

Bike/Hike Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2019

Present: Tom Kelso; Judy Hendrixson; Roger Clark; Andy Hamilton; Louise Silberg; Marilyn Jacobson; Larry Gage; Liz Wyckoff; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township Supervisor; Paul Gordon, Bucks County Planning Commission; Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers; Katie Maio and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Minutes Approval – The minutes from the February 19, 2019 meeting were approved by the committee.

Review of Projects

Old New Road – Consideration of Sidewalk/trail – Update – Ms. Mason indicated that there was interest from a resident Colleen Mullen, Old New Road, to connect to the trail system perhaps through the neighborhood and also to the trail proposed at the Bray/Long Tract. It was suggested that this area be considered for future trail and look for opportunities, especially after other improvements are made in the area.

Neshaminy Greenway/Bristol/Upper State Road – Update – Mr. Stanford indicated that they are approaching the finish line. They have obtained additional funding from PennDot and were just looking for a commitment from the Coleman Property in New Britain Township.

Ms. Jones indicated that she believes that they are close to finalizing the easement but should know more in the near future.

Traffic Control plan is still in the works. The bridge plan for Upper State will be part of the TAP Grant, which will pay for the improvements with the barrier required by PennDot. The sidewalk is being removed on the bridge but they can't add any additional load to the bridge.

Mr. Kelso indicated there are some concerns with the bridge. Mr. Stanford indicated that the County has indicated improvements that need to be made as part of the project.

Anticipate bidding to occur sometime in the fall.

Turk Road Area Trail Feasibility Study – Update – Mr. Stanford indicated that the subcommittee met recently and had a good discussion regarding various options for the trail going toward Woodview as well as Scout Way. One item that will need to be done is an identification of necessary easements. It was indicated that certain areas could be blacktop or cement with a smaller width on Pebble Hill. Preferably 8' with buffer but could go down to 5'. The Books Tract that is in for consideration along Cherry Lane will be asked to install Bike/Hike trail along Cherry Lane.

Logistics was recommended that the presentation be made to the Township's Traffic Advisory Committee probably in April and presentation to the Borough's subcommittee probably in May. Potential connection to Fanny Chapman was also discussed.

Also discussed another grant that have been submitted getting on the opposite side of Tabor and connecting to the WAWA as well.

Mr. Gage indicated that the Mission Statement of the Bike / Hike is to safely interconnect and there's a need for stretches that consider obviate demand that could be on going for Turk, such as safety issues or 3-way stops.

Mr. Clark asked what long term plan the Township had for road improvements just in general. Ms. Mason indicated that at this time there are none outside of general paving since the speed limit has already been reduced to 25MPH.

Ms. Maio asked about the alternate up 611 and the alternate use of existing 3-way stop at Pebble Woods along with signs to guide people.

There was discussion regarding portions of the project being used potentially as safe routes to school are under TAP Grant. Pebble Hill was discussed as a definite TAP Grant for segments.

Also discussed public meetings and open houses again at the library later this summer. Making presentation to both Borough Council and Township Board of Supervisors.

Shady Retreat Road Safe Route to School Trail – Update – Mr. Stanford indicated that we are working on the preliminary design, met with Township staff sketching on the stretch where the mature trees are, going to work with Township Arborist on location of the trail and lessening the impact on trees along Shady Retreat working so that they are not negatively impacted.

The environmental issues through PennDot were already approved, looking to install 3-way stop as part of the preliminary design option along Shady Retreat. One and one half years on design and moving to having meetings with the adjacent property owners to the trail.

Bucks County Trail – Update – Mr. Gordon indicated that the Safety Committee meeting with PennDot, completed right of way issues with PennDot at the shopping center was addressed. They are getting push back from Barn Plaza of not responding within the right of way. Dark Hollow they are working on that with Baker and looking at revising at Turk Road, they will be landing but they will not be crossing with a new cross walk as they have a lack of right of way on Turk Road on the back side of Turk Park. Other than that things are all set, final design and move into probably late next year bidding and construction.

Pump Track – Ms. Wyckoff indicated that it is closed at the moment, they hope to reopen in May they have some drainage issues to fix and they have to resoil. They do need some soil, there were some suggestions of different locations of where soil maybe obtained.

Other Business – Ms. Wyckoff indicated that May is Bike Month and she is going to coordinate a ride for the Women's Group in the Borough. She also suggested getting Bike Bucks County to coordinate a ride.

Mr. Gage indicated that doing a ride of the month is being thought of.

Ms. Wyckoff indicated that ice cream rides are big, we could do that along Lower State Road and also the Circuit will publish rides.

May 10, 2019, Pennsylvania Environmental Council and DCNR are holding training about improving off road trails, creating a state wide 5 year plan. Ms. Wyckoff will be attending. There was discussion on various off road trails that exist and ones that could be created in the future. Ms. Wyckoff indicated that tourists dollars and off road biking go hand in hand.

Silhouettes, Ms. Hendrixson indicated that she has a meeting at the Bucks County Technology Center and for \$100 they would update and make more silhouettes. There was some discussion about pricing other types of art work on the trails not just silhouettes over the bridges. The silhouettes probably need to be repainted and the automotive division at the Bucks County Technology Center could assist with that. Ms. Hendrixson should bring back additional information.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:10am. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 8:00am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager