

Bike/Hike Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2021 8:00am – Meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: Judy Hendrixson, Vice Chairman; Tom Kelso; Larry Gage; Bruce Hochman; Shelle Clancy, New Britain Township; Marilyn Jacobson, Chalfont Borough; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Louise Silberg; Roger Clark; Randy Cohen; Chris Stanford, Baker Engineers; Steve Disciullo, Baker Engineers; Paul Gordon, Bucks County; Shaun Curran, Borough Manager, Chalfont Borough; and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Guests: Ben Goldthorp and Rob Cunningham – Representing 60 Meetinghouse Road

Minutes Approval – Approval of the minutes from **February 22, 2021**, on motion of Mr. Gage, seconded by Ms. Silberg the minutes were unanimously approved.

60 Meetinghouse Road Land Development Plan

Mr. Goldthorp shared the plan with the Committee showing how the proposed plan will connect to the existing trail, how it extends around a basin as well as an out parcel that is adjacent to the site. The edge of the trail is such that it will not impact the neighboring property although it remains on the 60 Meetinghouse Road but is very close.

Mr. Disciullo had a concern about Lots 9 & 10 and the narrowing of the trail to 90-degree angle as well as the sidewalk proposed for the road connecting into the trail and making sure that the transition is appropriate.

Ms. Mason indicated that the homeowners will be responsible for any landscaping and the fencing, the Township will be responsible for the trail itself. The developer agreed to that.

The Committee was appreciative of the presentation and indicated that it would be a good location to have an additional section of trail.

Review of Projects

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

Mr. Disciullo indicated that during the virtual room 203 responses, 118 supportive, 149 comments were received. The Red, Yellow and Black Routes seemed to be the locations with the most interest. Engineering constraints and judgement regarding which one will be most cost effective will have to be taken into consideration as to how to proceed.

Ms. Hendrixson indicated the number of high and low use of the room was good, it is a way to do things.

Mr. Gordon indicated that the County did a virtual meeting recently and had around 206 people participated so that is good.

Mr. Clark indicated that it was well done and having worked in marketing he said that type of response was well received.

Mr. Gage indicated that he would like to see a link with the Pebble Hill Road Bicycle Route S, He understands the complexity and cost, but he believes it is a critical intersection. In the presentation the results may have to change the colors because they do not exactly match up in the graph. The Red Route that was identified in the map must cross the SEPTA tracks a second time, that could be difficult and expensive. For further consideration as we go through the feasibility study. The Yellow and Black Routes take you parallel with Warden Road and the 202 Bypass/Parkway, it is very popular. Also, the conversation with Eric at the Country Club has been very positive.

Mr. Kelso indicated that he sat in on the PennDot virtual meeting regarding the round-a-bout discussion for North/South 611 on March 11, 21. That will certainly have some impacts in the paths as well. It also provides great opportunities for

connections with the Borough, WAWA also provided some funding to help us with a trail from Steeplechase to the new traffic signal, some of those route's tie in there. Mr. Kelso suggested making it a larger project. However, Ms. Mason indicated that there is not a lot of funding, and the Borough wants to work with the Township to install the trail this fall.

Old New Road - Update

Mr. Kelso indicated that he is working on a layout from Buck to Bristol and since the Township is in the process of rebuilding the road he has been out there. He is hoping to be able to make it a project that would incorporate with our neighbors in Warrington. He did some survey work, but he is thinking it is probably an 8' path, not a major impact on the neighborhood but it would help if the road were narrowed down a bit because it does go from 20' to 28' in various places, so it is wide at places, stop signs may be helpful with the trail and maybe slow traffic providing two 11' lanes along with curbing. When the road is rebuilt work to have a C B South connection as part of a Safe Routes to School would probably lend itself nicely for a grant. As more and more money become available for such grants this is a good opportunity.

Neshaminy Greenway – Bristol to Upper State – Update

Project is pretty much complete according to Mr. Stanford, just some final signs and the DCNR closeout. Also, New Britain Township is working now that they have acquired the Pullman Property to make a connection, they are moving along with design and construction probably sometime in 2023.

It was also noted that road paving near Peace Valley Park was recently done.

There was some concern raised about some access points that truly are not meant to be accessed.

New Britain Township will be looking into that but appreciated the guidance provided from the Committee.

Turk Road Area Feasibility - Implementation of Study Findings

On hold.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – Update –

Mr. Disciullo indicated that traffic option submissions are back with PennDot waiting on final structure approval, the roadway wrap ups with PennDot to allow letting sometime in July, awaiting the execution of the easement agreement with Stonington Farm as well.

It was indicated that PennDot is slowing down in fronting the money as PennDot must go to the Federal Government to obtain it. Things may be delayed.

Bucks County Trail – Update –

Mr. Gordon indicated that the Almshouse to Turk Road and King Park is making good progress. They expect and bids to go out in June and July.

The section of Neshaminy Greenway Dark Hollow that goes from Almshouse to Warwick, (now just in Warwick) the Citizens Advisory Design Committee met last week to discuss various surface option treatments, their pros, and cons of each of the options. Obviously, all the surfacing is impervious in most regards and at present it appears the Design Committee is leaning more towards a crush stone and or boardwalk surfacing.

The County is still working with the funding agencies regarding the design aspect of the project, it was indicated by the design committee, whose walked the area in the small portion that is in Warwick that there are some Ash Trees, and the County is aware of it and will need to deal with that going forward.

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that she thought the Counties presentation at the Citizens Advisory Design Committee was very well thought out and very informative, she thinks that the presentation should be shared with the Bike/Hike Committee members.

Mr. Gordon indicated that the power point presentation will be on the Counties website and easily accessible for review in the future.

Ms. Silberg believes trails in big park like settings enhances the experience, because of the tranquility of those out of the way trails. In addition, it provides for an excellent educational opportunity for the environment on the types of trails being proposed for Dark Hollow.

In addition, she believes that issues of erosion or stream bank stabilization can be part of a trail improvement and will rejuvenate the area.

Ms. Hendrixson said that having a good conversation between the groups is very helpful.

Mr. Clark indicated that making sure that trails are always ADA accessible and compliant is important.

Mr. Gage asked about porous paving and the appropriateness as he sees it a lot in parking lots.

There was discussion from Mr. Gordon that porous paving does not always work as well on a trail vs. a parking lot, it is challenging.

Mr. Kelso agreed that the difference in porous paving and managing it is a lot easier in a vertical setting because of the water movement is lateral it narrows on a trail from edge to edge and sand can be vertical, but clay is horizontal. The advantages and disadvantages must be weighed.

Mr. Kelso said the importance is to be able to work with people so each side benefits from projects.

In addition, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council is very supportive of trails in their partnership with the circuit and as one of the larger environmental groups and supporters in funding of trails their assistance will certainly be important in the future.

Mr. Gordon indicated that there is a lot of work to do and there is a lot of good information being shared through the Citizens Advisory Design Committee.

Pump Tract – Update –

No Update

Mapping Project – Update –

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that Mr. Spindler the cartographer is wrapping up the map layout and will soon have something for us to review. Appreciated Mr. Gordon's sharing of the sheet files from the County GIS, this was very helpful.

Other Business / New Projects for Consideration

Mr. Clark apologized for having his Zoom Link go out, but he indicated that Turk Road coming out of Springs Drive, he is looking at the connection along East as well as Green Street. He has a few neighbors that he knows that could be helpful and the steps to obtain the right of way along East.

Mr. Disciullo shared his screen showing the various points where the Township has enough right of way and where it does not, and which side of the street would be beneficial.

It was suggested that Mr. Clark work on developing a letter that could be sent to residents with a power point and maybe hosting a zoom with them in the future to talk about access along East as a follow up to the previous public meetings held and start to zero in on connection points.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:19am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 8:00am via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager