

Bike/Hike Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2020 – Meeting was held via Zoom

Present: Lynn Goldman; Judy Hendrixson; Larry Gage; Tom Kelso; Bill Wert; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Elizabeth Wyckoff; Rick James; Sean Curran; Katie Maio; Bruce Hochman; Nancy Santacecilia, Board of Supervisors Liaison, Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers; Steve Disciullo, Baker Engineers; Andy Hamilton; Paul Gordon, Bucks County; and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Ms. Goldman welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated that she and Mr. Disciullo were the only one that completed the Trail Challenge.

Minutes Approval – The committee approved the minutes from February 18, 2020 on motion of Mr. Kelso, seconded by Ms. Hendrixson.

Doylestown Township Park & Rec Board

Ms. Mason indicated that they would like to attend a future meeting. It was suggested that they attend the June meeting.

Ms. Santacecilia indicated that she has talked with Kathy Brown, Chairman of Park & Rec Board, hoping that the Park Board and Bike./Hike Committee could link more regarding trails and enhancements for cross pollinating regarding parks.

She also indicated that Park & Rec is updating their portion of the website which will show more trail information.

Mr. Gage suggested having names of the trails might be helpful.

Ms. Mason indicated that she has already done some general information to get started. Obviously, this is ongoing and can be updated and can be updated as time permits.

Review of Projects

Maps - Bucks County Planning Commission - Update

Mr. Kelso indicated that he and Ms. Mason met with Bucks County Planning Commission and Visit Bucks staff and are working to develop a Story Map. New maps do not need to be created there is a number of maps the County is going to start with the loop around the Hospital, Lenape and C. B. West, this is about a two mile ride or walk. The Township has provided information and it was suggested to make sure it has food stops along the way identified.

Ms. Santacecilia asked if it could become an app on a phone. Mr. Gordon thought that perhaps eventually.

Mr. Wert indicated that we should be working with other agencies, such as the Circuit and Rails to Trails.

Mr. Gordon indicated that the County is working with other agencies however, it is challenging because not all trails are classified as part of the Circuit, but certainly links to those other websites could easily be available on either the County's website or the Township's website. But the idea is to make sure segments of parks and neighborhoods and adjacent schools or other uses can easily be accessed.

The County is working on a project right now in the Lower Makefield area, it is a great test for them and the data will eventually be uploaded under County wide map. He showed the Committee some samples of mapping that the County has done initially on open space and some of the trails that they are working on in the lower end of the County at the present time.

Mr. Wert said sharing information with DCNR would also be helpful as a planning tool.

There was a question on who would maintain it, the mapping would be maintained through the Bucks County Planning Commission.

It was also suggested that we pull data from existing sites, putting in all into the County site might be more efficient needing to rely on new information and smart tools to be able to view. Again the suggestion of naming trails might work having a better demo for the next meeting would also help.

Mr. Hamilton suggested updates and limiting it to the County Circuit and D and L. It was suggested that you can add bike trails on Google Maps and update as well.

Mr. Gordon appreciated the input from the committee.

Ms. Santacecilia suggested not overwhelming people with too much information as well.

It was suggested to keep the map flexible being able to add information.

Mr. Gordon indicated that is it not done, it takes a lot to input the data, trying to keep it simple and the parameters with each trail and to start out small and grow it from there. He is relying on the Bucks County Planning Commission GIS Staff and timing to complete information. They applied through Bucks County Circuit funding that's been helping.

Mr. Kelso suggested even William Penn funds might be available to assist as well.

Signage - Update

Mr. Kelso indicated that the Township has done quite a bit with the signage but we want to be consistent and talk about signage and expanding elsewhere and doing a little bit each year.

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that she was receptive and willing to help.

Route 202 Trail Feasibility Study - Update

Mr. Stanford commented that we have a \$30,000 Grant, it really focus on the area from Central Park towards Tabor to the WAWA in the Borough heading to the Pools Corner Area. We want to begin to coordinate that.

Mr. Discullio said that we want to stay on the northwest side of the Route 202 Parkway coming near the Country Club, it is about 3 miles long and we will be looking for a right of way, hopefully be able to do a field view in the next month or so and look for other grant opportunities. Certainly have environmental impacts and want to figure out how to do public meeting and public outreach, possibly through a virtual meeting with power point. Dealing with PennDot on use of the limited access highway right of way. They are reaching out to set up a time to meet with Roy Gothie the State Bike Coordinator with PennDot.

911 National Memorial Trail

Mr. Hamilton indicated that the Committee has some signage indicating that the various trails are part of the National 911 Memorial and would like to place them at various places like Lower State Road and Route 202 Parkway kiosk.

Ms. Mason said that if he supplies the signs they could easily be put up, they are about 5"x5".

Old New Road - Update

Mr. Kelso indicated that he is developing some sketches, he would like to reach out and speak with Warrington Township.

Ms. Mason will try to set something up with their manager.

Mr. Kelso believes that through DVRPC and that funds will be available to help with a future development of trail along that area. We know that one or two residents from that area have already reached out and are interested in seeing some sort of trail or walking path along Old New Road.

Nesahaminy Greenway – Bristol to Upper State - Update

Mr. Stanford indicated that we haven't heard on the TCDI Grant for the Colman Property, however that project is ongoing and is moving forward, they are about a month delayed because of COVID-19, but work on the bridges is underway and Bucks County stepped in to help with a repair on the Upper State Road Bridge so that's being almost completely redone.

Bristol Road has similar issues and is moving forward, not sure how PennDot will handle it but it's nice to see that project moving along.

Turk Road Area Trail – Feasibility Study - Update –

It was noted that there is a For Sale sign on the property but it already sold at the corner of Turk and Pebble Hill Roads. Certainly, if anyone comes in with land development the issues of Bike/Hike Trails there would be addressed.

Ms. Goldman said that she was shocked at the number of people walking and biking on Pebble Hill Road in the last few months and so believes that the endeavor to create trail along there is a very worthy. With COVID-19 many people are following the Stay at Home so there is not as much traffic but once things open up again the traffic will return and will certainly deter people for continuing to walk along there.

It was suggested that a discussion to talk to Chief Logan to meet with the Traffic Advisory Committee should occur.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – Update –

Mr. Disciullo indicated that the plan received safety approval. The one thing that PennDot is going to require is a closed guiderail at Shady Retreat and Limekiln, however, it will just have to be opened up in the future when we do future trail connections. At the moment it is considered a cost savings for this project.

He submitted the right of way information for Stonington Farms and things are moving along from the plan submission situation.

Pump Track – Update –

Signage on physical distancing has been placed. Intending to open it next week. They have made trails in the woodland very natural, there is a very narrow opening and it is truly a very favorite location for everyone.

Other Business –

Problem with ATV's on Neshaminy Greenway Area, it was suggested that if they are seen to call 911. The 911 markers have been knocked down. Ms. Mason will reach out to the Police as well as the Parks Department. It was also suggested to take a video to show to the Police because often by the time they arrive the ATV's are gone.

Ms. Goldman asked about trails off the Parkway in the woodlands off Delaware Valley University property, it was reminded that that is private property for the University's use.

It was suggested to set up a time to talk with New Britain Borough on connectivity with Butler Ave at the University.

Ms. Mason will reach out to their manager.

Ms. Mason shared an email from Reception that a Ms. Hall raised concern regarding putting up signage on the 30 miles of trails for social distancing and wearing masks. After discussion the committee decided that it was cost prohibitive and unnecessary to place signage all along the trails and to utilize social media as the Township and Borough have been doing regarding social distancing on trails.

Mr. Wert asked if we could pursue the midblock crossing at Beulah, that would have to be a discussion with the cemetery and Mr. Kelso suggested adding it to the discussion with New Britain Borough.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:33am. The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 8:00am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager