

**KENNETT TOWNSHIP
TRAILS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE**

April 5, 2022 Minutes

Held in the Township Meeting Room with zoom attendance as an option. Agenda posted 3/31/2022.

Present:

Committee Members:

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

Guests:

Peter Doehring
John Wilkens (via Zoom)
John Haedrich

Township Representatives:

Gretchen Flack
Eden Ratliff
Amy Heinrich

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

Administration:

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

AGENDA ITEMS:

Regional Trail Priorities

- *Baltimore Pike Bikeway Concept & the Transportation Community Development Initiative:*
 - Kennett approved joining the grant and Borough moved to do a consent vote on Wednesday night. List of municipalities participating extensive and West Grove will probably be the primary applicant.
- *Longwood Connectors Project:* Waiting for the County to sign the grant in order to move forward with the project.

Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway:

- John Haedrich provided background regarding the byway, which received state designation around 2005 and worked to get a plan to make a byway comparable to the Delaware byway with a grant for \$980,000 to widen the shoulders and improve conditions from Route 1 to Pennsbury in Kennett for a total of 1.6 miles.
- PennDOT repaved in the last few years, but didn't improve the quality of should in Pennsbury segment so expect that section to fail quicker than that in Kennett that had been improved previously.
- The original grant Kennett received was for construction only with Kennett Township covering the engineering costs with the grant only covering up Rt 52 to Rt 1. Goal is to plan for the next phase to connect from the intersection of Rts 1 and 52 to Longwood Gardens as the ultimate destination.
- In 2008, three routes were developed, but much has changed including the new overflow lot for Longwood that may make some of these not work or provide better options today.
- Route 52 improvements did include pedestrian crossings at Rt 1 Hamorton intersection that are active with others installed at the north Rt 52 intersection, which are inactive at this point due to lack of need.
- Longwood Gardens prefers the green path of the three presented to the committee and are planning to incorporate a path into the Ruby Mile along Route 1, which is a landscaping plan for that stretch. The plan was postponed due to the fountain work.

- Key question for the Township is whether it would be pedestrian only or also a bicycle path.
- Longwood is concerned about using any public grant funds for private property in relation to liability.
- Mr. Haedrich requested the committee work to renew interest on behalf of the Township and Longwood to make the bike path a reality.
- Funding for such work has to be related to the Byway and be within a set corridor. Application would be done by PennDOT to a federal program for scenic byways. The state is being encouraged to apply for around \$500,000 as PennDOT has four national scenic byways and eighteen others within PA to put funding towards. Discussions continue as to what the projects could be and for how much PennDOT would apply.
- If we have Longwood connections, Mr. Haedrich requests assistance to get current opinions from them. Ms. Norland can reach out. Longwood previously walked away from a \$200,000 grant due to the question about liability.
- Questions about recent changes to Longwood's plans to allow some free, public trails outside the gated area that may change their view of this project. This would give Longwood protection under the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act. The ongoing Longwood Master Plan also includes a lot of research into bicycle and pedestrian connections.
- Mr. Karkosak asked how many bicyclists actually cross Rt 52 and 1 and Mr. Haedrich said he does see some and reiterated that there is already a signalized pedestrian crossing at the south 52 intersection.
- Mr. Doehring commented that there are other major routes with signalized trail crossings that work well such as the Chester Valley Trail on Rt. 30.
- Kennett Township's grant for Longwood Connectors will cover researching all the options for trail connections.

Committee Changes:

- Mr. Ratliff shared the resolution proposed by the Board for review the 6th ahead of the meeting that would require that all committee chairs be a Kennett resident. If approved on the 6th, this requirement would be effective at the next reorganizational meeting in January 2023.
- Mr. Janton asked where the issue came from and Mr. Ratliff had no information and suggested asking the supervisors.
- Ms. McGovern asked about the open spot on the Committee for an LCAC representative. There is no one available to do it and so Ms. Kessler is temporarily filling that duty as someone who regularly attends LCAC meetings.

TLC-BRC Merger:

- Merger of the two entities will close April 29th. Most people won't see much change beyond signage on the preserves. BRC will step into TLC's shoes and continue to carry out all our responsibilities for our easements and fee land work as well as contract work with the Township. TLC's land staff will stay on and so there will be little change from a work perspective.

Budget and Funding:

- *CFA MTF Grant Award Extension:* The grant extension request has been accepted with an expiration date of June 30, 2023. This is largely due to ongoing engineering costs and Kennett is drawing down on the balance per the state suggestion.

Trail Segment Updates:

- *Chandler Mill:*
 - Finalizing the planting plan.
 - Ongoing work on the H&H, stormwater management, landowner ROW and appraisal discussions, etc.
 - Finalizing stuff on the TLC side, but will meet with John Wilkens once things are settled to discuss his input.
 - Mr. Doehring asked about his Right to Know request about the traffic study and why the Committee hasn't seen it. Committee has seen it and discussed it.

Land Development Updates: Everything discussed previously is still pending with no new discussions.

Land Acquisition Updates: Held in executive session.

Public meeting adjourned at 2:05pm and the Committee entered executive session.

NOTE: Next meeting to be held May 3rd at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abbie Kessler, Secretary