

Dec. 24, 2009

Minutes - Bike and Hike Trail Committee

11/18/2009

7:30 PM

**Warrington Township Building
852 Easton Road
Warrington, PA 18976**

Attendees: Paul Vollrath, Sharon Kaszan, Elmer O'Brien, Gerry Sapers, Barbara Burdack, Barbara Coyle

Liaisons: Carol Butterworth (Board of Supervisors)

Visitors: Bonny Baker (potential Committee member); Residents of Bradford Greene: Craig. A. Suber, Ron Clear, Steve Stasiw, Pamela Sporny, Ravi Kumal Raju

Public Comment

A delegation of residents of Bradford Greene, who claim to represent the wishes of their community, stated their desire for the construction of a bridge over the Little Neshaminy Creek, connecting their development to Lower Nike Park. They had been promised by their developer that such a bridge would be constructed. This project was proposed a number of years ago as part of the master trail plan and is approved for construction by the Township when funds are available. However, the residents were led to believe that imminent construction was assured, and that the inactivity on this project represented some disinterest by the Township or the Bike & Hike Trail Committee. Statements by Ms. Butterworth, Mr. O'Brien and others on the Committee assured the Bradford Greene residents that we also wish to see the bridge built at the earliest possible time.

At Ms. Butterworth's suggestion, a motion was made, seconded and passed by the Committee stating as follows: That in consideration of the need of the residents of the Bradford Greene Development for a bridge to provide their residents with safe access to Lower Nike Park and the trail system in order to benefit their health, safety and welfare, the Bike & Hike Trail Committee recommends that the securing of funds to permit implementation of this project, and the timely construction of this bridge be given a high priority.

Township resident Bonnie Baker suggested use of stepping stones, costing about \$800 each, as a means of crossing the Little Neshaminy Creek with little environmental impact. This approach has been used in the Wissahickon Creek watershed.

Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2009

A motion to approve the Minutes of October 21, 2009 was passed by a majority of the Committee with one abstention.

Old Business

Senior Hiking Club

Dr. Sapers briefed the Committee on his discussions with the Bucks County Coalition of Senior Communities (BCCSC) regarding the wording of an announcement of the Senior Hiking Club's formation. Ms. Butterworth indicated that we could use the word "support" in indicating the relationship between the proposed club and Warrington Township. A motion stating that the Committee supports the formation and development of a Warrington Senior Hiking Club was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

The signing of a waiver and need for a doctor's approval as a precondition for joining the club were discussed. Ms. Butterworth will secure the opinion of the Township Solicitor regarding the applicability of the Township's waiver form, reworded to fit its use by the Club.

Potential Eagle Scout Projects

No projects were suggested for our Committee

Trail Dedication

A suggestion of themes for naming trails will be passed on to the Park & Recreation Board.

New Business

The Bucks County Bicycle Task Force, represented by Andy Hamilton, is developing a map showing the location of every bike lane, sidewalk and street in the County which could be used to locate routes for travel from one place to another by bike. They are developing a "community tool box" which provides information on grant availability and on establishing trail connections, including those permitting east-west travel and connections to the Route 202 corridor trail. He will provide Mr. Vollrath with contact information.

Future events and initiatives

Mr. Vollrath will be running a survival training campout on December 12-13 for 14 boy scouts and their scout leaders from Troop 172. The camp-site will be off the paved trail along the Little Neshaminy Creek near the fishing derby location. They will learn navigation skills and how to build a lean-to.

A motion to adjourn at 9:08 PM was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald M. Sapers
Secretary