

PRINCETON: Contract awarded for bike-pedestrian path

By Kristine Snodgrass, Staff Writer

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The Princeton Township Committee awarded a contract Monday night for the completion of a half-mile missing link of the Stony Brook Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways and Bridges system.

Fifteen bids were received for the project, and the low bid of \$958,565.75 by Let It Grow Inc., of River Edge, was selected, Township Engineer Bob Kiser said.

The winning bid came in 21 percent below the estimate for the project, which is funded primarily through several grants the township has received, he said.

The new path will complete a missing link in the pathway system, linking the Washington Oaks area with the Hun School of Princeton and the areas to the north along the Stony Brook, he said. More precisely, the path begins at Route 206 and Hutchinson Drive and follows the property line of the JSJ Jasna Polana golf course.

The path, which runs primarily downhill, will be stone surfaced with gravel dust like the towpath of the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park, said Deanna Stockton, township design engineer. Construction will involve limited tree clearing, installation of two bridges and an elevated timber walkway, she said.

One of the bridges will span the Stony Brook while the other replaces an existing footbridge over a small tributary stream, she said.

A switchback walkway also will be constructed in order to moderate a steep slope for Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility, she said.

Construction is expected to begin this winter, and the contract allows for completion in 2011, she said. The contractor's schedule has not yet been provided to the township, she said.

Wendy Mager, president of the Friends of Princeton Open Space, spoke during public comment to thank the Township Committee and the Engineering Department for its hard work on the project over about a decade.

Mr. Kiser recognized the group earlier in the meeting for its work in initiating and supporting the project.

"We're very pleased and encouraged to see this linkage of open spaces in the township moving forward," Ms. Mager said.

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