

Active Transportation Committee
December 6, 2024 Zoom Meeting Summary

The following members were present at the meeting:

Matt Price, George Conrad, Laura White, Brian Wiser, Nathan Querry, Laurie Nearhood, Judy Scott, Alisha Grove, Debra Clark

Others in attendance included:

Jeff McCauley, President, September 11th National Memorial Trail (via Zoom)

Quick recap

Matt and Judy discussed the progress of various trail segments, grant applications, and joint municipal park projects, with a focus on creating multi-use trails and involving property owners and the community in the planning process. Also discussed was the potential for a county-wide authority for parks and trails; the importance of sidewalk requirements in municipalities; the potential for increased tourism along the East Broad Top railroad corridor; and ongoing efforts to promote active transportation plans and the progress on the Roth Rock State Forest project.

Next steps

Judy to finalize and present the Powerpoint for segment 1 to the subcommittee for review before submission to ACCO.

Matt to follow up with Northeast Track Solutions regarding Segment 13 and the crossing of the Norfolk Southern rail line.

Nathan and Jim Campbell to draft a letter for property owner outreach regarding Segment 17.

Brian to contact Clay Township and Saltillo Borough about adopting the Active Transportation Plan.

Request Moose Harper's assistance with Three Springs Borough adoption of the Active Transportation Plan.

Laura to coordinate with York County Trails Authority for a Q&A session at the January 31st meeting. A planning team to discuss potential questions and structure for this session.

Summary

Meeting Schedule

Laurie provided a list of 2025 meeting dates, based on the current meeting schedule. The schedule identifies a January 3rd and January 31st meeting.

Trail Segment Progress and Grants

Matt, Judy, and Jeffrey discussed the progress of various trail segments and possible grant applications. Judy reported that the PowerPoint presentation for Segment 1 was completed this week and would be reviewed by the subcommittee before submission to ACCO. She explained two individuals the possibility of the Blair County Rails to Trails group taking over the Lower Trail extension. Brian suggested including

any progress made on these projects in the progress report to PA WalkWorks. Matt and Judy discussed the progress and plans for the Alexandria Borough/ Porter Township Park. They agreed on the objective of creating a multi-use trail, with a preference for a 10- or 12-foot wide path, but acknowledged that in some areas it might only be 8 feet wide due to land constraints. Judy mentioned that the Borough has restrictions against horses, but the main issue is maintaining the trail. They also discussed the importance of involving property owners and the community in the planning process. Judy confirmed that they are working on a plan to extend the walkway from the footbridge to the tennis courts.

Eagle Scout Project

Judy shared that a recent Eagle Scout project included the completion of the walkway on the Alexandria Borough side of the bridge. She suggested that another Eagle Scout project could be completion of the path on the Medical Center side of the bridge.

Northeast Track Solutions - Segment 13

Matt mentioned the need for additional discussions with Northeast Track Solutions. He also noted a decision will need to be made regarding how to pay for Northeast Track Solutions for their services. Jeff noted the cost is usually \$200/\$250 per hour, but the organization is very efficient. He explained a lot of due diligence is to be done before getting to purchase. He also advised patience in the process.

Mapleton Fire Trail Project - Street Ownership, Landowner Engagement Strategy

Nathan discussed a visit to the Mapleton Borough Council meeting, where he sought information about the ownership of a street in front of the former Earl Kyle property. He learned the property was sold to Chris Roberts in a tax sale. Nathan had a productive discussion with Chris Roberts who gave preliminary approval to the trail going through his property. He also learned the road rights/ownership appear to be owned by Benjamin Ramsey. Mike Corbin expressed willingness to reach out to Benjamin. Nathan also mentioned the Benny Screws property may be an issue as the property is owned by the Screws and Himes families and they appear reluctant to allow anyone else on the property.

Brian expressed caution about contacting landowners, emphasizing the need for a clear plan and funding source before engaging with them. Judy agreed, suggesting that the project's facts and vision should be shared with landowners, and any misinformation should be addressed firmly. Matt highlighted the importance of identifying a sponsoring organization for the project. The team agreed to proceed with caution, opening dialogue with landowners and sharing the project's concept, while avoiding over-promising or over-describing the project's details.

Promoting Active Transportation and Sidewalks

Matt reported that he and Laurie participated in a November 20th Penn State Extension Webinar presenting information on Huntingdon County's Active Transportation Plan and focusing on lifeway corridors. Other webinar participants included representatives of Quarryville Borough and Verona Borough. Both Boroughs have completed transportation plans and are also focusing on implementation. It was noted that Matt spoke about the County's Plan development and the importance of the identified lifeway corridors; and Laurie spoke about the County Planning Commission's implementation role in regard to subdivision and land development. Three examples included in the presentation were the Endres Subdivision in Porter Township and the proposed Dollar General Stores in Broad Top City and

Marklesburg. Laurie explained one question that was asked was if the County Planning Commission could reach out to developers regarding adding sidewalks and/or trails to these developments. Since the County has no adopted ordinances and all development approvals are through the local municipal governments, the Planning Commission's role is review and advisory only. Brian commented the Planning Commission could develop and propose alternate sidewalk language for subdivision and land development ordinances. This information could then be provided to municipalities for consideration.

The potential for increased tourism along the East Broad Top Railroad corridor was discussed along with the need for pedestrian infrastructure along the corridor.

County-Wide Authority for Parks and Trails

The potential for a county-wide authority for parks and trails was discussed. It was agreed to reach out to York County or Union County as they have active organizations. Laura agreed to reach out to the York County representative to discuss potential collaboration and suggested inviting them to participate in a meeting for a question and answer session on January 31st.

Matt noted the application procedure has been established for the Visitors Bureau Trails Maintenance Fund.

George reported progress on the Rothrock State Forest project.

It was noted the next meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2025 at 9:30 AM.

(Summary last edited by Laurie Nearhood, Huntingdon County Planning (Host) Jan 3, 2025)