

KENNETT TOWNSHIP
TRAILS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE

March 1, 2022 Minutes

Held in the Township Meeting Room with zoom attendance as an option. Agenda posted 2/28/2022.

Present:

Committee Members:

Christina Norland, Chair
Diane McGovern (via Zoom)
Abbie Kessler (via Zoom)
Rudy Karkosak
Tom Janton (via Zoom)

Guests:

Peter Doehring (via Zoom)
John Wilkens (via Zoom)

Township Representatives:

Gretchen Flack

Ms. Norland called the meeting to order at 1:03

Administration:

- Ms. Norland called for approval of February minutes with a motion by Mr. Karkosak and seconded by Ms. McGovern. Passed as written with all in favor.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Budget & Funding Updates:

- *Vision Partnership Program Grant Award:*
 - Application for feasibility study by McMahon to evaluate connections between Kennett area and Longwood Gardens. Board of Supervisors signed the contract at the last meeting with requirement that all other municipalities sign by mid-March. There will be a steering committee assembled and we will be kept posted.
- *2017 CFA MTF Grant Award:*
 - Financial details are being worked out with extension expected.
- *2021 CFA MTF Grant Award:*
 - A multi-municipality agreement is being written and will be executed soon. This is for Birch Street and Magnolia Underpass.

Regional Trail Priorities

- *Baltimore Pike Bikeway Concept & the Transportation Community Development Initiative:*
 - Chester County has recommended that the municipalities along Baltimore Pike come together to apply for a feasibility study on the suggested bike route. It is on this Wednesday's BOS agenda. Does the TSC support our inclusion in the grant? West Grove or the County would most likely be the primary on the grant application. There is no match requirement
 - Ms. McGovern doesn't see a reason not to support it. Mr. Karkosak agrees with no match requirement makes it a win-win. Mr. Janton agrees. Ms. Porterfield agrees that it would make the grant stronger with all municipalities connected signed on to the application. Mr. Karkosak moves that we recommend the BOS support the grant application to study the Baltimore Bikeway. Ms. Norland seconded. All in favor.
 - Mr. Doehring commented that he just requests that this feasibility study not hold up efforts of other groups to find bike routes east-west.

Trail Segment Updates:

- *Cannon Trail (Bucktoe Rd to Hartefeld HOA):*
 - Ms. Kessler spoke about a conservation easement on Bucktoe Rd containing a trail easement that connects to the Hartefeld HOA open space. This has been discussed with a resident who is active with Friends of New Garden Trails. He will be talking to the HOA and Ms. Kessler is requesting support to discuss a possible trail crossing on Bucktoe Rd with the Township as Bucktoe is a Township road. A crossing would allow the trail easement to align with the Chandler Mill Nature Preserve and create a trail connection to the Cemetery Trail on CMNP that then connects to the Chandler Mill Bridge and thus the Kennett Greenway upon completion of the Chandler Mill segment.
 - Ms. Norland mentioned that New Garden has a new Trails and Parks Superintendent who would probably be interested in discussing the project.
 - Question about the style of road crossing, which is proposed to be similar to the Hillendale crossing without the sight obstructions of the one-way bridge.
 - Ms. McGovern asked about allowing dogs on the trail as CMNP does not currently allow dogs. This would be reviewed at installation as TLC would like to ensure that neighbors can access the Greenway with their dogs.
 - TLC questions the potential need for a traffic study to determine best alignment and this is a discussion to have with the Township. Proposed next steps with the support of TSC is to talk to the road supervisor and Eden along with Diane Hicks about the trail location and zoning as well as connect with New Garden Township.
- *Chandler Mill:*
 - Close to having a planting plan complete with tree mitigation, plant list, layout, etc.
 - Hydraulic/hydrologic studies are ongoing to help analyze stormwater management.
 - US Fish & Wildlife and PA Fish & Boat met with the consultants and agree with the mitigation plans. Bog turtles can limit the construction season and that will not apply to this project. Finalizing mitigation plan now.
 - With these details coming together, the final permits are moving forward.
 - DCNR has signed off as well as SHPO. With these, it will then be submitted to DEP with an expected revision period before final plans completed.
 - Landowner meetings continuing and will carry on for the next couple weeks.
 - Public comment:
 - Mr. Wilkens asked for more information as to how the plans have evolved. Still no update as to where the current ideas stand. Ms. Norland said she is happy to meet about the area near his house after a meeting with the consultants and TLC (landowner across from Wilkens' home). Plans are ongoing and constantly changing. Ms. Porterfield commented that each new drawing set costs money and can't be done repeatedly without being wasteful of Township funds. He asked about the status of landowners' willingness to shift the trail inward to avoid trees.
 - Mr. Doehring asked whether there was any discussion to have the trail narrowed down to as little as 3' where needed to protect trees, avoid sensitive environments, and stay within the right-of-way. He believes when you consider this option, you would not need to cut down any trees outside of the chokers. He also doesn't think it would create any inconvenience for users and is working on numbers to show this. Ms. Norland thanked him for the comments and stated that if he spoke to the engineers and consultants, he would come to understand why the design is what it is for the goal of the trail and does not actually save money on costs or trees. Mr. Karkosak and Mr. Janton agreed. Ms. Kessler provided her overall opinion of the project's benefits and the fact that the request to review the narrower trail has been discussed repeatedly and considered by the consultants' multiple times.

- *Public Comment:*
 - Mr. Doehring asked if the Committee would be willing to allow recording of the meetings. Mr. Janton questioned why there is a need as the committee reports back to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Doehring said he has used the BOS recordings when minutes don't always reflect the full conversation and would find it useful for the TSC meetings. Ms. McGovern asked if there is a cost and Ms. Norland agreed that there is an infrastructure question and no one committee should be recorded over another and the current standing is to not record any but the BOS meetings. Mr. Karkosak stated that he believes all minutes go the BOS for review and that Ms. Kessler does a detailed job and are the most comprehensive of those he has seen. He sees no reason why we would need to record the TSC meetings.

Land Development Updates: There is a work session tonight and two projects have been introduced. One is a community service type building at Kendall with no trails. The Walnut St/Parkside development will be coming to the work session to present new plans with engineers from both sides to cover proposed changes. Ms. Norland asked about the trail crossing to connect to Anson B. Nixon. There is one that crosses up at the soccer fields and there is another trail around the Exelon property. Mr. Karkosak will review these tonight to ensure the trails are still part of the plan.

Land Acquisition Updates: No update.

Public meeting adjourned at 1:57pm and the Committee entered executive session.

NOTE: Next meeting to be held April 5th at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abbie Kessler, Secretary