

Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2021, 8:00am
Doylestown Township Municipal Building
425 Wells Road

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

Guest: Ed Ebenbach

Minutes Approval – Approval of the minutes from **July 20, 2021**, on motion of Ms. Hendrixson seconded by Ms. Wyckoff the minutes were unanimously approved.

Review of Projects

Discussion on Delivery robots, Electric Bikes, Scooters and Skateboards on Trial System

Ms. Goldman indicated that during a recent trip to Middlebury Vermont she noticed that they are getting scooters that people can rent, ride around and leave at another location. She indicated that if small towns like Middlebury VT were doing things like that, we need to be prepared for those things in Doylestown.

Electric bikes: Mr. Gage questioned whether the education of using such scooters in Vermont is something to copy from.

Ms. Goldman indicated that it mostly just courtesy drop off locations.

Ms. Hendrixson said there is certainly a concern for the electric bikes or skateboards.

Ms. Wyckoff indicated that this type of thing is not going away but there are pedal assists bikes.

Ms. Hendrixson indicated that the most important thing is the impact on other trail users and that education is part of it. She believes a campaign that the committee could publicize and share with path users and perhaps even signs.

Although, there haven't been any accidents it is concerning Mr. Clark indicated that 80% of people over 50 have some hearing loss and therefore having bells are good but it certainly is not expected, people get startled when the electric bikes are coming.

There was discussion regarding the speed and perhaps setting forth a speed limit for electric bikes, scooters etc.

Mr. Gordon indicated that the County doesn't do any enforcement but has recommended a speed of 15MPH along with education on County Trails. Skateboarders are also permitted even the one wheels. It is something that needs to be addressed, he indicated that the new Park & Recreation Director for the County most likely will address it.

Ms. Goldman indicated that if we could invite her to attend a future meeting that would be great.

Ms. Santacecilia indicated that there is no legislation at this time, but safety is a concern.

Ms. Mason indicated that she was looking at the Township website and the various ordinance, skateboards are prohibited on Township roads and unauthorized vehicles are not permitted on trails in the parks.

Driverless Vehicles: Again, this is a safety concern, it is occurring in cities like Pittsburgh where you have institutions like Carnegie Mellon working on developing the technology. Certainly, something we need to check on and see if any legislation may come.

Ms. Goldman indicated that we would put this on hold for now. Continue to be observant when we see articles and we hear things and share it. Also, for the next meeting please share the educate pamphlet that we developed, would be helpful.

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

Mr. Disciullo indicated that the updates have been finalized and the report will be presented in September to the Board of Supervisors for their acceptance.

The black alternative route, which is on the south side, which takes you 202 to 313 Pooles Corner is what is being recommended. It is where the most right of way is available, positive feedback was received as well. This can be done in four phases, the first phase Central Park to the existing trail has been submitted for a grant opportunity. As we move forward, and other opportunities come about they could be pursued as well.

Turk Road Area Feasibility - Implementation of Study Findings

Mr. Clark indicated that he had reached out to five residents along Cherry Lane. The resident at 211 was not interested in meeting, however Ms. Merring and Lukens met last week with Mr. Clark, Ms. Mason, Mr. Tomko, Mr. Disciullo and Mr. Stanford to talk about opportunities for the trail, although at this time neither resident is interested in trail, they did indicate the benefits of having trails especially being able to walk along Pebble Hill into the Borough.

We discussed the development of the Brooks Tract at that time Mr. Brooks joined the meeting also the existing easement area that the Township owns along Mercer Gate and that there would be most likely be trail on either side of their properties in the future. With those opportunities could bring four trail connections.

In the meantime, Springs Drive and Townview are being repaved and sharrows will be placed on the roadways, next is to discuss opportunities with the two properties on East near Houk Road where we have available right of way to work with.

We discussed the embankment on East Road and perhaps cutting back the vegetation to improve sight distance.

In addition, Mrs. Hyduk on Cherry Lane was willing to meet in September.

Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Trail

Ms. Goldman complemented Mr. Disciullo and the rest of the rest of the committee for welcoming Ms. Eiser at the last meeting and how nice it was to have an open discussion regarding the 3-Way Stop at Burpee and Shady Retreat. She appreciated everyone's openness in the discussion.

Mr. Disciullo indicated that all the plans are being finalized although the cost is well above the original budget, the plan is to submit a new TASA Grant where the original funding of a million dollars came from and pull together an additional million dollars from TASA to complete the project. TASA will look at projects that are shovel ready vs. those that need more planning work. Our plans are currently in good shape.

Old New Road – Update

No Report

Bucks County Trail – Update –

Mr. Gordon indicated that on August 31st the Neshaminy Greenway Subcommittee will meet and walk the Dark Hollow area with the environmental consultant. The environmental consultant has begun to do some work. He is also working with Baker Engineers on the easement for the driveway near the Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority Plant on Almshouse.

There was a question about where people would park and there is an area in Barn Plaza Shopping Center.

Again, Ms. Goldman asked if the committee could meet with the new County Park & Recreation Director. Mr. Gordon indicated that he would reach out.

Pump Tract – Update

Ms. Wyckoff indicated that the Pump Tract is getting a lot of use. They are working with an Eagle Scout on bike features in the woodland and some signage next to a parking spot. She also indicated that the mountain bike team known as The Bucks Composite Team of 6th to 12th graders about 16 children on the team are practicing Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 6pm at the Pump Tract and in the wooded area. She explained that NICA is a national group and PICL is the state group. The trails are where they practice, they also work to maintain them. Their motto is “No one sits the bench”.

Mr. Kelso indicated that doing something like this over at Doylestown Walk in the wooded area with the wood chipped trail would be an excellent idea, it would also be good to do this before anyone moves in. But it is certainly a multiuse pedestrian wooded area, probably about ½ mile long that will be dedicated to the Township. Perfect for mountain bikers as well as birding.

There is Wheely Wednesdays at the Pump Tract.

The Bucks County Classic riding team is practicing and meeting there as well.

There is a “Take the training wheels off” session at CB West coming up.

Ms. Goldman indicated that there are committees working to reclaim the bike race, this will take place the weekend of September 10th through September 12th in the Borough. There is going to be a bonfire Friday night at the Tile Works as well as a Family Ride. She is hoping to encourage the female racers and have a discussion at the bonfire. She wants to share with the committee the Go Fund Me site as well as a sign up on the day of the race to help with some odd jobs.

Mapping Project – Update –

Ms. Hendrixson has been working with Ed Ebenbach, TAB Chairman, to come up with description of the trail, videos, photos to add to the map. Descriptions are well under way and the TAB is coordinating. At this point Mr. Ebenbach who was in attendance asked those who are participating in the project to begin a write up that could be interpreted as a script.

Ms. Goldman indicated that she met with Jean Lausten doing the back-alley ways in the Borough to Fonthill and she has got a good description. Ms. Lausten followed and took some photos. Between the two groups she’s hoping to be able to put things together.

Mr. Ebenbach as an observer indicated that TAB only has 5 members, 7 projects so there is a bit of a limitation on time.

The Concept of an interactive map application is somewhat limited but there is the ability to click a button and allow for a longer video length to be provided. The first part may be a billboard, description but then expanding on it will create a longer video 2 – 3 minutes being able to link together to perhaps a longer version of 20 minutes of showing all the different trail segments.

Some discussion on whether we needed one voice or multiple voices on this video, and we'll need to vet that a little further.

The Bike/Hike Billboard piece is coming along and having a standard questionnaire with answers helps with the consistency for the different trail segments that will be shown and be clickable on the map.

Currently TAB needs the members of Bike/Hike who are working on this project to create their scripts telling what you see. Ms. Goldman has a sample which she will send out, she is also thinking this may tie in with the Bucks County Historical Society.

Mr. Ebenbach indicated that he is hoping to make progress so that this can be wrapped up in 4 – 6 weeks, then TAB can edit and provide info to the Bike/Hike Committee.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting adjourned on motion of Ms. Holewinski, seconded by Mr. Kelso at 9:16am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 8:00am at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason
Township Manager