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July 2015

Project update for the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance Meeting; July 18, 2015

Trail Towns along the EPT

The spring Trail Town regional workshop was held on May 4 at DeBence Music Museum in Franklin. Twenty eight people attended plus the speakers who focused the discussion on funding sources for businesses to increase goods and services to trail users. Speakers included representatives from PA DCED, USDA Rural Development, Farmers National Bank and the Progress Fund. Also in attendance was a representative from the PA Downtown Center.

Oil City Main Street Manager and Greenways Coordinator attended a bus trip to two Trail Towns along the Great Allegheny Passage. We toured the towns and spoke with business owners who are more successful because of the trail.

Franklin's Trail Town assessment walk-through was held on Monday, May 18 at 1:00. Businesses and residents attended, walked through town and spoke with other business owners. The report on that assessment will be presented July 30 at 1:00 at Lona's restaurant.

The next Regional Trail Town Action Team will meet in Franklin on July 30 at 4:00 pm. Discussions will include TT business opportunities, TT website, potential TT/EPT brochure or rack cards, etc.

2015 PA Greenways & Trails Summit

2015 PA Greenways & Trails Summit will be September 20-22 in Warren. Session proposals were accepted and CGT and EPTA members will be speaking on partnering with local land trusts, projects involving rail-with-trail and the forming and growth of a regional trail groups such as the EPTA.

Greenways Plans Implementation

- **The Clear Lake Authority** has met with landowners to negotiate right-of-way agreements for the **East Branch Trail** extension project between Corry and Spartansburg. Impact Corry is now a project partner and is the official applicant for a DCED GTRP grant for the 10.6-mile project including a new trailhead/gateway at the southern entrance to Corry, a rail-with-trail segment and renovations to the Black Bridge.
- **AVTA** was the applicant for a combination of projects resulting in connecting trails and ADA accessibility. They have received funding through the PNC Charitable Trusts for the engineering of an ADA accessible, environmental education trail at Two Mile Run County

Park, a more accessible **transition between the Allegheny River Trail and the Sandy Creek Trail** at Belmar and repair and stabilization of a parking area along the **Allegheny River Trail** at Brandon.

- A new, student created mural art project will be erected at the **Saltbox trailhead** in Franklin. The Franklin High School Art teacher made arrangements with **Cranberry Township** personnel for placement.
- The **Foxburg Trailhead** project continuation has sent a request for services to complete the project. This will delineate trailhead parking and a safe route through town. Other enhancement funding has been received from the Trail Town Program and was used for a bike rack and picnic table, some landscaping and painting of the Caboose information center.
- **Oil City, ORA with Emlenton and Oil City Main Street** are beginning the development of new informational kiosks and signage in several locations showcasing the trails.