

Bike/Hike Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2018

Present: Lynn Goldman; Tom Kelso; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township Supervisor; Mary Pat Holewinski; Larry Gage; Judy Hendrixson; Chris Stanford, Michael Baker; Andy Clark; Bill Wert; Liz Wyckoff; Andy Hamilton; Roger Clark; Keith & Case Fenimore; Rebecca Fink, Buckingham Township; Dick Patterson; Paul Gordon, Bucks County Planning Commission; Ryan Manion, Board of Supervisors Liaison and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Guest: Paul & Sharon Anderson; Katie Maio; Judy Walker; Karen Carr; Rick Ianisri; Patrick Marsh; Dan Wood; Jackie Hayes; Chad Blankenbiller; Donna Bradley.

Minutes Approval – The minutes from the January 16, 2017 on motion of Ms. Holewinski, seconded by Mr. Gage the meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentation of Plaque – The presentation of the plaque to Andy Clark for his years of service on the Bike/Hike Committee. Ms. Goldman presented Mr. Clark with a plaque from the Bike/Hike Committee with a beautiful Bike/Hike tile done by Kachi McGurk. This plaque was presented to Mr. Clark for his years of service and dedication to the Bike/Hike Committee.

Review of Projects

Turk Road Trail Extension to Pebble Hill Road Update – Ms. Goldman acknowledged that there were a number of residents from the Turk Road Area indicating that they had concerns about the recent grant awarded to the Township and Borough.

Ms. Goldman indicated that the Bike/Hike Committee has been doing trails for a long time and we work under mutual respect to make the community better. She asked Ms. Mason to describe the process.

Ms. Mason indicated that as Ms. Goldman pointed out the Bike/Hike Committee has been operation for 25 years and developed trails throughout Doylestown Township and Borough working together in addition are neighboring communities Buckingham, Warrington, New Britain Townships and the Boroughs of Chalfont and New Britain have also begun to do trails and we are interconnecting our trails in and around the various communities with a focus on having these trails connect to places of recreation, education and commercial sites and that people utilize these trails to get to work, exercise and to get to places referenced above and for health and wellness in the various communities. We have received a \$50,000 matching grant which Doylestown Township and Borough will match along with fundraising completed Mr. Fenimore, a resident from the Turk Road area. The Feasibility Study will undertake the analysis of constructing a trail along Turk from Bomaca to Pebble Hill Road to Green Street in Doylestown Borough near the Boy Scout Offices. It will also look at alternatives in the Feasibility Study as well as other areas that may want to access it as we have had some residents from the East Road/Cherry Lane area interested in seeing trails connect to their neighborhoods.

Mr. Standford indicated that as Bike/Hike consultant he would work with the committee to develop the appropriate feasibility study meeting DCNR's requirements that take in the proposed path, alternatives and potential costs. He anticipates 1 ½ year or more for the plan to be completed.

Katie Maio, resident Turk Road; commented that she thanks all the volunteers for the work they have done and the care they have taken. However, she has a tree canopy on her property at 2225 Turk and the installation of

the 12' wide trail in her front yard is very concerning. Also there is a hill, somewhat of a blind spot that creates problems she hopes for an open process and that all neighbors can communicate and that an alternate route for a connection to Pebble Hill Road perhaps in the adjacent streets in Pebble Woods would get to Pebble Hill more easily.

Ms. Goldman indicated that we will look at various alternatives and appreciate the suggestion, but we have been doing this for over 20 years and the goal is to provide trails to communities so that families have safe access to parks, schools etc. There is a demand for trails and it will be figured out.

Patrick March indicated that traffic is fast at Pebble Hill and Turk he has been there 6 years and likes the privacy and the trees and the habitat. He does not want to see it disrupted, he does not want to see his property go down in value with a trail.

Ms. Goldman indicated that trails are not a one size fits all. We work with the elements, to calm traffic, we have done trails that are 8' or 5' wide at times to meet design standards and pretty much customize the trail as it goes through various properties. Studies have shown that trails enhance property values and increase them.

A resident raised a concern regarding the trail study and potential for sewers and the concern of putting trails in and then coming through with sewers.

Ms. Goldman indicated that as part of the feasibility study all aspects and impacts to the trail would be evaluated and information gathered.

Mr. Kelso indicated that the Bike/Hike Committee is an advisory committee and at the end of the day approval from the Board of Supervisors to move forward with any construction of a trail or future grants to build a trail would be necessary. This committee will receive a study and the feasibility and at a future date submit that to the Board of Supervisors when it is completed. There will be public meetings for the process and to stay informed and have a point person who we can contact as well.

Neshaminy Greenway – Update – South Tamanend is 95% done, waiting for the pavement markings, the Girard property has to have some redo on the drainage, mill and overlay that area. There is a pipe on Frog Hollow that was replaced. The Township did a great job on the bridgework the Borough portion is moving along as part of the TAP project. There were some comments about Buelah Road and adding a crosswalk. Mr. Wert suggested this be done. The Traffic Advisory Committee would have to evaluate that with signage in addition we would need another easement from the cemetery or we would have to bring the trail down along two other properties to cross at the driveway. This would need to be considered in the future.

Lower State Road – Ms. Manion indicated the signs keep falling down. We will tell the contractor to get those back up. The project is moving along and should be done soon, pavement marking still need to be done, but that is a weather related issue, the temperature needs to be 50 and rising for several days.

Bucks County DVRPC CMAC Grant – Mr. Gordon indicated that the County has been accepted by all trail from Route 611 and Prison Drive down Almshouse to the Turk Road area and connecting into the Township and Kings Park in Warrington. They will start at the old 3-story farm house and come down along there. They have met with the transportation advisory committee; they have met with PennDot, Park & Recreation Board, Bike/Hike and the Dog Park. They are also looking for a speed study regarding the 35MPH speed limit and anticipating Boucher & James moving along there soon.

Round-a-bouts – Study was completed by the state and the potential for round-a-bouts at Route 611 North & South / Easton, Saurerman & New Britain Roads.

Mr. Hamilton indicated that round-a-bouts can be very pedestrian and bicycle friendly if done correctly. The question of whether or not this connects to Warden Road and the Callan property – not at this time.

Mr. Stanford said that Northampton at 2nd Street Pike was also having round-a-bouts put in.

Bucks County Planning Commission is working with Buckingham Township on trails connecting to the Borough on Smoke Road, Court Street, Spring Valley to Furlong eventually Greenway and Heritage Center to Neshaminy Greenway Lower Mountain. It is wonderful to see this plan come to fruition. Bike Route S still needs to be reconfigured, need to identify the Heritage Center to Devonshire, Swamp and Forest Grove.

Mr. Hamilton indicated that Montgomery needs to also review Bike Route S and seems to be a bigger project than just the project. Hopefully PennDot will address.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:15am. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 8:00am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager