

## Meeting Summary for ATC Meeting

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### Quick recap

The Active Transportation Committee meeting, led by Matt Price, covered various topics including the progress of trail projects, land use issues, and potential improvements to hiking destinations. Discussions included updates on the mainland canal subcommittee, the Pennsylvania Recreational Land Use Statute, and unauthorized camping near trails. The committee also addressed upcoming alternative spring break programs for college students and potential collaborations with conservation organizations.

### Next steps

Judy to finalize proposal for Acco Industries regarding Segment 1 of the Mainline Canal Greenway.

Nathan to follow up with property owners in Mapleton regarding Segment 17A.

Matt to check with Brian Wisner about contacting Larry Salone for Segment 19.

Alisha to add Patrick to the Juniata River Blueprint Community invitation list.

Matt to finalize the mechanics of the Trails Maintenance Fund application process.

Laurie to check on the progress of Center County's active transportation plan.

All members to consider ways to increase trail awareness and usage in Mount Union, potentially involving high school gym classes.

### Summary

#### Recent Move and Upcoming Travel Writer Visit

Matt discussed his recent move to a house on Runks Road, about 500 yards from his previous home near Lincoln Cavern. They are still unpacking and plan to do some painting and repairs. Judy mentioned missing a meeting due to a doctor's appointment. A travel writer commissioned to write a book on Pennsylvania's natural wonders will be visiting, and there are plans to take her kayaking on the Juniata River. Laurie will be joining the current meeting via Zoom due to staff illnesses at her office.

#### Active Transportation Committee Meeting Review

Matt Price, the chair of the Active Transportation Committee, led the meeting. The committee members discussed the lack of progress since the last meeting and the absence of minutes from the previous meeting due to a technical issue. Judy reported on the progress of the mainland canal subcommittee, mentioning a successful meeting with special attendees and the preparation of a proposal to present to Acco industries. The proposal is currently being reviewed by Jeff McCauley, and the subcommittee plans to present it on October 10th.

#### Trail Project Progress and Future Plans

Judy reported positive progress on the trail project, with property owners showing commitment and the potential for a legacy for the country. The health and wellness aspect of the project was also highlighted,

with many employees walking through the borough during lunch breaks. A proposal for the next step was mentioned, with plans to forward to corporate in Chicago. Completion of segment one along the former canal bed was discussed, as was the purchase of a locksmith building by the Newton Hamilton Historical Society for refurbishment. Jeff from the September 11th National Trail Alliance joined the meeting, but no further updates were provided.

#### Mainline Canal Progress and Recreational Land Use Statute

Matt Price discussed the progress of the Mainline Canal, Greenway Segment 13, which connects the Hunt Borough and Henderson Township along the former route 33. He mentioned that he had the contact information for northeast track solutions, which Jeff had made the connection with. Matt also discussed the Pennsylvania Recreational Land Use Statute, which provides protection for property owners who allow free access to their land for recreational use. Nathan suggested providing written assurance to property owners about this protection. Nathan was asked for updates on Segment 17, but no new information was provided.

#### Rare Mineral Mining and Tax Sale Property Discussion

There was discussed about potential mining of a rare mineral on a mountain owned by Benny Screws, with the company having already purchased 33 acres at the bottom. She also mentioned a tax sale property that she had offered to buy but was outbid. Laurie suggested reaching out to land conservancies like Southern Alleghenies Conservancy, Western PA Conservancy, or Clearwater Conservancy to potentially buy the property and tear down the existing house. Matt Bjorkman noted he did not have any direct contacts with these organizations. Laurie suggested Brian Wiser may be the appropriate person to contact Larry Salone from the Preservation Association about using their property's right of way as he worked with Larry during the construction of the Pennsylvania Avenue wall project.

#### Project Involvement, Trail Connection, and Hiker Misidentification

Brian's potential involvement in the Mount Union segment and Alisha's oversight of Segment 19 in Mount Union under Brian's guidance were discussed. Jim Campbell provided updates on the trail connection between Saltillo and Three Springs. An incident where two hikers were mistaken for homeless individuals while sleeping near the Standing Stone Trail was shared.

#### Unauthorized Camping and Trail Improvements

Regarding the issue of unauthorized camping by hikers in game lands near Three Springs, proposed solutions were discussed, such as contacting local authorities or the Trail Club for permission and installing metal placards with contact information. Nathan suggested designating campsites in Mapleton and Three Springs to enhance the trail experience and proposed the Trail Club's support for shelter construction. The need for better contact information for Three Springs was mentioned along with its designation as a trail town, and the issue of the dangerous Meadow Gap Road. The need for improved trail signage and the use of GPS coordinates for better location tracking was emphasized.

## Improving Three Springs and Endres Subdivision Progress

Potential for improving amenities in Three Springs, such as a camping and hiking destination, was discussed along with the status of the Endres subdivision and Porter Township. Laurie reported she has heard nothing about the status of the subdivision. She also mentioned the Marklesburg and Broad top City Dollar Generals were approved by the Borough Councils and she signed the plans prior to recording. Matt mentioned the approval of a Trails maintenance fund by the Huntingdon County Visitor Bureau and the launch of the Adopt A Trails Program in Rothrock State Forest. The relationship between the DCNR project and the Game Commission was noted along with a preference for working on DCNR projects. The American Hiking Society taking site application project applications was mentioned.

## Alternative Spring Break Programs and Trail Maintenance

Matt Price discussed the upcoming alternative spring break programs for college students, emphasizing the need for applications to be submitted by the end of the month. He also mentioned collaboration with the Army Corps of Engineers and Friends of Ricketts Glen State Park to host a group through the American Hiking Society's alternative break program. An idea of having night hikes at the trail for high school students was proposed, along with a suggestion that increased trail usage would lead to better maintenance and more attention. Also discussed was maintenance of the trail and the potential for a new trail along the river, and mentioned was the project is currently on hold due to a study by DEP. All were encouraged to check out the Southern Alleghenies Outdoors plan and the collaboration between six counties, plus Center, Mifflin, and Juniata.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 25th at 9:30 AM.

Last edited Laurie Nearhood, Huntingdon County Planning (Host) Oct 24, 2024 05:43 PM