

# Neshaminy Greenway Trail - Dark Hollow Park

## Citizens Advisory Design Committee

### October 25, 2022 – Meeting Minutes

#### Attendees:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Marie Carota      | Pebble Hill Road resident                        |
| Andrea Stout      | Buckingham Township EAC                          |
| Louise Silberg    | Buckingham Township Park & Recreation Commission |
| Judy Hendrixson   | Doylestown Township Bike & Hike Committee        |
| Stephanie Mason   | Doylestown Township Manager                      |
| Jeannine Mitchell | Doylestown Township EAC                          |
| Curtis Sawyer     | Doylestown Township EAC                          |
| Greg Mester       | Warwick Township Tree Committee                  |
| Ken Jones         | Neshaminy Creek Watershed Association            |
| Jim Walter        | Penn State Master Watershed Steward              |
| Nicolas Macelo    |  |
| Chris Cook        | Bucks County Conservation District               |
| Karen Ogden       | Bucks County Conservation District               |
| Chris Stanford    | Michael Baker, Inc.                              |
| Bill Torr         | Michael Baker, Inc.                              |
| Evan Stone        | Bucks County Planning Commission                 |
| Rich Brahler      | Bucks County Planning Commission                 |
| Christian Regosch | Bucks County Planning Commission                 |

- The meeting began with Rich Brahler providing an overview of the work accomplished since the last CADC meeting held on May 2, 2022. The Archeological work has been completed. An easement with BCWSA has been executed. The PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit has been approved. The Erosion and Sedimentation plans have been approved. The DEP Permit was submitted in May and we have received an “administratively complete” notice from DEP.
- Chris Stanford then discussed the latest construction plans. The plans have been uploaded to the project website. Discussion items from the group included type of materials to be used to line the stormwater channel on BCWSA property, chain link fence specifications, cut and fill options during trail construction, avoidance of existing trees and confirmation that Valley Road loop trail has been changed to out and back.
- Chris Stanford then discussed the latest landscaping plans. The plans have been revised based upon prior feedback from the group. Namely, the design has been reworked to use specific species as suggested by the group. Also, the rain garden has been removed and replaced with vegetated swales near the parking lot at Valley Road. Discussion items from the group included providing deer protection for the trees and shrubs to be installed,

snow removal on the parking lot and how it impacts the vegetation, tree installation size and plant list options that provide adequate root depth to ensure the riparian buffer functions properly.

- Chris Stanford then discussed the pollinator garden concept. The pollinator garden has been relocated to the area of the trail near the farm fields. Discussion focused on invasive species removal and deer protection.
- Chris Stanford continued his discussion of the trail including descriptions of many features proposed along the trail including:
  - The avoidance of several large trees as identified by the tree survey
  - The flagging of wetlands during the design process which helped minimize intrusion of the trail into these sensitive areas
  - The use of three – 50’ sections of boardwalk for waterway crossings
  - Improvements to the heavily eroded drainage channel on the BCWSA property
- The removal and ongoing control of invasive species was discussed. Chris indicated that the initial plan calls for removal within 10’ of the trail and that the recommendation would be to apply environmentally and animal friendly herbicides and pesticides.
- Re-seeding along the edges of the trail was also discussed. Chris Stanford indicated that the current design calls for using a naturalized groundcover/wildflower Ernst mix.
- Rich then provided the next steps of the project. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, the county will advertise that the plans are available for public comment. This comment period will be until November 11, 2022 and will be announced via our social media outlets. Once that’s complete, the consultant will revise the plans, if needed and finalize the plans. Once finalized, the design will be deemed complete. The project must be completed by December 31, 2022 since that’s when our funding agencies contracts expire.