

## KENNETT TOWNSHIP TRAILS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE

June 1, 2021 Minutes

Held virtually via zoom.

### **Present:**

#### Committee Members:

Christina Norland, Chair  
Diane McGovern  
Rudy Karkosak  
Abbie Kessler

#### Guests:

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

#### Township Representatives:

Eden Ratliff  
Gretchen Flack

Ms. Norland called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

### **Administration:**

- Mr. Karkosak motioned to approve the April minutes with one technical correction; Ms. Norland seconded. All members voted in favor and minutes were approved.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **Recommendations to Proceed:**

- *Chandler Mil Final Engineering:* Ms. Dowdell covered the overview of task order 9 as shared with the Committee.
  - Mr. Giampaolo spoke on the proposal of laying out the two one-lane, two-way sections to allow residents to experience it and provide feedback. McMahon will also collect geotechnical data to determine the soil types while moving forward with the final design as there are three areas with the stream encroaching on the road that need to be fixed. Hydrologic modeling will also be done to determine the impact of the work on the stream in all conditions. Their work would end with the final design and bid package to move forward with the project.
  - Ms. Adams and Meliora will focus on the permitting for the whole project as the project requires permits from the PA DEP and Army Corps of Engineers and this can be done through a Joint Permit. Lotus Environmental will be brought in to do focused studies such as a bog turtle study.
  - Ms. Agre spoke about additional public engagement with another possible day similar to last October with a poster session with updated renderings and discussions. Thinking about doing it in TLC's parking lot. One final public day in November for feedback on the final design.

- Mr. Giampaolo spoke on McMahon's work furthering the analysis of needed right-of-way for the plan. Utility coordination will continue with some overhead lines that will need to be moved.
- Ms. Dowdell believes the work will take about six months with the design to be done by December to then be submitted for permits. That will then determine how much more time it will take based on feedback for permits.
- *Questions:*
  - Ms. Norland asked about how phasing would impact this work. Mr. Giampaolo stated that the design engineering would be done from start to finish. If broken into phasing, the proposal shows that McMahon includes the option for two separate bid packages.
  - Ms. Norland asked when the final width of the trail would be decided. Ms. Dowdell thinks it has to be in the next few months as it will impact the design and remediation elements of the project. Mr. Giampaolo agreed that it is something that needs to be decided earlier than later as it impacts the geotechnical analysis.
  - Mr. Karkosak asked how the \$628k will be covered. Mr. Ratliff said that is the big question. Some portions can be covered by the grant such as the environmental studies. Amy Heinrich has put together an analysis to show how the Township can budget for these big projects like this and the Five Points Roundabout, which will be shown to the committee most likely in July. Ms. McGovern asked then if this is part of the total \$4.2 million budget estimate. \$4.3 million is the projected construction estimate so the \$628k is on top of that.
  - Ms. McGovern asked about the Magnolia Underpass and Birch Street project funding as the grant was not the fully needed amount. Ms. Norland stated that they are looking to reapply with the Township and Borough to get additional funding for that project. The existing funding may be put towards Birch Street since it came short of the needed total for both projects.
  - Mr. Wilkens asked about the timeline again for available time left for public input. Ms. Dowdell stated that there will be no moving forward until the supervisors approve this so the timeline will be dependent on that and input can be given at any time.
  - Mr. Doehring asked about the testing of the one lane sections and will there be a traffic study done on the speed of the vehicles to include a temporary reduction of the speed limit during the testing. Mr. Giampaolo referenced the proposal and they will lay them out during the summer as an experiment. They will be videotaping it to see how everyone is using the two sections. There will be no more additional studies to assess the need to lower it to 25 mph as they have already concluded it to be valid.
  - Mr. Doehring asked what the purpose of the 2' planted buffer is between the trail and the road. Mr. Giampaolo and Ms. Dowdell confirmed that it is all the purposes he referenced including stormwater management, aesthetics, and pedestrian buffer. Ms. Adams said that by using a green stormwater method, it helps towards required stormwater management. Ms. Agre highlighted that the buffer is not a continuous 2' and in some areas is wider.
  - Mr. Wilkens commented that the cars that seem to be going faster are going towards Delaware so making sure that those cars don't come down the road would help a great deal.

- Ms. Norland asked the Committee members their opinion. Ms. Kessler agreed it's expensive, but the project will be worth it and so moving forward now is a good option if the Supervisors can figure out the funding. Mr. Karkosak stated he thinks it's a lot of good work over the past year and if the funding is available then it will be a great project for Kennett. Ms. McGovern is looking forward to seeing Amy's report and Mr. Karkosak asked for confirmation that nothing can happen until Amy's funding analysis and that was confirmed.
- Ms. Norland moved to make the recommendation to move forward pending the funding. Ms. Kessler seconded. All in favor.

**Spar Hill:** Ms. Norland, Ms. McGovern, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Lysle, and Mr. Doehring all walked it to confirm what trails were to be mowed going forward to make good trail loops.

**Land Development Updates:**

- Connecting the Flats to Anson B. Nixon: McMahan is working with the developer and the Township to find a way to make the connection and things are progressing.

**Land Acquisition Updates:** Ms. Kessler referenced the public announcement of two County grants for two conservation easements within the Township that will both have trail easements within them. One is part of the Greenway and one is a separate future trail connection.

Meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm.

NOTE: July meeting will be rescheduled due to being the day after the Fourth of July observed holiday. A poll will be sent around for a new date.

Respectfully submitted,

Abbie Kessler, Secretary