

Minutes

Walkersville Planning Commission Meeting

November 8, 2022

Commission Chairman David Ennis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with members Mike Kuster, Dick Brady, Ray Santullo, Nathan Shatto, Russ Winch and Gary Baker present. Also present were Town Planner Susan Hauver and Communications Specialist Ashley Bailey. The meeting was also live-streamed on the Town's website.

1. Minutes

Member Brady made a motion, seconded by Member Winch, to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2022 meeting as corrected. The motion passed on a vote of 7-0.

2. Comprehensive Plan Update: Pennsylvania Avenue area / bike trail

Mr. Joe Kelley, Frederick County Bicycle / Pedestrian Coordinator, updated Commission members on the proposed rail-trail from Frederick to Walkersville. The first phase, for which the County has received a grant for construction, will extend from Monocacy Boulevard to Fountain Rock Park. The County has also received a grant to design the section between Fountain Rock Park and Devilbiss Bridge Road. The design work would begin in mid-2023. Longer term they would like to tie in safe access to Utica Park via Devilbiss Bridge Road. Eventually, the trail is planned to extend to Woodsboro. Genesee and Wyoming currently owns the section of tracks between Glade Road and Woodsboro. The railroad right-of-way is 66 feet wide at the narrowest and 150 feet wide at the widest.

Member Winch asked if they were accounting for the speeds of e-bikes in the design. Mr. Kelley noted that the path could be widened to accommodate e-bikes or e-bikes could be restricted based on their speeds. Member Ennis noted that only Level 1 e-bikes are permitted in national parks. Level 2 are permitted by the State now. Level 3 e-bikes would not be acceptable on the trail. Member Brady confirmed that path would initially be 10 feet wide.

In response to a question from Member Santullo, Mr. Kelley said there were no plans for call boxes (they assume people carry cell phones) or for bathroom facilities. Frederick County Parks and Recreation will oversee the maintenance of the trail. In response to a question from Member Shatto, Mr. Kelley said they could restrict vehicular access with the use of bollards. Member Baker asked about the proposed bridge across the Monocacy, and Mr. Kelley confirmed it would be separate from the existing rail bridge.

Mr. Winch asked about screening from area residences. Mr. Kelley said that fencing along the farm fields had been addressed in the first phase, and he expected it would be addressed in future phases.

With regard to the area north of the bowling alley, Mr. Kelley said he expected to work with Lonza to locate the trail to the west of the tracks. The consultants working on the design will make a public presentation at the 30% design phase. Commission members suggested holding a joint workshop with the Town Burgess and Commissioners.

Mr. Kelley said that he was also working on plans to fill in missing links of sidewalks throughout the County. He would like to get a sidewalk installed along MD 194 north between Glade Boulevard and Deer Run Drive.

Mr. Paul Kovalcik of the Walkersville Southern Railroad updated the Commission members about crossing projects they have in the works at Devilbiss Bridge Road and Pennsylvania Avenue. He also noted that the railroad has had a lot of input into the design of the first phase of the rail-trail.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Hauver