

KENNETT TOWNSHIP TRAILS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE MEETING

January 5, 2021 Minutes

Held virtually via zoom.

Present:

Committee Members:

Christina Norland, Chair
Diane McGovern
Tim Plemmons
Rudy Karkosak
Abbie Kessler

Guests:

Peter Doehring
John Wilkens

Township Representatives:

Eden Ratliff
Amy Heinrich
Gretchen Flack

Ms. Norland called the meeting to order at 1:05.

NEW BUSINESS:

Administration:

Election of Chairperson for 2021

Mr. Karkosak nominated Christina Norland to continue as chair. No other nominations presented. All members voted in favor of Ms. Norland.

Election of Secretary for 2021

Ms. Norland nominated Abbie Kessler to continue as secretary, Mr. Karkosak seconded with all in favor.

Review & approval of May 2020, June 2020 and December 2020 minutes

Ms. Norland moved to approve Dec, Diane seconded, all in favor
Rudy moved, all in favor for approval of May and June minutes

OLD BUSINESS:

Greenway Update:

- Plan for Greenway and non-Greenway prioritizations and reviewing and updating the previous spreadsheet- focus on sidewalks, trails, and Greenway specific components
- Update on 2017 CFA MTF Grant- management is taking up a lot of time
- Update on Preliminary Engineering for Chandler Mill and South Street – Task Order #7- Board of Supervisors approved 1/4/21 to move forward with preliminary engineering and reviewing different engineering options to allow the retention of two-way vehicular traffic

- Public engagement will be started and a survey is being worked on to go live in the next few weeks to hear back about what people want to see on a Greenway on Chandler Mill Rd
 - Public meetings will be in February after there are some preliminary engineering concepts and studies completed (early February).
- Public comment:
 - John Wilkens- supportive of the trail and is still concerned about potential sudden one-way sections. Surprised that input isn't asked for earlier in the process when there is a lot of impact for area residents. Wants trails in the nature land to be considered. Ms. Kessler responded regarding the nature preserve and easement restrictions.
 - Peter Doehring questioned whether the committee will have a chance to review the survey before it goes public. Ms. Norland stated that she can send out the draft questions once she gets them.
 - Committee comment:
 - Mr. Karkosak stated that the buses one way down Chandler Mill Rd are what they are doing already. Which direction depends on the kids being picked up and quantities.
 - Ms. McGovern questioned adding a local traffic only sign at Hillendale. Mr. Ratliff said he can look into it, but often gets ignored from his experience. Possibility for pedestrian traffic signage ahead.
 - Ms. Heinrich said she thinks the traffic increased once the bridge closed signs at Hillendale were removed. John Wilkens agreed with this. Ms. Heinrich then stated again that Round Hill shouldn't be a cut through so whatever can be done to help those residents should be. Ms. Norland requested that all feedback be sent to Gretchen to compile with residents' comments so that all of it goes to the consultants.
 - Ms. Heinrich will be looking at the funding to figure out the way to do the two-way option and requires a grant extension.
 - Steve Giampaolo (McMahon), Eden Ratliff, and both fire chiefs met this morning to begin discussions about impact on fire service.
 - Ms. Heinrich asked about public meeting dates for neighborhoods and Ms. Norland believes it will be the second week of February so that residents have something to react to rather than just discuss hypotheticals.

Regional Committee Update:

- Kennett Township, New Garden, Friends of New Garden Trails, Bike Kennett, Kennett Square, East Marlborough Township, and the Chester County Planning Commission serve as members to help align all the municipalities and create strong trail, sidewalk, and other transportation connections.
- Identified priority areas for collaboration such as Candlewyck and Preserve at New Garden into KSq/Greenway, Longwood connection, etc.
- Making plans for updated maps for residents to see existing and possible connections to get feedback from residents.
- Regional committee will present to the TSC

- Mr. Doehring commented that New Garden Open Space Review Board reached out to him this morning and they want to keep coordinating Open Space and trail work where TLC could help and this partnership can help keep an eye on potential Greenway or trail connections with any projects that come up.

Circuit Trail Feasibility Study Update:

- Logical location looks to be most likely along Baltimore Pike as much of the Rt 1 section is being upgraded by PennDOT and is either too far along or too expensive to add in a multimodal trail. Longwood to Chadds Ford section still to be determined due to topographical and road complications.
- Chester County Planning Commission sees the value of a multimodal trail from Mill Rd to Schoolhouse Rd and is working with PennDOT to potentially add it into their planning for the upgrade of that section of the highway improvement project in the works. This means PennDOT would cover that expense and it would double as part of the Greenway as planned.

Potential Use of Advisory Shoulders in Kennett Township:

- Mr. Doehring presented an overview of advisory shoulders. He has retained an expert, Michael Williams, to guide him on his efforts and is allowing the Township to use him at no cost via the family foundation to provide information and guidance as decisions are made. Biggest question is how to educate drivers and it is an important issue. Drivers know and use the behaviors they would need for advisory shoulders, but it's getting them to understand how those work in a new situation. Focus is to get bike lanes suitable for all ages and abilities.
 - Ms. Heinrich questioned how they work for safety and parents with small kids as she doesn't think it sounds like something she would be comfortable allowing her boys to use. Concern over the 1% who won't drive safely through the section. Hoping for a mix of Greenway and active transportation options throughout Kennett.
 - Ms. Norland appreciates Peter sharing the info and thinks there are options for these in assorted spots in the region.
 - Mr. Ratliff likes the idea and thinks it's great to have the Township using something new, but still has some concerns and is interested in learning more. He would like to see the Greenway having the physical barrier to provide a sense of or actual safety. Thinks it's a great option for a variety of Kennett roads that would be much more affordable than building bike lanes that cost millions.
 - Ms. Heinrich thinks Norway or some of the other roads would be great candidates to make connections to Spar Hill.
 - Mr. Doehring happy to extend the funding going forward for expert advice to research the variety of options.

Land Development Updates:

- No recent news. Planning Commission meeting next Wednesday due to the January reorganization meeting for the Board of Supervisors.

Additional Comments:

- Ms. McGovern questioned the timing of Spar Hill demolition. Ms. Heinrich stated it's in the budget, but hasn't been determined. Public works will maintain the trails. Ms. Kessler noted that Lord Howe will also need to be walked by public works as TLC does not have a current contract for that.
- John Wilkens added a comment regarding "professional" cyclists that go up Chandler Mill Rd in packs of 10-20 and do not stop for pedestrians and will not probably keep their usage within the advisory shoulders. Ms. Heinrich mentioned reaching out to Josie Marsh of Bike Kennett about the large packs in case they are organized rides and she could provide feedback to the bikers. John Wilkens clarified that he just doesn't think those riders and their practices are conducive to the different ideas being discussed.
- Next meeting February 2, 2021 at 1 pm via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 2:16.

Respectfully submitted,

Abbie Kessler, Secretary