

Minutes - Bike and Hike Trail Committee

10/21/2009

7:30 PM

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

Attendees: Paul Vollrath, Sharon Kaszan, Gerry Sapers, Barbara Burdack, Barbara Coyle

Liaisons: Carolyn Hanel (Director of Administrative Services/Parks and Recreation)

Visitors: Bonny Baker (potential Committee member)

Public Comment

Bonnie Baker, a potential member of the Committee, was introduced to Committee members. She described her long-term interest in running and her involvement with organizations supporting this activity. Several of the Committee members provided Ms. Baker with an overview of the history of the Bike & Hike Committee, its accomplishments and future plans. Ms. Baker expressed an interest in joining the Committee.

Approval of Sept. 2, 2009 Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by a unanimous vote of the Committee.

Old Business

1. Bradford Trail Update

The trail between Lower Nike Park and the Bradford Dam is now paved in its entirety. An additional \$50,000 of Township funds (to match the previous trail-related grant) will be used to construct a boardwalk to cover a chronically wet and muddy section of the paved trail. Additionally, the money will be used for benches, trash barrels and other trail amenities.

2. Warrington Day

This year's Warrington Day had an attendance of about 5000 people. The Valley Square merchants were thrilled with the turn-out, although some merchants were unaware that the event would provide them with an opportunity to have sidewalk sales or other promotional activities. However, the P. F. Chang China Bistro complained that the inflatable amusements for children blocked their entrance. Next year the inflatables will be located elsewhere in Valley Square. Also, for next year's Warrington Day, bus routes will run between remote parking areas and Valley Square instead of serving the 55+ communities which, for the most part, did not make use of this service. It is hoped that this change will attract more riders. Dr. Sapers suggested that more of an effort be made to inform residents of 55+ communities about Warrington Day events that would be of interest to seniors

3. 2009 Fishing Derby

Dr. Sapers briefly summarized the results of the 2009 fishing derby which were more fully described in a report appended to the Sept. 2 Minutes. He suggested having an additional fishing event in the spring to compensate for the small number of participants in September necessitated by the change in venue. This would be contingent on recovery of fish populations in the Bradford Reservoir/Little Neshaminy Creek watershed that probably were severely impacted by drainage of the Reservoir for maintenance.

4. Lingo Subdivision

The Township has been offered the option of getting an easement to construct a creek-side trail in the Lingo Subdivision or having this area classified as open space. Ms. Hanel explained why the Township should choose the open space option so that we would not be locked into a trail configuration that might not mesh with connector trails from other developments. A motion to recommend acceptance of the open space option was passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

New Business

1. Hiking Club Proposal

Dr. Sapers presented a proposal to create a hiking club in Warrington attuned to the recreational needs and limitations of seniors. The club might be affiliated in some manner with the Bike & Hike Trail Committee and also might have some relationship with the Bucks County Coalition of Senior Communities. The Committee expressed strong support for the establishment of such a club. Dr. Sapers raised the issue of liability coverage in the event of an injury or cardiac incident occurring during an organized hike. Ms. Hamel indicated that the Township would not provide liability protection for such a group. However, she did describe a type of waiver that could be signed by prospective club members to absolve the club of any responsibility for a hiking-related incident. She will provide the committee with an example of such a waiver. Also, she indicated her support for the establishment of a senior hiking club that would not be a program of the Committee or Township, but which would receive support in the form of publicity, photocopying, mailings to residents of senior communities, etc. In advance of our next meeting, Dr. Sapers will draft for Committee approval an announcement of our intent to establish a hiking club and invitation to seniors to join.

2. Eagle Scout Projects Listing

The Committee reviewed a list of proposed projects which might be suitable for Eagle Scout candidates. Boy Scout George Gradwell will undertake the repair of a trail linking the John Barclay Elementary School to adjacent neighborhoods. The possibility of involving Girl Scouts in such projects was discussed.

Future Events and Initiatives

1. Mr. Vollrath is making progress in getting his outdoor survival program up and running.
2. Trail Day in 2010 will be held on the first Saturday in June (June 5). The possibility of having a trail dedication on that date was discussed. Alternatively, the trail dedication could be

held on the same day as a spring fishing event. Dr. Sapers suggested naming the trail after someone who was instrumental in establishment of the trail system.

3. The Committee was informed that residents of Bradford Greene would support construction of a bridge over the Little Neshaminy Creek, linking their development to Lower Nike Park. Ms. Hanel indicated that she would prepare a grant application for funds to construct such a bridge when an applicable funding program was announced.

A motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald M. Sapers
Secretary