

Bike/Hike Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2020, 8:00am – Meeting was held via Zoom

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Judy Hendrixson, Vice Chairman; Roger Clark; Mary Pat Holewinski; Louise Silberg; Randall Cohen; Larry Gage; Shelle Clancy, New Britain Township; Marilyn Jacobson; Tom Kelso; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers; Rick James; Steve Disciullo, Baker Engineers; Andrew Golds; Nancy Santacecilia and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Visitors: None

Minutes Approval – Approval of the minutes from **September 15, 2020**, Ms. Hendrixson moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Gage. Minutes approved unanimously.

Review of Projects

Route 202 (Central Park – Pooles Corner) Trail Feasibility Study

Mr. Disciullo, Baker Engineers explained that in order to promote public input for this project we will hold a virtual meeting. He shared the screen and provided an example of the room that Baker Engineers has set up for another project that allows the public to attend virtually and see the project in its proposal, ask questions, sign in, etc. Baker is working on setting up a room for the trail project for public input, we would have it up for a two week period and they would be able to access it virtually through the Township and hopefully Borough websites. We will promote with a flyer to the impacted residents as well as through social media. We are hoping to do this on November 5th. It was suggested that he create a Top 5 FAQ for people to easily think about what those frequently asked questions are for such a feasibility study. Such as who's responsible for maintenance, how is the project being funded, etc. This is the new way for things to be done during COVID.

Mr. Kelso noted that he was at a recent meeting where the County is taking the 202 to New Hope plan off the Circuit List. This was news to everyone and he said that he would look into the matter further.

Mr. Stanford indicated that he had a conversation with Roy Gothie, the Penn Dot Trail Coordinator regarding, Penn Dot official policy on bike trails and limited access roadways. He is waiting on their response. This would certainly give the green light on various projects.

Old New Road - Update

Nothing currently is happening. There was another request from a resident with concerns for a trail. The Sewer & Water Projects are just beginning on that portion of the road and curbing and paving will take place next year. There are now three property owners encouraging a trail to be built along Old New Road. The area was walked by Mr. Kelso, Mr. Tomko, Mr. Garr & Ms. Mason. Mr. Kelso is working on a sketch to show where a trail could go.

Neshaminy Greenway – Bristol to Upper State – Update

Mr. Stanford indicated that plantings are needed to be donated about 30 – 40 shrubs. Ms. Goldman is going to reach out to Feeney's to see if they would donate some shrubbery.

Mr. Stanford indicated that volunteers from the various municipalities would be needed to help with the plantings.

Ms. Mason suggested asking the Environmental Advisory Councils or Birds Towns from New Britain Borough, Doylestown Township & Borough to aid New Britain Township with this.

Ms. Jones indicated that New Britain Township is planning a Ribbon Cutting for April.

Ms. Silberg indicated getting donated plants now is a great idea, she asked where they would be placed. It was indicated that they would be placed near the Willow Wood Development on Upper State and the creek side of the trail in the open space.

Mr. Stanford indicated that New Britain Township just received another DCNR Grant for the Coleman Property and this will be able to connect the gap in the trail along the creek to Upper State.

Turk Road Area Feasibility - Implementation of Study Findings

This project is currently on hold. We are however, keeping the concept alive. The development of the Brooks Tract on Cherry Lane will be installing a portion of trail. This is probably occur next year. It was suggested to submit a grant but Mr. Kelso indicated that DVRPC Grant application is really only for Circuit Trails, so this area would be a long shot. He suggested holding off for the right grant.

In addition, we still need to work with the Township Traffic Engineer in terms of a crossing along Pebble Hill as suggested by the Chief of Police. A three-way stop is needed and that has to be approved by Penn Dot in addition to a crosswalk and further engineering would need to be pursued.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – Update –

Stonington Farms has been sent all of the Penn Dot easement forms, we are waiting to hear back from them, their attorneys are reviewing it.

There are also further reviews by Penn Dot that are under way.

Bucks County Trail – Update –

Mr. Kelso indicated that he talked to Mr. Gordon at the Bucks County Planning Commission, they have worked out the engineering details with Boucher and James Engineers and will go out to bid for this trail in the spring.

Mr. Stanford is working on a future segment to the south that will take the trail from Almshouse to the 262 / Valley Road area. He indicated that there are two bridge permits that are required to cross the creek that are being pursued along with easements.

No construction funding is available at this time only design funds.

The County will continue to pursue funding through TAP or other funding sources in the future.

Pump Tract – Update –

No Update.

Ms. Goldman indicated that it is being used and the children using the facility are wearing masks.

Other Business / New Projects for Consideration

Ms. Hendrixson indicated she still would like to work on mapping the trails and has the names of some local contacts. She will obtain some proposals.

Mr. Clark indicated he has a map from another municipality that he found very interesting and would like to share it.

Mr. Kelso indicated that he has looked into some funding through the Tourists Bureau but unfortunately due to COVID their grant programs are suspended. Getting an idea of the costs would be helpful.

PECO funding will be applied for again next year as the application was turned down earlier this year for the Kiosk at the Pooles Corner Park and Ride.

Ms. Santacecilia discussed the trail near Covered Bridge Park in New Britain Borough and asked if there has been any conversation on connecting through New Britain Township? She indicated that many children sometimes walk along the creek but come back Ferry Road, there is a bridge that crosses the stream but it was built in the late 1960's.

Ms. Holewinski doesn't see a way to do the connection as it is all private properties that may not want to have an easement. It is also very close to the stream and would probably flood during rain events. Clean up would be a concern.

It was suggested to add the area on to the next tour, whenever that can occur.

Ms. Holewinski did indicate that there could be a crosswalk from Keeley to Sioux to Lenape to Cayuga that may be worth pursuing.

Ms. Holewinski indicated that the trail through the Pine Run has some dirt from storm damage and believes it is breaking up, she believes the area is where the Township is to maintain the trail and asked Ms. Mason if the Township's Public Works Department could go out look at it.

Ms. Mason indicated that it would be helpful to have a photo location and she would have someone to look into it.

Mr. Clark asked about any additional brochures from the September 12th event which Ms. Mason said they had available and to stop by and pick some up.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:50am. The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 8:00am via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager