at 7PM. As well as making a presentation to Doylestown Borough.

**Other Business –**

**Bucks County CMAQ Grant** – Mr. Gordon indicated that at a mandatory pre-proposal meeting, there were 40 engineers interested. Mr. Kelso is sitting on the committee to help evaluate the proposals. The community is working with the County to make this move forward and it is very helpful.

**BCPC** – Had a trail meeting in Northampton, unfortunately at this time Northampton is not interested in seeing the Newtown Rail Trail be developed although Upper Southampton is. The Bucks County Planning Commission is going to continue to try to work with other municipalities in moving this forward. It certainly would help with the Middle Neshaminy Connector at the George School.

Plumstead Township tabled their vote on the Master Plan for the trail.

Mr. Hamilton suggested that we develop a signage to show locations of future trail connections.

Ms. Jacobson commented that Bucks County Open Space is ending, the committee will be dissolved shortly, but there is still funding for Agricultural Preservation in natural areas. The municipalities ended in December, the Bike/Hike Committee was able to benefit from this as many access to trail points were developed.

Bensalem is part of the circuit as well as the Bristol Bridge and Maple Road providing access to Open Space.

It doesn't look like the county is planning to do any additional Open Space Grants at this moment.

Ms. Wyckoff indicated that she formed a new committee in the Borough; they are working on a video to make information on safe biking in and around the community.

Ms. Fink, Buckingham Township, indicated that she is excited to be a part of the committee. She realizes that they have a number of trails however many of them are only 6' – 8' and the goal is to work to see if they can get up to 10' if possible in the future. Working on a map of their bike trails as well.

Mr. Hamilton talked about the 911 Memorial Trail and the areas to be studied by DVRPC. He recently biked from Washington Crossing to Norristown to vet some routes out. Many of the area is part of Bike Route S which he hopes to get letters of support for the feasibility, maybe even a FAP Grant for 2017, \$400,000 in the western part to the Flight 93 to the Great Allegheny Trail.

Doylestown Township is supporting the circuit a 750 mile trail of the circuit map also supporting a resolution that would be helpful, possibly in January with proposals.

Mr. Kelso updated the trails and funds for the future and grants that could be shovel ready. He indicated to the committee that we need to look at this annually, make sure that we update it. He thinks Shady Retreat could be a shovel ready project and Destination Peace Valley working with New Britain Township also New Britain where there is a small development as well as Tabor may come in for development making opportunity for expansion of trail. The Neshaminy Greenway, seeing that come to fruition is great for the area.

Mr. Fernandez talked about Pine Run and Old Dublin, adding to a list since there is a narrow pedestrian bridge near Charing Cross he thinks might be helpful.

Ms. Goldman thanked the committee for all of their hard work over the past year and looks forward to a successful 2017 seeing long term projects come to fruition.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00am. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 17, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason  
Township Manager