

Minutes – Bike and Hike Trail Committee

Warrington Township Building
852 Easton Road
Warrington, PA 18976

November 19, 2014 – 7:30pm

Attendees: Gerry Sapers, Janet Bennett, Barbara Burdack, Sharon Kaszan, and Aaron Mulder

Liaison: Roy Rieder, Director of Planning, Warrington Township

Public Comment:

Paul Gordon, From the Bucks County Planning Commission, Environmental Planner, is going to try to start attending Bike and Hike Trail Committee meetings throughout the county. He participated throughout our meeting

Old Business:

- a) Trail Development Activities: Utilization of Planning Grants - To be used for the below:
- b) Priorities for New Trail Development – Aaron Mulder presented the 3 top priorities with input from Paul Gordon.
 - 1 – Connect Route 202 via Pickertown Road to Turk Road to Route 611 near the entrance to the shopping center where Sears Hardware is located. This would enable us to get to the Neshaminy Greenway Trail behind the Barn Plaza. The PennDot Route 611 project may help as they are planning sidewalks that will help with access.
 - 2 – PECO Power line trail would connect County Line Road to Warwick. This would enable us to build a connector to the Neshaminy Greenway trail using surface streets such as Freedoms Way, the new Loop Road, to Bristol Road, then to Cooper road and back to Power line trail.
 - 3 – Bradford Dam to Kemper Park Trail and along the Little Neshaminy. This trail needs the most study. This is a desirable trail as a lot of commerce is along Route 611, which this trail would help access.
If the above can be accomplished, Horsham Township may connect with our trails at Chestnut or Keith Valley Roads.
- c) Trail Signage Improvements. Need improved signs off of Bradford road into the park area. This was brought to Barb Livrone's attention but no response yet.

New Business:

- a) National Trail Day Family Hike – This will take place on June 6, 2015. Need to get a notice in "The Link" and publicize with posters.
- b) Spring Campout: Managing Expenses – Janet Bennett will work on getting more donations and check with campers to see if anyone knows where we can get wood donated as that is the biggest expense. Will also look at different storytellers or astronomer. May combine with the Family Hike and have it on June 6th. May need to raise cost to \$25 per family. Discussed if a registration fee should be imposed for fishing derby and if the porta potty was really necessary. Perhaps a scout could escort youngsters to the bathroom area or look into using a golf cart.
- c) Natural Surface and Gravel Trails – Gerry proposed that we look at natural trails through wooded areas such as the one near the bird blind and fishing area at John Paul Park at Lower Nike. Perhaps natural trails can connect to Special Equestrian Center or be placed near Valley Square. Volunteers can be used to clear out areas. This can be presented to the open space committee.

Also, the Bradford Greene Community wants the gravel trail to the pedestrian bridge paved. It is not going to be paved until the PECO power line trail is completed. Can look into a finer gravel or mulch to improve area.

- d) Involvement with *Warrington Cares* Biking Event – Paul suggested reaching out to the Bucks County Bicycle advisory task force.
- e) Community Website for Bike/Hike/Trail information – One option is a blog which would be easier to administer. Aaron will check with his wife to see if she is willing to help. We can reach out to College or High School students to see if we can get help there to develop a website. Once we know what we are doing, we can advertise it in “The Link”.
- f) News Items: Doylestown trails (access to Warrington residents); kayak incident – Discussion on how to handle emergency situations on our trails and how to identify where an emergency is. This was brought to light because of a kayak accident Gerry observed at Peace Valley Park. Paul suggested that we can set up a system with 911. He will send us the information how Doylestown handles.

Approval of Minutes from October 15, 2014 meeting:

- a) Motion to approve the minutes by Aaron Mulder, second by Sharon Kaszan and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee

Open Discussion:

- a) Warrington was awarded a \$72,000 DCNR Grant to design the Route 202 to Bradford Dam trail. Money will also be used to obtain permits. Doylestown was awarded \$792,000, which is mostly for a trail from CB West High School to Route 202.
- b) Paul Gordon advised that the Upper Neshaminy Greenway trail study has been approved by the County Commissioners. He is working on 2 grants for the middle and lower Neshaminy. Looking at the PA circuit trails. The first part of trail feasibility study done from Central Park to the Barn Plaza. Paul has access to land parcel ownership if we need. William Penn Foundation has \$7 million in grants but concentrates on the grants which aid in the Circuit (a regional network of trails)
- c) Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with Open Space on December 17, 2014. In the afternoon Roy will be meeting with Jeff Knowles from the DCNR, along with John Paul, Gerry Sapers and Aaron Mulder
- d) Roy on Election Day took representatives from the National Land Trust on a “Windshield Tour” on open space possible acquisitions such as the Old Mill Farm. May try to obtain the tract of land excluding the building. Township is open to all options regarding this parcel

Upcoming Agenda Items:

- a) Liaison with Environmental Advisory Council - Need a member from our committee
- b) Publicity Chair and Photo Archives - Need a member of our committee to organize

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm by Janet Bennett, second by Barbara Burdack, and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee

Next meetings: December 17, 2014 and January 21m 2015 7:30pm Warrington Township Building.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Bennett, Secretary