

East Norriton Township – July 16, 2008
Liberty Bell Trail Public Meeting

The Liberty Bell Trail Public Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Lewis McQuirns, at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2008, at the Township Municipal Building. Supervisors present were Donald J. Gracia, Lewis K. McQuirns, James K. Staufenberg, James J. Serratore and Karen “Kandy” Heckman.

Following roll call, Mr. Gracia offered a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was then recited by all in attendance.

The Chairman then reviewed the purpose of the meeting. Mr. McQuirns explained that East Norriton Township is developing a segment of the Liberty Bell Trail within the Township as a non-motorized trail to link residential areas to commercial centers, regional trails, parks, open space and other destinations. The ultimate Liberty Bell Trail system extends for over twenty-five miles, between East Norriton Township in Montgomery County and Quakertown in Bucks County. The Township trail project will provide a protection for environmentally sensitive areas and create additional recreational amenity and transportation alternative for residents making trips between local destinations. East Norriton Township is working with the landscape architecture firm Simone Collins of Berwyn, Chester County, PA and the Louis Berger Group, engineers of Exton, PA to prepare the design for the 1.25 mile trail segment within the Township.

Assistant Township Manager, Donald Delamater reported that a notice about the public meeting was sent to all the residents that attended the last meeting as well as the residents directly affected in the area of the trail. Included with the notice were minutes from the April 25, 2008 staff meeting with Simone Collins that reviewed the questions and comments that came up during the last public meeting. Betty Johnston of Mill Road

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questioned the impact on the wetlands and asked if the trail is being built in a floodplain. The representative from Simone Collins will have to look into that question.

A representative from Simone Collins gave a presentation on the Liberty Bell Trail.

Michael Barattucci of 2323 Coles Blvd questioned the impact of the additional vehicles and the parking on Coles Blvd to access the trail. He also noted of the criminal activity currently in this area. Mr. Stralkowski of Norris City Avenue asked whose idea was it for the location of the trail. John Ginther of Barbara Drive explained the additional safety created because of the transparency on the developed trails.

Michael Barattucci of 2323 Coles Blvd questioned the impact of the additional traffic from the Norristown area and the development of Logan Square. Mr. Stralkowski questioned the amount of parking spaces available at the two access points (Coles Blvd and Colonial Drive). Mr. Stralkowski suggested using Johnson Hwy along PADOT as access to the Farm Park. A resident stated she believes in the principal of the establishment of the trails but the township must be cognizant of the neighborhood concerns. A resident suggested the use of permit parking to control parking and have others park at the township building or the Farm Park and access the trail. Many residents expressed concerns with the safe crossing at Swede Road. A resident questioned if a fence will be installed for safety.

Pete Corbo of 2300 Swede Road had questions on the privacy issues. Michael Barattucci of 2323 Coles Blvd questioned if it is legal to use the trail now since it is privately owned by PECO. Mr. Roderick a resident from Coles Blvd questioned if handicapped parking would be established on Coles Blvd. Mr. Duffy of Hartranft Blvd

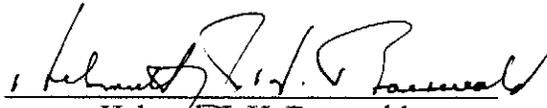
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reiterated the dangerous condition of Swede Road. Mr. Corbo questioned the liability of the adjacent property owners if users of the trail wander off the trail onto their properties.

A resident asked the township to really consider the safety aspects of the trail.

Township Supervisors, staff and representatives of Simone Collins responded to the resident's comments and concerns.

Mr. Gracia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. After requesting any comments and there being none, the motion was seconded by Mr. Staufenberg and approved unanimously.



Helmut J. H. Baerwald
Secretary

