

**KENNETT TOWNSHIP**  
**TRAILS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE**

August 2, 2022 Minutes

Held in the Township Meeting Room with zoom attendance as an option. Agenda posted 8/1/2022.

**Present:**

Committee Members:

Christina Norland, Chair  
Diane McGovern  
Abbie Kessler  
Rudy Karkosak

Guests:

John Wilkens (via Zoom)  
Peter Doehring

Township Representatives:

Eden Ratliff  
Amy Heinrich  
Kassie

Ms. Norland called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm and requested the addition of Spar Hill to the agenda per Ms. McGovern. Ms. Norland moved to add the agenda item with a second by Mr. Karkosak with all in favor. Clarification noted that agenda items can only be added if they are for discussion only and not for a vote.

**Administration:**

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

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Spar Hill:**

- Ms. McGovern updated the committee that the Historical Commission is doing an in depth analysis on each building as to the cost of remediation and whether each is historic or not. They hope to have the information to present to the Supervisors in September.
- There is no impact on the trails with potential for adding picnic tables to some of the barns and such. This would make the park more appealing.
- Ms. Heinrich stated that this is all part of the larger plan and the insurance company wants them to put fences around the retained buildings.
- Can the BRC team mow a trail to the arc stone? Ms. Kessler will check with them.

**Trail Segment Updates:**

- Chandler Mill Greenway-
  - Consultants finalizing stormwater management and E&S plans. These are final steps before submitting the joint permit to the state agencies. ROW acquisition is also continuing.

- Board of Supervisors approved an application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for \$1.5 million towards construction costs. The application was submitted this past week.
- Ms. McGovern asked about the total cost and Township share. How does the timeline work with the funding expected from the Township? Ms. Heinrich and her team are finalizing a plan on how to do a variety of capital projects with options based on supervisor decisions and grant funding received.
- Ms. McGovern asked whether the Township should look into doing outside funding sources like the Library did? Ms. Norland stated that some neighbors have been interested in making small donations (benches). Capital campaigns are not easy to undertake so something to look into for the future.
- Mr. Karkosak questioned the timeline and Ms. Norland confirmed we are still on track for bidding in late winter 2023 with spring construction. Everything will depend on the permitting process.
- Mr. Doehring thanked Mr. Ratliff for sharing the design presentation given to the Supervisors. Question regarding the presentation details that about 40% of the right-of-way is secured so what does that mean? How many landowners have signed agreements? Mr. Ratliff stated that this information is not ready to be discussed.

### **Regional Trail Priorities:**

- Longwood Connectors Project
  - Mr. Karkosak stated it is called the Kennett Square Longwood Gardens Connectors Project and we had the presentation with John Haedrich in the spring. The project includes Kennett Square, Township, and East Marlborough. There is a match from Chester County VPP and Longwood. First meeting was held in June with about 10-12 representatives.
  - First meeting was very informational with discussion of current and pending projects. It is all a long-term planning process in conjunction with the PennDOT Route 1 project.
  - Main connection goals are Rt 52, Unionville, and the Borough into Longwood Gardens.
  - There will be public engagement meetings that are expected to take place in September or October.
  - Next meeting will be in September.
  - Ms. McGovern asked about Longwood's current construction and asked whether they have a trail plan for the property across Conservatory Rd. Ms. Norland stated that the open area is part of the master plan, but the construction work is all related to the Conservatory project.
  - Ms. Heinrich asked about who the point persons are for contact as the Township is the primary person on the grant and has to front the funds for reimbursement from the County. The funders will need to reimburse Kennett Township.
  - Mr. Doehring asked if the public has an option to join the next meeting and provide input. Ms. Norland stated that she thinks it would be possible through the public meetings. Mr. Doehring stated he has re-mapped the proposed route he presented a

few years ago connecting the Borough to Route 1 that would allow a neighborhood to connect to the shopping malls

**Land Development Updates:** No June or July meetings with tonight's meeting about zoning revisions. There appear to be no development projects pending for the normal August meeting.

**Land Acquisition Updates:** Discussed in executive session.

Public meeting adjourned at 1:28 pm and the Committee entered executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Abbie Kessler, Secretary