



11/15/07

East Norriton Township – Liberty Bell Trail Design and Engineering

SC# 06099.10

Public Meeting #1- MINUTES

Date/Time: 11/08/2008, 6:30PM

Location: East Norriton Township (ENT) Municipal Building

In Attendance: Helmuth Baerwald – Manager, ENT
Larry Brown – Director of Parks and Recreation, ENT
Donald D. Delamater – Assistant Manager, ENT
Donald Gracia – Chairman, ENT Board of Supervisors
Joe Dietrich – Louis Berger Group
Kandy Heckman – ENT Board of Supervisors
Erik Karlsson – Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC)
John McGowan – ENT Chief of Police
Lewis K. McQuirns – Vice Chairman, ENT Board of Supervisors
Beth Pilling – Montgomery County Trails Coordinator
James J. Serratore III – ENT Board of Supervisors
Samirah Steinmeyer – SC
*Sign in sheet attached

1. Beth P. began the meeting by introducing the overall Montgomery County trail network, and how the Liberty Bell Trail fits into that network. She briefly discussed the trail's history and the importance of the East Norriton portion of the trail.
2. Samirah S. presented the Liberty Bell Trail analysis and preliminary design and goals. Trail types, trail users and options for trail surfaces were reviewed. Existing trail conditions, preferred trail alignments, and the preliminary trail design were described. Joe D. discussed challenges with crossing Swede Road and presented the preliminary crossing design. Joe also discussed options for stormwater management.
3. After the presentation, those in attendance were asked for their ideas, suggestions and concerns about the Liberty Bell Trail preliminary design.
4. Comments/Suggestions pertaining to the Liberty Bell Trail included:
 - Concerns over the trail crossing at Swede Road. It was noted that there is a high volume of traffic at this intersection and that the narrowing of the road

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could possibly increase the number of accidents. The suggestion was made to explore the option of constructing a bridge or tunnel to cross this road.

- Residents are opposed to having one space for handicapped parking located along Norris City Avenue. Parking for the PennDOT Drivers Training facility was located along Norris City Avenue in the past, and residents fought to have it removed. They are concerned about littering and noise associated with public parking.
 - Issues with the proposed trail alignment near the sewer facility were expressed. It was noted that the treatment plant sometimes emits a foul odor and that stormwater runoff can be very heavy during storms, flooding the area. The suggestion was made to consider a trail alignment behind the pumping station with a new bridge over East Branch Stony Creek.
 - A resident requested to maintain a sidewalk on both sides of the bridge on Norris City Avenue was made, so that pedestrians are not required to cross the street in order to cross the bridge.
 - A resident noted that he believed the bridge along Norris City Avenue may have structural issues that need to be considered.
 - A comment was made that the 1.25 mile long Phase One portion of the trail did not offer a satisfactory trail experience. The design team noted the fact that the portion of the trail under discussion is only Phase One of an overall 25 mile long trail that will connect to a larger trail network.
 - The suggestion was made that the Township instead use the trail funds for Phase Three bicycle routes.
 - The idea to put stone dust on either side of the trail was offered.
 - Concerns about maintaining a sense of privacy and delineating a clear boundary between adjacent homes and the proposed trail were expressed.
 - Residents expressed frustration with PennDOT over promises made in the past that it has not kept, such as the promise to construct a 12' berm with White Pines between the PennDOT facility and residences along Norris City Avenue.
 - Residents expressed a desire to maintain a quiet, private setting along the trail. They were concerned that trail users may enter their property uninvited. Other concerns include the use of the trail by motor bikes, patients at a local hospital, and criminals.
 - Residents reported a high level of crime in their neighborhood and expressed concern that the trail will increase criminal activity.
 - There is concern about whether or not the police will effectively patrol and monitor the trail. Concern was expressed about the unresponsiveness of the police to their needs and concerns.
 - During storms, flooding occurs over parts of the trail and within the yards of several residents in attendance. Residents requested that these issues be acknowledged and addressed.
 - Residents expressed concern regarding noise and privacy associated with proposed seating areas by their homes.
 - The question was asked about whether there would be lighting along the trail. Erik K. explained that the trail would be treated in the same way as a park, with hours of operation from dusk until dawn. Because the trail would be closed to the public after dark, the Township does not plan to provide lighting.
5. A resident asked if it was certain that the trail would be constructed. Donald Gracia, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said that the trail is not a "done deal" as currently planned. He added that SC will address the issues that were brought up by the residents. The Township Supervisors will make the final decisions regarding the trail.

6. Attendees of the presentation were told that they have sixty days to review and comment on the proposed design, which will be posted on the Township website. Written comments are to be emailed/mailed to the Township.

Next Meeting: Public Meeting #2 will be held in early 2008 (date to be announced after the comment period has closed). The meeting location will be at the East Norriton Municipal Township Building.

Respectfully Submitted,
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Erik Karlsson, RLA
Project Manager

CC: Larry Brown, Director of Parks and Recreation, East Norriton Township
William Collins, Simone Collins Landscape Architecture
Don Delamater, Assistant Township Manager, East Norriton Township
Joe Dietrich, The Louis Berger Group
Beth Pilling, Montgomery County

Liberty Bell Trail public meeting 11/8/07

Name	Address
Nadine Reiff	2319 Coles Boulevard
Mike and Cora Barattucci	2323 Coles Blvd.
EDWARD / DUFFY	206 W HARTMAN BLVD
Ron & Cookie Stralkowski	509 Morris City Ave
Beth Pilline	HCPC
Rick W. Williams	516 B... Dr.
Helene Corbo	2300 Swede Rd
ANN Corbo	2406 Swede Rd
Carmel Nabelit	2201 Swede Rd
John Nabelit	2201 Swede Rd
BOB FITCH	2315 Coles Blvd.
Elizabeth Johnson	132 Mill Road
Tim Dugas	134 Mill Road
Mike Howell	2945 STONEY CREEK RD
Tina Howell	" " "
Cliff & Sue Wood	515 Morris City Ave