

# KENNETT TOWNSHIP TRAILS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE

August 3, 2021 Minutes

Held in the Township Meeting Room with zoom attendance as an option.

**Present:**

Committee Members:

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

Guests:

Peter Doehring  
John Wilkens (via zoom)

Township Representatives:

Amy Heinrich  
Gretchen Flack

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

**Administration:**

- Ms. McGovern asked to have Barkingfield Park added to the agenda.
- Ms. McGovern motioned to approve the June minutes as written; Mr. Karkosak seconded. All members voted in favor and minutes were approved.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Trail Segment Updates:**

- *Chandler Mill Final Engineering:*
  - Final engineering has started with field work planned for 8/16-8/27.
  - Geotech firm will be onsite 8/12 for borings regarding stability and soil content.
    - Some of the environmental studies will have consultants up to 300' off the road
  - Looking at ways to reduce geotech costs while also looking at feasibility and costs for additional ROW/easements
  - Looking at ecological impacts and ideal trail widths in varying sections
  - Army Corps of Engineers meeting happening soon
  - Planning an October 17<sup>th</sup> open house hosted at TLC's lot/Chandler Mill Nature Preserve regarding plans for Chandler Mill design
  - Design should be finalized between Nov-Jan
    - Ms. McGovern questioned the cost and where the township stands. Ms. Heinrich said we are fine at this point.
    - Landowner ROW meetings will continue through the year as design continues
    - Mr. Wilkens spoke of his appreciation of the sensitivity of the consultants on the walks
  - One of the large specimen trees was cut after one of the few living portions broke off in a storm and was left hanging. A portion was given to Mr. Wilkens who thanked the Township again.

- *West South Street:*
  - Sent proposals back for refinement of them due to sewer repair needs along the corridor that would allow both projects to be done in tandem for efficiency.
  - Ms. Heinrich said both the Borough and Township are talking together over sewer needs and its ongoing.
- *Spar Hill:*
  - Historical Commission presenting tomorrow night regarding keeping approximately seven buildings. LCAC is recommending an RFP process for proposals from outside entities for uses of the property that would keep the open space publicly accessible and possibly use some of the buildings.
- *Connecting the Flats to Anson B. Nixon:*
  - Flats project is waiting on a McMahon Associates traffic study to figure out Walnut St crossing
  - Other option is reconnecting to Hazel Ave, which connects to the new pedestrian entrance to ABN.
  - A stop sign intersection is proposed for Walnut and Hazel crossing and is in front of PennDOT for review.
  - An adjacent landowner has passed away and that may impact discussions on options for a connection.
- *Barkingfield Park:*
  - Ms. McGovern asked about the status of a bridge crossing the small stream in the northern hedgerow.
  - Ms. Flack thought the township asked the EAC for their opinion. Ms. Norland will contact Matt Sabo of the EAC and check status.

**Funding Updates:**

- *CFA MTF 2021 Grant Application:*
  - Application for Birch Street and the Magnolia Underpass submitted in partnership with Kennett Square Borough on Friday 7/30 with over 25 letters of support.
  - Legislator meetings coming up soon to garner support.
  - Announcements should be made by the end of the year.
  - Kennett received \$400,000 last year; Borough has \$350,000+ match. Project is short \$1.3 million.
- *Vision Partnership Program Application:*
  - East Marlborough finalized their OSRER plan and Chester County finalized their Southern Chester County Circuit Trail feasibility study with both plans identifying Longwood as a major destination.
  - Kennett Bikeway on Rt 52 being painted right now.
  - Kennett Greenway has long targeted a spur connection to Longwood.
  - Regional Trails Committee recommends that East Marlborough, Kennett Square, Kennett Township, and Longwood jointly apply for a VPP grant to do a focused feasibility study on a Longwood connection with the support of the various studies.
  - Applications are due by the end of September.
  - Committee discussed and agreed they are in favor of pursuing a joint grant application.

**Regional Trails Committee:**

- *Chester County Circuit Trail Feasibility Study:*
  - One major recommendation from the study was a bikeway all the way to Maryland that can be moved forward quickly in comparison to other recommendations.

- The Kennett portion of such a trail would be bike lanes except for Ways → Schoolhouse where it would be a multi-use trail.
- Estimated cost would be in relation to the Rt 1 reconstruction.
- A meeting earlier today with PennDOT was very positive and PennDOT will start looking into it.
  - PennDOT would not maintain said trail if constructed.
  - Preliminary concept to construction estimate is seven years and would use federal money.
  - Plan is to make it as ADA compliant as possible, but there are steep slopes.
  - ABN board is in the loop and will meet with PennDOT about crossing the park.
  - Trail would be separated from the highway and be on the south side.
  - Question about an exit from Rt 1 to Walnut St that several members had heard rumors about and how that would affect a trail.
- Bikeway to Maryland would not be mixed use along Rt 1.
  - Determined that mushroom workers would not use a mixed-use trail along Route 1 so a bikeway on Baltimore Pike would be more beneficial to them and more direct between boroughs and mushroom houses.
  - Multi-use trail to Bancroft Rd would then link to New Garden Township trail network
- North/South connections will be part of the engineering process, but next group meeting will be 6-7 months later
- Mr. Doehring asked about bike lane to Longwood
  - Discussion continued about the work between Longwood and Walmart and the new lanes and sidewalks to go in.
- *Regional Trail Priorities and Map:*
  - Ms. Norland mentioned that the Regional Trail Committee worked on mapping out existing facilities and the map was reviewed by related parties.
  - The County is looking to release the map soon.

**Events:**

- *Birds, Brews & Books:*
  - In partnership with the Kennett Library, Kennett Greenway, and TLC.
  - Stores, restaurants, and businesses hosting plant pop-gardens, special beers/drinks, etc. on a tour around the Borough.
  - Pop-up garden will be at the Mushroom Festival entrance with additional gardens at the Creamery, Braeloch, and the Library and smaller ones at businesses.
  - Closing party will be at Braelock on 9/18.
- *Chandler Mill Public Open House:*
  - October 17<sup>th</sup> at TLC's Chandler Mill Nature Preserve with the consultants.
  - More info to come.

**Land Acquisition Updates:** No update.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm.

NOTE: September meeting to be held September 7<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abbie Kessler, Secretary