

ERIE TO PITTSBURGH TRAIL ALLIANCE (EPTA), Inc.

Minutes of April 17, 2013 Meeting in Franklin, PA

Held at Dawndi's Restaurant at Lucky Hills Golf Course, 136 Warren Road, Franklin, PA 16323

Participants

Organization

Trail Organization and At-Large Members:

Jeffrey McCauley	Friends of the Riverfront (alternate delegate)
Jim Holden	Allegheny Valley Trails Association (delegate)
Jim Fincher	Chautauqua Rails to Trails (delegate)
Parke Wentling	Mercer County Trails Association (delegate)
Barney Scholl	Mercer County Trails Association (alternate delegate)
Marilyn Black	Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism (delegate)
Kimberly Harris	Oil Region Alliance (alternate delegate)
Sandy Mateer	Redbank Valley Trails Association (delegate)
Leah Carter	Titusville Area Trails Association (delegate)
Julia Eagles	At-Large (delegate)
Roy Weil	At-Large (delegate)

Advisor:

Adam Mattis Pa. DCNR, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

Guests:

Debra Frawley	Greenways Coordinator, Council on Greenways and Trails
Robert L. Jennings	Armstrong Rails to Trails
Mary Shaw	Free-Wheeling

Welcome and Agenda: President Julia Eagles presided and called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the March 8, 2013 meeting were provided in advance. It was moved by Mr. Holden, seconded by Mr. Weil, and motion carried to approve the minutes as prepared. Mrs. Eagles announced that she chose not to prepare or submit a C2P2 trail logo signage grant application to DCNR.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tom Baxter provided the composite report for the period of January 1 – April 11, 2013. The April 11 account balance was \$2,942.82. Invoices for 2013 dues were recently issued, and some members have paid for 2013. It was moved by Ms. Mateer, seconded by Mr. Fincher, and motion carried to approve the financial report and file it for audit.

Introductions: Attendees were each asked to introduce themselves to the assembled group.

EPT Logo: Today attendees each received a computer disk with the new EPT logo in color and in various computer software languages.

Milemarkers Resembling Railroad Markers: Mr. Holden presented photos and described an approach which the Allegheny Valley Trails Association (AVTA) desires to implement on the Allegheny River Trail and the Justus Trail. Based on remaining actual Pa. Railroad/Allegheny Valley Railroad stone milemarkers (distance from Pittsburgh), Bill Weller has prepared a full-scale mock-up of a replica poured concrete four-sided obelisk, painted white, with stick on numbers for the mile marker, with the color EPT logo inset near its top; the obelisk would be installed into a poured concrete base. Discussion ensued regarding whether to use the same mile numbers as the RR did at various times, or whether to be actual mileage along the EPT corridor, or some other

numbering. Kim Harris recommended that the remaining original milemarkers be retained in place with no logo or other items added to them. Mr. Weil moved, Mr. Holden seconded, and motion carried to approve AVTA's use of the EPT logo on replica railroad milemarkers, and that EPTA eventually create a continuous mileage numbering system for mile markers. It was mentioned that this motion does not require each EPT partner to produce or install replica RR milestones.

EPT Type Reflective Metal Signs on State Roadways: Recently Mr. Holden provided the traffic unit within PennDOT District 1-0 with the new EPT logo and inquired about permits/procedures for its use. PennDOT jurisdiction is just on state roadways, thus the answers relate to just those sections of the EPT which are share-the-road on state roads. While the stand-alone EPT logo will not be acceptable to PennDOT, they have provided instead a version comparable with the already existing Schuylkill River Trail (SRT) and the on-road Bike Route signage in place throughout the state. Copies of that elongated version with the lettering not inside the oval were provided to today's attendees; only standard readily-available reflective materials in certain color codes will be allowed. Today's attendees suggested minor changes to that sample furnished by PennDOT. Kim Harris offered to help make those edits in the electronic version. An example of a section where such indicators will likely be needed is the three miles of state road inside Oil Creek State Park from Petroleum Centre south to Rynd Farm. A motion was made by Mr. Weil, seconded by Mr. Holden, discussed by attendees, and subsequently withdrawn by Mr. Weil and Mr. Holden, as follows: That EPT pursue official PennDOT approval for the on-road signage version and then authorize any EPTA partner entity to proceed to install the signage for their respective trail section.

EPT Logo Use Policy: The Logo Use Committee had provided a draft logo use policy in advance of today's meeting. Several questions asked by attendees are in regard to trademark, copyright, duration of permission to use the logo, and prior long-distance trail logo use experience/procedures adopted by other entities in Pa. Following discussion, Mr. Weil moved, Ms. Mateer seconded, and motion carried to register the copyright of the logo as a collection of visuals including the current EPT standard and also the soon-to-be-updated elongated version for use on state roadways; Mr. Scholl agreed to carry out this assignment. The copyright registration fee for a collection is \$35 for on-line filing.

For the logo use policy, Mr. Scholl pointed out that the organization's official name should be used on all documents – Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance, Inc. He also suggested reformatting and further researching several elements in the draft EPT logo use policy. Ms. Eagles referred this topic back to the Logo Committee, which as of today is comprised of the following: Barney Scholl, Roy Weil, Toni Henry, Tom Baxter, and Debbie Frawley. Mr. Scholl expressed concern as to whether EPTA, Inc. has the organizational capacity to administer the logo use policy, such as monitoring duration of permission use for physical items vs. for use in printed publications or websites. Mr. Weil moved, Mr. Holden seconded, to approve use by any EPTA member trail group of the existing EPT logo as appears on the CD furnished today for directional purpose uses only. During discussion on this motion, people wondered about whether the logo should be trademarked, and whether the TM in circle symbol [trademark] or the SM in circle symbol [service mark] or other indicator should be used now without having already obtained trademark approval/listing. Mr. Mattis mentioned that the Allegheny Ridge Corporation has trademarked several of their logos. Mr. Scholl suggested further research on the various trademark matters for both the standard logo and the elongated PennDOT on-road logo. The vote on this motion approved this motion, thus authorizing partner use while the overall logo use policy is reworked.

Trail Progress Reports: Attendees provided updates on progress and plans by their respective organizations.

Mr. Weil and Ms. Shaw indicated that "Freewheeling" has been updated. They are pleased that money from the Volunteer Fund is helping construct an Adirondack shelter at Mill Creek, an AVTA property north of Emlenton in conjunction with an Allegheny Valley Conservancy restoration and enhancement project.

Ms. Frawley indicated that the Feasibility Study for Corry-Spartansburg connection presently being conducted by Mackin Engineering under contract with the Spartansburg Borough, in partnership with the Clear Lake

Authority, would involve between 6 and 8 landowners in the corridor; those landowners recently expressed wide diversity in their preferences as to the routing for this bike trail extension.

Foxburg Trailhead Improvements are being funded by an approved Northwest Pa. Greenways Block Grant awarded to the Borough of Foxburg.

Mrs. Carter said that the newly organized Titusville Recreation Commission is recruiting a new Executive Director, with applications being due April 19. The Titusville Trail Town Plan being prepared by Mackin Engineering under contract with Titusville Redevelopment Authority is wrapping up.

Matters related to easements, licenses, relocation of active railroad tracks, etc. became so complex recently that the County of Crawford declined an approved DCNR C2P2 grant for acquisition, as well as declined an approved federal transportation contract for construction an extension of the Queen City Trail within Titusville.

Rack cards and a descriptive letter were provided to today's attendees about the Entrepreneurial Business Plan contest being administered by the Oil Region Alliance to encourage start-ups and business expansions to serve users of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail section from Hydetown to Foxburg. Interested parties have between July 1 and July 31 to submit business plans; several entrepreneurial training forums are being offered in Oil City on May 15, May 29, and June 12.

In connection with the Mercer County Trails Association, Mr. Scholl now has copies of all deeds and easements on the former railroad line from Jamestown to the Ohio state line (except the stone arch bridge which is owned by the Borough of Jamestown). They are negotiating for property in the Sandy Lake – Stoneboro stretch. Trout Island Trail is in public use; the next work there is paving a section of trail utilizing federal TE/TA funding via the City of Hermitage. The reach of Shenango River from Pymatuning Dam to the Shenango Reservoir is now an official Pa. Water Trail as designated by the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission.

Mr. Fincher reported that the former Indian portage path from Barcelona Harbor to Chautauqua Lake was utilized by the railroad; now, Pashek Associates under contract with the Chautauqua Rails to Trails is preparing to convert that corridor into a recreational trail. Last December on Christmas Eve, a commemoration of the 125th anniversary of a serious rail disaster was attended by 50 people.

Mr. McCauley indicated that the Friends of the Riverfront are subsidizing the hard surfacing of the North Shore Segment of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail within the City of Pittsburgh to the Borough of Millvale in May. They have purchased 5 parcels in the Borough of Etna for the creation of a riverfront park and portion of the trail. The F.O.R. Board adopted the Master Plan for Aspinwall.

Mr. Mattis indicated that April 10, 2013 was the deadline for applications in the current C2P2 round; a total of 356 applications were received by DCNR. He pointed out that July 31, 2013 is the deadline for Act 13 Greenways & Trails funding via DCED, administered by the Commonwealth Finance Authority; there is a non-refundable \$100 application fee involved. For most applications in this category, a 50/50 match is required, but there is a lower match percentage for small population communities. The Northwest Pa. Regional Planning and Development Commission allocated its entire Greenways Block grant furnished by DCNR and nearly all of that furnished by DEP.

Mr. Holden said that the DCNR contract with the Allegheny Valley Trails Association has been executed to repave the top of the Allegheny River Trail from the Franklin Brine Treatment plant south to Belmar and to purchase significant maintenance equipment. Several agencies are combining their resources to continue toward land/easement acquisition for the Emlenton-Foxburg leg of the EPT.

Mr. Jennings mentioned that during the April conference by the Pa. Land Trust that several funding streams related to the Act 13 Impact Fees were described; the various administering entities are placing criteria. In

some categories, even for-profit entities may apply. However, CFA funds can't fulfill DCNR matching fund requirements. The Armstrong group will host an April 27 trail ride.

Ms. Mateer reported for the Redbank Valley Trails Association, which has utilized the Volunteer Fund for several items recently. RVTA volunteers contributed over 4,100 hours in 2012 and since July 2010 have graded 36 miles, put crushed limestone down on 17 miles and decked and railed 13 bridges. Soon the reach from Brookville to Climax will be completed, except for 3 miles. The 524-foot long Climax Tunnel remains a major physical barrier; that's why RVTA applied for DCNR C2P2 funding to open the Climax Tunnel at MP 17. The Ridgeway community has expressed interest in linking to the RVTA network of trails, EPT and the Great Allegheny Passage. A new kayak launch has been installed. Heavy trail use is evident.

Mrs. Harris announced that construction of the southern segment of the McClintock Trail begins in May. An updated TA application is being jointly submitted by the City of Oil City and the Oil Region Alliance for the construction of the Oil Creek Memorial Landing.

Ms. Shaw suggested that at a future meeting, it would be helpful to share information about ways to gather and compile volunteer hour reporting.

Pa. 2013 Greenways and Trails Summit: This Summit, with the theme "Making Connections" will be held September 15-17, 2013 in Franklin, PA. The Pa. Recreation and Park Society is receiving proposals from potential session presenters. Mr. Holden and Mrs. Eagles are coordinating the mobile workshops; several practice rides/walks may be conducted during the summer; EPTA members are welcome to accompany on these practice outings.

Press Releases: Mrs. Eagles asked that press releases featuring the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail be furnished to her in advance of their issuance. Mr. Weil and Mrs. Shaw asked that Mrs. Eagles provide a standard paragraph about EPT for such purposes. Mrs. Eagles instructed all to use the EPTA mission statement in press releases.

Nominations: Mrs. Eagles appointed Barney Scholl to chair the Nominations Committee and Kim Harris to also serve on this committee. Officer elections will occur at the EPTA Board meeting in July.

ORA Partnerships and Trail Grant Application to DCNR: Via e-mail communications between the March 8 EPTA Board meeting and the April 10 C2P2 application deadline, members were provided with descriptive and budgetary information about the Oil Region Alliance's willingness to include a request for DCNR funding to establish and subsidize a full-time EPT Coordinator post. Readers were asked to respond to the ballot furnished; results are ---- 2 in favor of including the EPT post; 4 opposed to including the EPT post; 3 abstained; and others simply did not vote/respond. Mrs. Black today distributed copies of the narrative, detailed budget, and scope of work for that post as submitted in ORA's application (which is actually a composite of 6 projects/endeavors in a single grant application). Mrs. Black asked attendees if EPTA wished to edit the narrative/budget/scope, or to endorse the materials as submitted, or to ask that ORA delete that segment. Today's attendees expressed mixed opinions, such as the following: there's not enough mileage open to the public to promote the EPT now or in 2014 when the new post would be established; public support for EPT will increase as not only trail riders/walkers but also community leaders repeatedly see and hear about EPT; should the new employee become responsible instead for trail construction; sharing of successes, products, tools should be encouraged no matter what; a clearinghouse of sample policies/forms would be helpful; if there's paid staff, then volunteers may reduce their participation; the proposed post would require diverse skill sets; EPT should be doing collective advocacy, and leave the trail building to the member entities; is it asking too much for one employee to assist the entire 270-miles envisioned; sample job descriptions could be collected from ATA and other similar long-distance trail groups; and advertising expenditures will be justified when there are more overnight lodging bookings by trail riders. No motion or action was taken. Mrs. Eagles suggested that this discussion could continue at the next EPTA Board meeting.

Kiosks: Ms. Frawley indicated that the Foxburg Trailhead grant presently underway will include a 3-panel informational kiosk. She showed a mock-up of the EPT part of the kiosk as provided this week by the project planning committee and asked if that was acceptable to the EPTA. After discussion, it was concluded that EPTA has no authority to require certain elements in kiosks, panels, etc. developed by member entities; however, attendees said that it's good to share examples in case any fellow members wish to emulate items installed by others, but that EPTA does not require standardization of kiosks or the like.

Next Meeting: It was decided that the next EPTA Board meeting will be held in July at a site to be arranged by Ron Steffey. Since then, the date has been set as Wednesday, July 24 at 10:30 a.m. at a site to be announced in Armstrong County.

Adjournment: Mr. Holden moved, Mr. Wentling seconded, and motion carried to adjourn today's meeting; 2:05 p.m. Some attendees then traveled to the Franklin trailhead for bicycling.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Black (Secretary, EPTA)
Minutes prepared 5/9/2013

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N Drive/Erie to Pittsburgh Trail/EPTA minutes from 4-17-2013 Franklin meeting