

**KENNETT TOWNSHIP
TRAILS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE**

June 7, 2022 Minutes

Held in the Township Meeting Room with zoom attendance as an option. Agenda posted 6/3/2022.

Present:

Committee Members:

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

Guests:

John Wilkens (via Zoom)

Township Representatives:

Gretchen Flack
Amy Heinrich (via zoom)

Ms. Norland called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm and confirmed there were no additions to agenda.

Administration:

- Ms. Norland called for the approval of the April minutes. Ms. McGovern motioned for approved with Ms. Norland seconded and all in favor with one typo to be corrected.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Trail Segment Updates:

- Chandler Mill Greenway-
 - Consultants finalizing Joint Permit applications with DEP and Army Corps of Engineers. Two other filings in the works and these will take the longest to get to finalized permits (up to six months). Project has received clearance letters from all regulatory agencies (DCNR, SHPO, Fish and Boat, etc.). H&H study being finalized, but continuing to work on stormwater management and wetland mitigation. This will result in a revised cost estimate for the township.
 - Design is largely completed outside of stormwater, wetlands, and traffic calming options. Looking to get public input and such on traffic calming options at some point in the future.
 - Right-of-way acquisition ongoing as well.
 - Aiming for construction to start in 2023.
 - Permitting costs have been included in the current task orders.
 - Mr. Wilkens asked about the current report on the Greenway that is online as it is dated March 2021 when there is supposedly a March 2022 report. He requests the newest documents be placed online. Ms. Norland stated that those plans are the most current public plans as they are still finalizing details.

- Anson B Nixon – Route 1 Expressway Trail
 - PennDOT is reconstructing Rt 1 bypass from MD border to Schoolhouse Lane over a decade.
 - As part of the work, PennDOT has agreed to engineer a trail and implement it from Bancroft Elem to Schoolhouse Rd.
 - PennDOT met with ABN Park about requirements for the trail and what PennDOT would be able to do.
 - PennDOT has agreed to the Rt 1 ROW trail, at grade crossings at N. Walnut and Rt 82, and trails connecting to Leto fields at N. Walnut.
 - Trying to also connect down 82 to the access for the little league fields.
 - PennDOT agreed to 8' wide along the trail to mitigate impact on the park, but would need right-of-way from the park.
 - PennDOT would replant the slopes between the trail and the highway.
 - ABN asked for noise abatement, but PennDOT said they aren't widening or adding traffic so not planning on doing it.
 - Post-construction, the trail would be transferred to local government so this stretch would be transferred to Kennett Township as PennDOT will not own or maintain trails post-construction.
 - How does Parkside development play into the plans? Exelon? Commitment to not cut trees planted between trail and rt 1?

Budget & Funding:

- Consider CFA MTF 2022 Grant Application for Chandler Mill Greenway
 - Final numbers not ready and inflation is impacting everything. This grant would not eliminate township need to fund some of it. Expect to apply for between \$1-2 million based on consultants' recommendation.
 - Requires at least a 30% match.
 - One MTF grant received for this project in 2017.
 - Township and borough have received 2020 and 2021 MTF grants for Magnolia underpass and Birch Street.
 - Appear to be no conflict with neighboring municipal projects.
 - Appears to have no downsides.
 - Ms. Heinrich stated that the delays in permits and such may allow the Township to hear back from an application before moving to construction.
 - Mr. Karkosak motions to recommend pursuing it. Ms. Norland seconded. All in favor.

Regional Trail Priorities:

- Longwood Connectors Project
 - Josie Marsh (Bike Kennett), John Haedrich (52 Scenic Byway), ACOLA reps, Leff (Kennett Township Supervisor), and Rudy Karkosak (Kennett Township Planning) are all on the committee. Christina Norland will be on for KTA.

Land Development Updates: None; Parkside only thing outstanding with no recent updates.

Land Acquisition Updates: Discussed in executive session.

Public meeting adjourned at 1:38 pm and the Committee entered executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Abbie Kessler, Secretary