

KENNETT TOWNSHIP
TRAILS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE

October 4, 2022 Minutes

Held via zoom. Agenda posted September 30, 2022.

Present:

Committee Members:

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

Guests:

Graceann Diandrea (2)
Peter Doehring
John Wilkens

Township Representatives:

Kassie Zinzel

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

Administration:

- Ms. Norland asked to add the Barkingfield Park bridge to the agenda at Ms. McGovern's request. Mr. Karkosak motioned to add it with a second by Ms. Kessler and all in favor.
- Ms. Norland called for the approval of the September minutes. With no comments, Mr. Janton motioned for approval with Mr. Karkosak seconding and all in favor.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Trail Segment Updates:

- Barkingfield Park trail bridge-
 - This has been discussed before and there is a single board across it currently.
 - Tim Zador, BRC provided an estimate of less than \$1,000 for materials if approved by the Township.
 - Ms. Zinzel can take it back to the Township with Ms. McGovern's notes.
 - The committee agreed that it is a project that is a needed improvement to the Barkingfield trail network.
- Chandler Mill Greenway-
 - Permitting paperwork was submitted to all regulatory bodies. The paperwork is posted on the TSC page of the Township website.
 - Final design documentation will be presented to the public at the open house at Chandler Mill Nature Preserve on October 8 from 1-4.
 - The design reflects many months/years of discussions at the committee level and with neighbors and the public. There are public safety, traffic calming, and stormwater management elements throughout the design.
 - The road will be improved and streambank stabilized to protect the road and trail.

- Landscaping plan includes all the plants and requirements for the construction companies as to how to protect and maintain the various trees along the path.
- The bid package will require landscapers to maintain the plantings for one year with a guaranteed survival rate at the end of that year, which would require replacements if the plantings fall under that threshold.
- The township is still working on the maintenance plan.
- There were two heritage trees in the area of disturbance. The poplar died last year and was taken down. The oak will be retained and protected.
- Mr. Doehring had two questions as quoted from his submission to the committee:
 - “Can the information to be presented at Saturday’s open house be made available to the public? For example a PDF posted on the Trails and Sidewalks committee page with the various posters on display. If so, then I would request that the same be done with the Open House from a year ago. The reason I am requesting this is because, when I look back through the public record, I realize that members of the public, or even this committee, have not been presented with any detailed designs of the Greenway since the final design was voted on last June. The limited information is available on the Kennett Greenway site, not through the township.”
 - Ms. Norland believes Ms. Zinzel can post Saturday’s plans up on the TSC page, but the plans are already there as part of the permitting documents already posted. Last year’s open house plans were posted on the Kennett Greenway page for comments.
 - “I see through the page for the Trails and Sidewalks committee that permitting has begun. We already know that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on design since last June. So, what is the purpose of the open house, when important decisions about design appear to have already been made, and changes could require spending additional design dollars?”
 - Ms. Norland stated that the funds spent reflect the task orders over the last year and those include a final presentation, hence the open house. The public can ask questions and provide feedback that can be presented to the supervisors to do with as they wish.
- To clarify, if there are recommendations that come about from public input on Saturday, would they be considered? Ms. Norland stated that what the supervisors do with that info what they wish.
- Mr. Wilkens attended the last supervisors meeting at New Garden Township’s building and asked that when changes are made, the public is given a one-month period for comment. He said he was told that you cannot make major changes to a plan like this at this point and so the plan being presented on Saturday is basically a final plan.

Regional Trail Priorities:

- Kennett Connections Project
 - Mr. Karkosak reported on the last meeting and there were plans presented by Kennett, East Marlborough, and Kennett Square.
 - Some plans were picked as best candidates, but PennDOT has final say on anything done in that area.
 - All ideas will be presented at the watch party/workshop with details below.
- Chester County Trails Master Plan
 - Ms. Norland and Ms. Kessler are both on the master plan committee.
 - The goal is to track and document existing trails and networks and then prioritize gaps and needs and determine what residents want going forward.
 - Ms. McGovern asked if Brandywine Conservancy is involved related to the battlefield. BC is represented on the committee, but Ms. Kessler pointed out that the CCPC was behind the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force and the interpretation across the larger region so it will be a part of the plan since the CCPC is writing the plan.

Upcoming Events:

- TMACC Breakfast: Route 1 Corridor Updates on October 6th
 - This highlights the section along Route 1 from Longwood to Walmart and possibly further.
 - There is a cost as it is geared towards TMACC members.
- Chandler Mill Final Design Open House:
 - 1-4 on October 8th at Chandler Mill Nature Preserve
 - Plans for public review
 - Treats by Kennett Trails Alliance with kids activities and info by Brandywine Red Clay Alliance
- Planning Kennett Connections Workshop and Watch Party
 - Online and public workshop on October 26th at 6:30.
 - The watch party will be held at Kennett Presbyterian and allow people to watch and participate in the focus groups.

Land Development Updates: There is nothing presented to the Planning Commission.

Land Acquisition Updates: Discussed in executive session.

Public meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm and the Committee entered executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Abbie Kessler, Secretary