

Minutes – Bike and Hike Trail Committee

Warrington Township Building
852 Easton Road
Warrington, PA 18976

June 15, 2016– 7:30pm

Committee Attendees: Gerry Sapers, Sharon Kaszan, Ira Meyers, Aaron Mulder, Kay Fairs & Joseph Each

Liaison: Roy Rieder, Director of Planning and Special Projects and Zoning Officer, Warrington Township

Board of Supervisor Liaison: Fred Gaines

Guests: Shirley Yannich – Chairperson of Board of Supervisors, Fred Suffian, EAC member, Ivy Ross EAC member and Bernadette Marin, Trail Study Committee member.

Public Comment: None

Trail Study Committee

- a) Progress on Connector Trail –
 - Roy Rieder is waiting on a definitive word from the Quarry if they are willing to agree to the proposed alignment from Pickertown Road down to Street Road.
- b) Formulation of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Lower State/Pickertown Rd. to Barnes Park feasibility study-
 - Roy provided everyone with a draft for the RFP. He mentioned it's about 85% complete and requested feedback from the group. Roy needs to send to DCNR for their review before the supervisors can authorize.
 - Gerry Sapers announced that Kay Fairs possesses a strong background in developing grant proposals. He asked Roy to mentor Kay and Aaron Mulder in administering & completing grant applications and related documents. Roy agreed.
- c) Progress on extension of PECO Powerline Trail –
 - Ryan needs to present the appraisal to Mr. Vesey for his input and then go from there. Roy doesn't know how much money Mr. Vesey wants but we will offer what we can. If Mr. Vesey isn't happy with the amount; we'll have to go another direction as we cannot offer more than the appraised value.
- d) Trail amenities – benches, water sources, rest room, porta-potty –
 - Gerry Sapers requested comments on the suggestions he passed around for trail amenities. Gerry also questioned how we will pay for the amenities and then suggested Kay Fairs could possibly raise funds to cover costs.
 - Joseph Each inquired about identifying water sources for fountains and suggested possibly adding pet friendly fountains too. Roy mentioned that the fountains would have to be "winterized".
 - Joseph Each asked if there was a possibility to add exercise stations along the trails. Roy suggested that a landscape architect design the workout areas if we were to move forward.
 - Aaron also suggested adding environmental signs detailing local wildlife and plant life. Benches and birdhouses were also discussed.
 - EAC advised they already have a concept plan created by a landscape architect that details many of the amenity ideas we discussed tonight and Fred Suffian will share the plan via email.

- e) Requirements for inclusion in the DVRPC Circuit –
-Aaron will follow up on this. He needs to find out what the exact requirements are and will there be a sufficient benefit to justify additional funding? Questions to answer - Does the trail have to be 12' wide it's entire length including bridges?
- f) Trail signage including directions, distance markers and blazes, tick alerts –
-Aaron asked for additional signage at end of the 202 trail advising hikers where the trail continues on. Aaron also suggested signs along the trail as needed; not just at trail heads.
-Ivy Ross & Fred Suffian advised the Township Public Works has the ability to inexpensively produce new signs by recycling old street signs. Ivy mentioned that these signs cannot be produced with graphics (pictures). Aaron said we will need graphics to detail trail mapping throughout residential neighborhoods and then Fred advised they can produce the signs with arrows as an example, but no images.
-Fred Gaines suggested trailblazers as trail markers to keep costs down. Then a discussion arose about using footprint or animal stencils as "identifiers" along the trails throughout residential areas in place of signage.
-Aaron & Gerry suggested speed awareness signs for bicyclists or skateboarders. Also add signs for safety and "trail etiquette".
-Fred Suffian advised he personally installed tick signs at 5 trailheads throughout the community and brought along an extra sign to share with the committee. He also has bookmarks and brochures available. A discussion arose that we may need additional tick signs for existing natural trails such as along the creek by the bird blind at Lower Nike and possibly for future planned natural trails too. Suggested bringing the extra sign to Warrington Day and possibly sharing through social media to bring awareness to residents.
- g) Tree plantings in vicinity of new trails –
-Fred Suffian EAC discussed the Tree Cover Analysis advising we need additional tree cover along the trails system. Gerry inquired if funds would be available under open space program. Fred said funds could come from there but that there are also grants and possibly donations, but his concern is that we identify what is needed and then look for the funding.
-Roy suggested we need a "Master Tree Planting Plan" for the entire township. So when developers have excess trees they can't plant, we would know exactly where to place them within the township. EAC suggested we focus on & identify immediate needs first in place of an entire township plan. Roy then suggested we implement a tree planting plan for each parcel and stick to plan.
-Aaron asked who should design that plan and Roy suggested a landscape architect and said the plan should be officially adopted by the township supervisors.
-Gerry suggested we remove some downed trees and replace those with new ones but EAC said the downed trees should stay in place for the betterment of the habitat.
-We also discussed the possibility of the township creating its own tree nursery to keep future planting costs down. Roy said someone would need to perform a cost analysis to see if worth pursuing.
- h) Review of Report for Trails Study Committee –
-Gerry was requesting feedback on the "Report of Trail Study Committee Kickoff Meeting" and wanted to know if it needed any additions or if we need a follow up report summarizing what has transpired since the first report.
-Roy advised we shouldn't schedule the next Trail Study Committee meeting until we receive an acknowledgment from the quarry that they approve that route. Shirley mentioned that Mr. Morrissey's attorney Steve Harris gave the impression during his presentation at a recent

supervisor's meeting that they are still on top of everything regarding the trail connection. Roy said neither Mr. Morrissey nor Mr. Harris has yet to advise if what was proposed is ok. Shirley said Mr. Morrissey is looking for a letter from the supervisors stating they would consider a rezoning change to the quarry when they remit their amended mining plan to the state. Roy continued to advise that he spoke with Steve Morrissey a few weeks prior and asked "is the alignment we are proposing ok?" Steve said he would get back to Roy but hasn't done so yet. Roy then said if Mr. Morrissey says the route is ok, he will then get Carroll Engineering working on the design.

-Fred Gaines requested an updated trail map that he could include in the 2016/17 comprehensive plan that details existing and proposed trails. Fred wants to have all this documented so it can be used in negotiations with future developers. The comprehensive plan is currently in production and a draft should be available in 60 days. Fred Gaines said Ann Tool's plan will be part of the comprehensive plan. There was an inquiry if Ann was actually working on the document at this time. Kay Fairs asked for clarification on Ann's position and Shirley advised Ann is a consultant supervisors hired to prepare an open space & parks recreation plan. Township needs this updated plan in order to ask developers for funds to set aside for open space.

- i) Deadlines, priorities, other issues – grant applications, project completion –
-Nothing discussed.
- j) Required land acquisitions, R/W agreements, permits –
-Nothing to discuss.

Old Business

- a) Herb Kahl 5K walk/Run, June 26 – volunteers –
-Janet Bennett cannot help out at this event so Sharon Kaszan said she could volunteer. Ira asked if anyone contacted the boy scouts for volunteers. Sharon will advise Ira if he needs to reach out to the Boy Scouts.
- b) Obligations for Warrington Community Day – fishing derby, family hike, booth, publicity –
-Gerry suggested we start with the development of publicity and shared a folder with previous ads and news articles with Joseph Each to review and use as guides for new material. Mostly concerned with fishing derby and family hike at this time.
-Gerry asked if people would object to the unpaved trails for the family hike and Aaron advised that he believes no one would object to a natural trail; we just need to identify what the trail is. Roy suggested a path about 2.5 – 3 miles in length that included numerous existing routes such as the PECO Trail. We need to identify the final route soon.
-Gerry discussed the record-keeping of all the fish caught during the fishing derby, needed to determine prizes winners. About 50 kids participate each year, and the number of each fish caught and its length are tallied for each participant.

New Business:

- a) Assignment of responsibilities to new committee members –
-Gerry suggested that new members (Kay Fairs & Joe Each) team up with established members to become familiarized with existing projects so the new members can take on some of those duties directly.
-Gerry then asked if there would be any merit in creating a hiking club in Warrington Township. Joseph Each suggested we create the "Warrington Bike & Hike Association" so we could then

become part of the American Hiking Society which would allow us access to funding for existing trail improvements.

-Gerry then spoke of the "Senior Hiking Club" he organized some years ago and mentioned the club was not restricted to Warrington trails. The group would also visit parks outside of the township such as Tyler & Nockamixon State Parks and Peace Valley County Park. Members would meet at Wegmans and carpool to these locations.

-We then discussed if we should combine the Senior Hiking Club with the Warrington Hiking Association and some members felt they should be segregated because each age group would hike at different paces.

-Ira then suggested surveying the residents via the Link to see if a hiking club would be viable. Aaron suggested Joseph Each pull together a concept of what the Warrington Bike & Hike Association would look like such as; What type of hiking events? Where would we go? What do we want the club to look like? Gerry will send Joseph Each info regarding the Senior Hiking group to use for the initial conceptual draft.

-With regard to new Bike & Hike social media accounts; Aaron suggested we continue to post to the "Warrington Community Group" on Facebook which already has over 2,000 members and will provide better exposure than a new account. The plan is to pull together all of the info utilizing visuals and share via email before next meeting in hopes of finalizing before Warrington Day so it can be shared with residents then.

-Joseph Each suggested adding tent pads for overnight camping in the field to the left of the Bradford Dam. Gerry suggested possibly adding the tent pads to the right of the bird blind. Kay Fairs inquired if there would be a safety issue with campers burning fire wood at these sites and Roy said we would need to run this idea by the Parks & Rec Department for their recommendation before moving forward.

Approval of Minutes from May 17, 2016 meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes by Sharon Kaszan, second by Kay Fairs and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee by the members present at meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm by Sharon Kaszan, second by Aaron Mulder, and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee

Next meeting:

July 20 2016 at 7:30pm in the Warrington Township Building.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph R. Each, Member