

Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2021, 8:00am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building
425 Wells Road

Present: Lynn Goldman, Chairman; Judy Hendrixson, Vice Chairman; Larry Gage; Rick James; Tom Kelso; Paul Gordon, Bucks County; Cynthia Jones, New Britain Township; Louise Silberg, Buckingham Township; Roger Clark; Bruce Hochman; Steve Disciullo, Baker Engineers; Nancy Santacecilia, Board of Supervisory Liaison and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Guest: Jonna Eiser, Friendly Lane

Welcome: Ms. Goldman welcomed everyone back to in person meetings and everyone introduced themselves to our guest.

Minutes Approval – Approval of the minutes from **June 15, 2021**, on motion of Ms. Hendrixson seconded by Mr. Clark the minutes were unanimously approved.

Review of Projects

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail – Update –

Ms. Eiser was present to raise questions concerning the multi-way stop that is part of this proposed project. She believes it's not necessary and that an activated rectangular rapid flashing beacon would be more beneficial.

Mr. Disciullo indicated that during the design process, Penn Dot reviews the project, and a study of the roadway conditions and pedestrian study were submitted and reviewed by Penn Dot. There is a skewed crossing at Shady Retreat and Burpee Road along with a severe curve. In addition, have been several accidents at the intersection. Based upon Penn Dot criteria a multi-way stop is appropriate solution to the intersection issues.

Ms. Eiser indicated that she drives the area daily, at least three to four times and although there is an advisory speed limit for the curve, she truly believes that multi-way stop should not be utilized. She believes that people coming down Burpee Road slide through the stop sign now, perhaps this would be something to be done in five years but not now. She indicated that she is thrilled with the trail but believes that a rectangular rapid flashing beacon would be better in her engineering opinion. She feels this would be better than a multi way stop sign solution.

Mr. Disciullo indicated that as this is a Penn Dot funded project and the Penn Dot safety warrants were met, the reports filed with them along with several meetings with Penn Dot this is the result and recommendation required by Penn Dot. Even with a lower speed you still have the curvature of the road and with increased potential of pedestrians, this is the situation. At this time a multi-way stop will be installed.

Ms. Goldman indicated that she appreciated Ms. Eiser coming to the meeting and sharing her concerns. She believes having dialogue is always helpful.

Ms. Hendrixson said that if there is a way to reduce speed limit that should be investigated as well.

Mr. Kelso continued that project costs have skyrocketed for all trails, by at least 25-30%. The clock is ticking on this one. An RRFB beacon is great, but it is probably another \$175,000. However, something to be considered and possibly done in the future.

Ms. Eiser indicated that she appreciated the opportunity to give input and that the committee was receptive to understanding per position. She understands that the project will move forward with the multi-way stop will move forward. At this time, she left the meeting.

Ms. Santacecilia raised issues about maintenance, long term for the trails.

Ms. Mason indicated that Mr. Disciullo had provided some cost estimates of about \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year depending upon the various levels of maintenance.

It was suggested that this information would be helpful for all our partner municipalities as well.

New Britain Road PA DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant

Mr. Disciullo indicated that there is an open grant round for funding and is recommending the section of New Britain Road from the backside of Central Park to the existing trail on the backside of Warden Road would be an excellent project to put forth. It would tie into regional trail network for grant opportunities and the grant covers design, inspection, and construction. However, he indicated that they look upon these grants' application much more favorably if the municipality is willing to contribute something to the project.

Ms. Mason indicated that she has prepared a memo for consideration by the Board of Supervisors for this project with at \$7,600 match which is just about 10% of the \$763,000 project.

The Committee discussed the opportunity and consensus was that this is an excellent project for the community as well.

Ms. Santacecilia brought up concerns about legislation passing allowing delivery robots on trails and hopes that this issue could be addressed further in the future. Discussion regarding electric bikes, scooters, skateboards that are now available could also be discussed. It was suggested that both items be an August agenda topic.

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

Mr. Disciullo indicated that he and Mr. Stanford are working finalize the report.

Old New Road - Update

Nothing currently to report.

Neshaminy Greenway – Bristol to Upper State – Update

Ms. Jones indicated that no ribbon cutting is planned for now and suggest taking topic off future agendas. She is hoping to do something in the future when additional trail is constructed.

Turk Road Area Feasibility - Implementation of Study Findings

Mr. Clark indicated that he is beginning to reach out to neighbors to let them know about the potential projects that are out there.

With the Brooks Tract on Cherry Lane coming soon it was suggested reaching out to the neighbors on either side to see if they would provide an easement so that trail could not only go from the Brooks Tract but further down and tie into an easement that we have at Mercer Gate. He is sending friendly letters to his neighbors. It was also suggested possibly reaching out to some of the new residents on East Road as well as Pebble Hill should be done.

Bucks County Trail – Update –

The first part of the Neshaminy Greenway Trail the County is doing that ends up at Turk Park from 611 came in well over budget and exceeds the CMAC grant funds. The County has whittled down the project and Mr. Gordon reviewed the three areas that they are eliminating from the project. However, it is still quite an extensive trail being installed along Easton Road from the prison drive and up from Neshaminy Manor all along Almshouse to Turk Park & King Park.

The section with Dark Hollow is having an additional environmental study done. The Neshaminy Greenway Subcommittee that has been formed by the County will be doing a walk later this summer or fall.

Mr. Kelso indicated that he had the opportunity to talk to Commissioner Harvey recently on a bike ride about trails and the importance of them in our communities. He inquired about the appointment of a new County Parks Director.

Mr. Gordon indicated that a new director has been appointed but they have not met her yet.

Pump Tract -

Ms. Goldman indicated that the Pump Tract is doing well.

Mapping Project – Update –

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that she is very excited to be working with TAB, they have sent out questions and descriptions and will be working with the individuals on the Bike/Hike Committee to photograph and do some video of the segments each one selected. These will be able to be used with the mapping project as well as perhaps a longer video that TAB will create.

Ms. Santacecilia inquired if anyone has any photos that they should be sent to the Township and shared with the TAB.

Ms. Mason suggested to identify the locations of any such photos.

Mr. Clark indicated that this is a great way to market the trail and promoting different segments.

Doylestown Borough Bike Race - Ms. Goldman indicated that September 11th is the bike race in the Borough and it's going to be more locally run. There is going to be a bonfire at the Tile Works and perhaps a ride to the ice cream town and back out. She is suggesting that the Bike/Hike Committee sponsor this and physically be there, but with no monetary commitment. She indicated that they were looking for a speaker and Mr. Kelso suggested Karen Bliss, a national Bike Hall of Fame Inductee.

Mr. James suggested reaching out to the Central Bucks Bike Club for a small donation as well.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:15am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 8:00am at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager