

Minutes – Bike and Hike Trail Committee

Warrington Township Building
852 Easton Road
Warrington, PA 18976

July 20, 2016– 7:30pm

Committee Attendees: Gerry Sapers, Janet Bennett, Ira Meyers, Joe Each, Sharon Kaszan, and Aaron Mulder.

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

Guests: Fred Suffian, EAC member

Public Comment: None

Trail Study Committee:

- a) Progress on trail development – The Quarry has agreed with the general layout of the Route 202 to Bradford Dam trail. Prefer that the trail hugs the quarry property between the Geerling/Calabrero properties. An appraisal was received for the property that would help extend the PECO powerline trail. The Natural Land Trust has not been able to get a meeting scheduled with landowner. Trying to get access to the ultimate right of way. Condemnation is the last resort. Roy is meeting with Metropolitan about the playground in High Gate Manor.
- b) Trail safety and security – There are no known problems. Need to address the issue with the police if any concerns arise.
- c) Requirements for the inclusion of the DVRPC Circuit – Trail must be 10 feet wide. If trail meets requirement need to write a letter to the DVRPC committee indicating we want trail added to circuit. If committee approves, can proceed with funding. We need a dollar amount indicating what the difference would be to go from a 6 feet wide trail to 10 feet wide. Engineers still need a few more months to draft trail. Fall is the next round of funding. Aaron would like to have a figure to go from a 6 feet wide trail to 10 feet and increasing the bridges from 4 feet to 8 feet. He would like this preliminary figure to see if a DVRPC grant would cover the difference and be a benefit to our trail. In addition, a box culvert in a flood plain creates problems and engineering difficulties as compared to a bridge over the Little Neshaminy.
- d) Train signage: current needs – Fred Suffian indicated that 3 signs are going up. One near Bradford Dam about the Blue Bird nesting, a Native Forest Sign near the bird blind, and an edible forest sign by the Morning Walk trail.
- e) Plan for proposed tree plantings in vicinity of new trails – Fred Suffian informed our committee that the Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping shows where trees are but still need to walk and ride trails to identify where tree canopies would be nice. The EAC would like to present a proposal to the Board of Supervisors in the fall of a tree planting plan. A habitat would be created not just sterile trees. This would be low maintenance with just tubes around the trees until they are established. Would like to start in the area between the bathrooms and bird blind at John Paul Park at Lower Nike. Current residents are requesting that township trees near their properties be cut down. All trees examined were Ash trees which have died due to the Ash bore. All future plantings need to be set back from resident's properties to avoid this problem in the future. Also, Fred met with the Wissahickon Valley Water Shed Association to discuss establishing meadows with color. The first would be on $\frac{3}{4}$ acre area to the left of the driveway at John Paul Park at Lower Nike before the hockey rink. The first meadow has been planted in Hidden Court Circle and is a 50'x50' area.
- f) Required land acquisitions, R/W agreements, permits – See "a" above

g) Creation of exercise stations along trail – Not discussed

Old Business:

- a) Report on Herb Kahl 5K walk/run - Sharon attended and reported all went well. Jeanine Winslow from Parks and Rec may be taking over responsibility of this event in the future.
- b) WCD Meeting – July 26 – Not discussed
- c) Obligations for Warrington Community Day – fishing derby, family hike, booth, signage – Sharon Kaszan will purchase some fishing rods for prizes and get Claytons to donate the bait. Need to update the Derby registration form to include a phone number that can receive a text message in the event of a change to the derby. Sharon and Jeanine Winslow can be contacted with any questions. Janet Bennett will help with the derby.
- d) Natural trails as option for WCD family hike – mowing, permission from Special Equestrian Center – We need to get permission from the Special Equestrian Center to include the area around the center in the hike. Need to mow the Warrington Glen inter-sector. This mowing needs to be discussed with Christian Jones, the Director of Water and Sewer Department. Need to coordinate with Public Works for a one time mow.
- e) Involvement of new committee members – feedback, new secretary? – Not Discussed

New Business:

- a) Formation of Warrington hiking club – questionnaire as handout at WCD booth; concept development – Joe Each heading up this club. Trying to create trail awareness and increase traffic on the trails. This helps build a relationship between the township and residents. A new twitter account was created @WarringtonTrail. Need a logo and a name for the club for branding purposes. We decided to not include biking and just call the club The Warrington Hiking Club. Hikes can be both inside and outside of the township. Will unveil the club at WCD and get community input regarding the interest in the club.
- b) Encouragement of new Eagle Scout projects – Not Discussed
- c) Nature Trail – Discussion of a natural trail next to the PECO powerline trail going toward Street Road in the wooded area. Needs to be surveyed to see if any equipment is needed for any tree removal and clearing. Need to blaze an initial trail.
- d) Fall Campout – dates – decided on either the weekend of October 15th or 22nd. Janet will check with Jeanine Winslow if these dates work with the other activities in Warrington.

Approval of Minutes from June 15, 2016 meeting:

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm by Aaron Mulder, second by Gerry Sapers, and passed by unanimous vote of the Committee

Next meeting:

August 17, 2016 at 7:30pm in the Warrington Township Building.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Bennett, Secretary