

# Newtown Rail Trail

## Meeting – March 8, 2022

### Minutes

#### Meeting Attendees:

- Chris Green – Gilmore and Associates – [cgreen@gilmore-assoc.com](mailto:cgreen@gilmore-assoc.com)
- Angie Nagle – Bucks County Parks and Recreation – [ajnagle@buckscounty.org](mailto:ajnagle@buckscounty.org)
- Kevin Spencer – Bucks County Director of Operations – [ksspencer@buckscounty.org](mailto:ksspencer@buckscounty.org)
- Rich Brahler – Bucks County Planning Commission – [rgbrahler@buckscounty.org](mailto:rgbrahler@buckscounty.org)
- Christian Regosch – Bucks County Planning Commission – [cpregosch@buckscounty.org](mailto:cpregosch@buckscounty.org)
- Paul Gordon – Bucks County Planning Commission – [pwgordon@buckscounty.org](mailto:pwgordon@buckscounty.org)
- Kirsten Becker – Churchville Nature Center – [klbecker@buckscounty.org](mailto:klbecker@buckscounty.org)
- Bill Woodroffe – Churchville Nature Center – [wpwoodroffe@buckscounty.org](mailto:wpwoodroffe@buckscounty.org)

#### 1. Meeting Purpose

- Discuss the alignment of the Nature Center's connector trail to the Newtown Rail Trail.
- Conduct a field observation of the proposed alignment for the connector trail and observe the Newtown Rail Trail bed.

#### 2. Overall Concept Plan

- Chris Green provided the group with sectioned map for the entire span of this phase of the Newtown Rail Trail.
- Chris noted that for this meeting we'll focus on sections 12 to 14 which cover the connector trail within the Nature Center

#### 3. Section 14

- Chris reviewed the final the final section of the plan, asking how this section should connect to the parking lot.
- Bill and Kirsten commented that the trail should end at the junction behind the Nature Center building by the entrance of the Leni-Lenape Village. They mentioned that a bike rack should be place in this location.
- After a group discussion it was determined that trail users would walk their bike from the parking lot to the trail entrance.

#### 4. Section 13

- Chris highlighted the conceptual trail alignment on the plan, the group noted that the trail should hug the edge of the Nature Center property for as long as it could.
- Chris then noted that a crossing of stream will be needed. He asked if this crossing could be shared with a nearby walking trail.
- The group said no, the connector trail and the walking trail need to be separated as much as site conditions permit.
- It was agreed that a separate crossing will be developed for the multi-use trail and the existing hiking trail boardwalk will remain to keep bikes off the hiking trails.

- Kevin Spencer noted that any chain-link fence that will be installed on the trail should be vinyl coated.

#### **5. Section 12**

- Chris noted that this is the most topographically diverse section, this section covers two hills and the existing rail bed.
- Through group discussion it was determined the hilly terrain presents unforeseen challenges for the proposed alignment. It was discussed that because of the topography that the trail may have to turn off the rail trail earlier than previously thought to be ADA compliant.
- It was also noted that having the trail turn off the rail bed earlier may result in interference with the Nature Center's existing walking trails. It was again reiterated that these uses need to stay separated as much as possible.

#### **6. Field Observation - Churchville Connector Trail Section**

- **Section 14**
  - i. A sewer easement seems to run beneath portion of the section.
- **Section 13**
  - i. Two ephemeral streams appear in the area, at least one appears to be caused by drainage from a nearby neighborhood.
- **Section 12**
  - i. Observation of the area provided further confirmation that grading the area would cause a great deal of damage to its natural feel. Therefore, the trail may have to turn out of the rail bed earlier than anticipated.

#### **7. Field Observation – Rail Bed from Connector Trail to Iron Works Creek Culvert**

- Chris noted that the rail bed could be graded to a lower level to help facilitate development of the trail within the rail bed corridor.

#### **8. Follow up actions**

- Gilmore & Associates will continue with the developing the plan and working with their subcontractors to complete their analysis of the alignment. This includes archaeological data gathering and inspection of the Iron Works Creek Culvert.