

**HUNTINGDON COUNTY ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

March 28, 2025

Committee Members: Matt Price, George Conrad, Matt Bjorkman, Laura White, Nathan Query

Stakeholders, visitors, and ex-officio members: Laurie Nearhood, James Campbell, Jeff McCauley, Brian Wiser

Matt Price called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Review and Action on February 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Corrections to the February 28, 2025 meeting minutes were noted to the Committee. A motion to approve the February 28, 2025 meeting minutes as corrected was made by George Conrad and seconded by Laura White. The motion carried.

9/11 Trail/Main Line Canal Greenway Subcommittee Report:

Nathan Query provided updates for Segment 17. He attended the March Mapleton Borough Council Meeting hoping to meet with Mike Corbin, but Mike was not present. Nathan asked the Borough Secretary to reach out to Mike to set up a call with Benjamin Ramsey, a landowner along the segment. Mike said that he will try to get in contact with Benjamin. Nathan is waiting to hear back from Mike on if he was able to contact Benjamin.

Brian Wiser provided updates on Segment 19, stating that there is not much that can be done until a property transfer is completed. The property transfer would need to be completed before any funding applications can be pursued, and mentioned the need for patience on the part of the Committee. Matt Price explained he conducted reconnaissance on the segment and mentioned a pull-off spot on the Mifflin County side of the Kistler Bridge. Matt mentioned this area could be a potential trailhead and logical terminus for the Huntingdon County portion of the project. Brian has previously discussed the project with Mifflin County Planning Director Jim Lettiere and Jim still has a desire to complete the project on the Mifflin County portion of the segment. Rather than waiting to involve Jim until later in the planning process, Brian recommended inviting Jim now. Laurie Nearhood agreed to reach out to Jim in time for the April meeting.

Outreach and Education Subcommittee Report:

Matt Bjorkman mentioned he has been talking to Bedford County about their plans for a county-wide trail planning effort. Matt also mentioned that SAP&DC is applying to DCED for funds to complete a six-county Regional Greenways Plan that will require some input from the ATC. Laurie Nearhood noted that each County is asked to provide matching funds for the Greenways Plan.

Lifeways Subcommittee Report:

Matt Price asked if the plan for the new Dollar General in Warriors Mark Township has been submitted. Laurie said that it has not been submitted to Huntingdon County and, Peter Liese, a Warriors Mark Supervisor, has mentioned the Township has not seen the plan yet. Laurie mentioned that Three Springs Borough submitted a proposed subdivision and land development ordinance for County Planning Commission review. Review comments to include recommendations for sidewalks and pedestrian accommodations will be submitted to the Borough. Matt said that the Friends of East Broad Top and the EBT Foundation have been actively clearing in Three Springs and Saltillo. Laurie discussed a major subdivision of the Roberts property in Union and Juniata Townships that would create 10 lots from three existing parcels of property. Part of the property is near the Terrace Mountain Trail, but the trail does not cross property that is being subdivided. The county is preparing to send out their comments on the subdivision.

Trail Network Connections Subcommittee Report:

Matt Price discussed a request from the Rothrock Trail Alliance for a letter of support for their Greenwood Furnace project. The letter is due Monday (March 31) and will be submitted by Matt. George Conrad has submitted a letter for the project from the Standing Stone Trail Club and Laurie Nearhood submitted a letter from the County Planning Department.

George mentioned that the Rothrock Trail Alliance, the Standing Stone Trail Club, and the Mid-State Trail Association met with DCNR on March 7, 2025, to discuss ideas on how to collaborate to keep existing trails maintained. George discussed an upcoming Standing Stone Trail Club meeting on April 5, 2025 and encouraged anyone interested to attend. Keystone Trails Association is having their Spring Hiking Weekend at Raystown Resort at the end of April.

George mentioned that DCNR has the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps coming in to do some projects in Rothrock State Forest. In April, the Corps will do trail maintenance on Round Top Trail. In May, they will be in the Butler's Knob section to do a reroute. In the fall, they will be in northern Huntingdon County to rehabilitate six trail bridges.

George gave an update from the Meadow Gap PennDOT meeting on March 18, 2025. The bridge project on Meadow Gap Road will begin in the summer of 2026. George and Laurie mentioned to PennDOT that the road is an active trail and to try to devise a plan that trail users can safely get around the construction when it begins. He also mentioned that the Thousand Steps Trail will have rehabilitation work done at the view to stabilize the banks.

Matt Price mentioned he was invited by PennDOT to be a consulting party for the Elliots Run Bridge project outside of Three Springs. Matt does not think that the Standing Stone Trail uses the bridge to cross Elliots Run. Matt noted April 14, 2025, is the PennDOT Huntingdon County Outreach Meeting.

Matt Bjorkman gave an update on the Saxton Trail Connectivity Study. He mentioned that the consultant has completed the majority of its public outreach and is in the process of developing the study. George Conrad said that he was contacted and provided input.

Recreation and Trails Authority:

Laura White began the discussion on Recreation and Trails Authority. The Committee members stated that they have not had any contact with Blair County and their plans of potentially forming a Recreation/Trails Authority. Matt Price mentioned that Blair County is in the process of using the county room tax to fund trail development within the county. The timeline for when this will happen is still uncertain. Matt also mentioned that Bedford County has approved an increase in their room tax, and Fulton County just instituted a room tax for the first time. Brian Wisner mentioned a conversation he had with Vince Greenland, from PennDOT District 9, where Vince reiterated that they are a committed partner to the Authority.

Laurie brought up continuing to stay involved in the PennDOT outreach processes. Brian responded saying the best time to be involved and make an impact is during the outreach meetings that PennDOT holds at the end of the preliminary design process. The Committee agreed on the importance of orienting Borough Councils and Township Supervisors about the active transportation priorities and ensuring they are aware of the planning process.

Other Business:

Matt Price discussed a new funding opportunity that he was made aware of from the People, Parks and Community Foundation, which supports projects in under-resourced communities in Pennsylvania. Laurie Nearhood said that grant funds are available through the National Realtors Association that provides grants through their local associations, with reimbursement for approved projects.

Jeff McCauley mentioned the September 11th Trail Alliance received a grant through the Housing and Urban Development Administration for signage installation across Pennsylvania. Jeff is hoping he can work with the Committee and municipalities for approval to install signage where needed. Jeff requested help with outreach regarding the signage installation.

Matt Price discussed the impact of the Federal government's hiring freeze and credit card moratorium on the Army Corp of Engineers' operation at Raystown Lake. The freeze has hindered the hiring of seasonal maintenance staff, while the credit card moratorium has limited the purchase of essential equipment. As a result, the opening of Seven Points campground has been delayed until April 18, 2025. There is a risk that Seven Points may not open at all if the hiring freeze is not lifted or the exemption requests, which have been submitted, are not approved. Matt mentioned that trails, boat launches and beaches will still open. The hiring freeze primarily impacts the campgrounds.

With no other discussion, the meeting was adjourned.