

KENNETT TOWNSHIP TRAILS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE

April 6, 2021 Minutes

Held virtually via zoom.

Present:

Committee Members:

Christina Norland, Chair
Diane McGovern
Rudy Karkosak
Abbie Kessler
Tom Janton
Tim Peterson

Guests:

Peter Doehring
Michelle Adams (Meliora)
Michael Guttman
Steve Giampaolo (McMahon)
Jennifer Dowdell (Biohabitats)
Claire Agre (Unknown Studio)
John Wilkens

Township Representatives:

Eden Ratliff
Gretchen Flack

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

Administration:

- Mr. Karkosak motioned to approve the March minutes; Ms. Norland seconded. All members voted in favor and minutes were approved.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Recommendations to Proceed:

- *Public Outreach Update:* Ms. Dowdell reviewed the schedule and current status of all the projects they are tasked with for the Greenway. Ms. Agre updated public input process. Goal is to hold the design to the primary survey results of natural feel and for passive recreation. There were some new participants at the broader general public meeting. All meetings were held in breakout sessions after a general presentation for more chance to provide feedback. Mr. Giampaolo discussed the one-on-one landowner meetings about extra right-of-way and the various businesses and entities related to the South St project and everyone is on board. They also met with the fire companies several times, both in the field and not. They are on board, but are stressing their concern over their largest vehicle on Chandler Mill Rd with the trail alongside.
 - Mr. Karkosak stated his appreciation for the amount of public outreach that has been done.
 - Mr. Doehring asked whether the tree counts in the engineering report will be updated.
- Next phase is to move forward with final design, discuss surfaces, amenities, etc. Process was then discussed.
- *West South Street Engineering:* Ms. Adams reviewed the next steps for this project, which is more detailed plans for grading and the overall plan to then move permitting forward. This will allow a bid package to be created. There is less permitting needed for this project. Mr. Giampaolo stated that

there are multiple funding opportunities for this project in conjunction with the New Garden Scarlett Rd project. This project is looking at federal dollars via DVRPC as the project is an ideal candidate for those funds.

- *Chandler Mill Engineering*: Mr. Giampaolo agreed that there are multiple permits needed and the plan is to do the whole design and permit at once with construction done in phases once the whole plan is approved. Multiple funding options are being looked at to raise the rest of the money for the plan. Both projects are being designed to PennDOT standards to be eligible for more funding options.
 - Tree survey: 649 trees surveyed and 295 would have to be removed per the preliminary design. 44% of these trees are ash, invasive, dead or in poor health. The plan would propose replacing these with native trees that are best suited for the location.
 - Two heritage trees are set to be removed: one tulip poplar and one red oak.
 - All the tree data is now geospatially referenced and available for the next level of design.
- Ms. Norland requested a motion to recommend to the Board that the Township moves forward with the design plans and take the next steps to move the projects into final design in order to be prepared for new funding opportunities. Mr. Karkosak made the motion; Mr. Janton seconded. No further discussion. All in favor with one abstention.
 - Mr. Doehring noted that he is working on a plan to present minor changes to the design that he will be presenting to the committee in the near future. He welcomes any conversations in the meantime. What he is presenting is intended to provide a safer bicycle experience as he believes the design will only make the road usable for the most adventurous cyclists.

Funding:

- *CFA MTF Update*: This grant has been extended until 2022. Some reimbursement has been collected, but the bulk will be for construction. A joint Kennett Square/Kennett Township CFA MTF grant application in 2020 was for the Magnolia underpass and Birch Street. Announcements are expected in May. Another 2021 round will open soon and what to apply for will have to be decided in conjunction with neighboring municipalities.
- *Community Funding Project Application*: This is earmark grants and Rep. Houlihan has requested good projects to take to the federal government. Kennett, KTA, and New Garden Township worked together to apply for the funds needed to build the trail from the Borough line, out South St, and up Scarlett Rd to Cypress St (\$4.4 million). This funding was applied for by the Chester County Economic Development Council on behalf of the municipalities. We will know in a few weeks whether we have reached the federal round for consideration.
- *TASA*: These are managed by DVRPC and they have met with them and are working on what to apply for in relation to South Street.
- Ms. McGovern questioned how much the Township is expecting to pay with all the proposed funding. Under the current MTF grant, the Township is committed to providing a match of at least \$800,000. No funding fully covers engineering costs. It has also been documented that there has been steady inflation for construction costs over the last year.
- Mr. Doehring asked how the public can see the tree assessment. Mr. Ratliff stated that it will be reviewed with the Board and then made public. It should take about a week and will be posted. Mr. Wilkens stated his appreciation for making the tree assessment public.

Township Properties:

- Ms. McGovern asked about a section of trail at Barkingfield that is always wet and she recommends they adjust the trail location to bypass the wet area. Mr. Ratliff thanked her and they will look at it.
- Ms. McGovern then asked where the trails will be now at Spar Hill since the tree planting has been installed. Mr. Ratliff said he is happy to talk about it so they will set up a time. Ms. McGovern will resend the map she and Mr. Doehring created the other year. Mr. Doehring asked to be involved as he thinks there is potential opportunities for bicycle connections via Spar Hill.
- Demolition at Spar Hill is slated to begin this year, but the process may start without the physical work taking place this year. This is yet to be determined.

Land Development Updates:

- Connecting the Flats to Anson B. Nixon: The Board is determined that the developers have to connect the Flats to ABN as it was a condition of the conditional use approval. Ms. Norland stated that the Borough is looking to install sidewalks on Walnut St and that may help some.

Regional Trails Committee Update:

- The committee has reviewed all the regional plans and are looking at identifying what is then a regional priority. The partnership has helped lead to more collaborative grant applications.
- The CCPC has volunteered to create an interactive public map that they will update for two years. Square Roots Collective has volunteered to pay for that work.
- Ms. McGovern asked how much clout the committee has. Ms. Norland stated not much. It makes recommendations and receives no funding. Ms. McGovern asked whether this committee could help raise funds via a campaign for the Greenway since the project connects and benefits all of them.
- Ms. Kessler questioned what data would be on the publicly available map. Ms. Norland said it needs to be cleaned up and that is what needs to be discussed with the GIS staff from the County.
- Mr. Doehring said he would like to be involved with the discussion with DVRPC as they have had previous discussions about how to classify roads for bicyclists and possibly crowdsourcing this data from actual local cyclists.

Land Acquisition Updates: None.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.

NOTE: May meeting cancelled. Next meeting June 1st at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abbie Kessler, Secretary