

**ERIE TO PITTSBURGH TRAIL ALLIANCE, INC. (EPTA)**  
**Minutes of January 21, 2015 Meeting**  
**Held at Debi's Diamond Street Bakery and Café, Mercer, PA**

Participants

Organization

**Trail Organization and At-Large Members:**

Bill Weller	Allegheny Valley Trails Association (alternate)
Toni Henry	Armstrong Rails-to-Trails Association (delegate)
Jim Fincher	Chautauqua Rail to Trails
Barney Scholl	Mercer County Trails Association (delegate)
Kim Harris	Oil Region Alliance (delegate)
Marilyn Black	Oil Region Alliance (alternate)
Greg Troyer	Northwest PA Trails Association (delegate)
Sandy Mateer	Redbank Valley Trails Association (delegate)
Leah Carter	Titusville Area Trails Association (delegate)
Roy Weil	At-Large (delegate)
Mary Shaw	At-Large (alternate)
Ron Steffey	At-Large (delegate)

**Guests:**

Bob Good	Pashek Associates
Deb Frawley	Council on Greenways and Trails
Janet Shilling	Mercer County Trails Association

**Welcome:** President Ron Steffey presided and called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

**Introductions:** Participants introduced themselves, and indicated whom they represented.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the October 21, 2014 meeting were provided in advance of the meeting; R. Weil moved to accept the minutes as provided, seconded by S. Mateer; motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was provided in advance of the meeting. R. Weil moved to accept the report as provided, seconded by J. Fincher; motion carried

The organization received a generous donation of \$1,000 from Roy Weil and Mary Shaw. These funds are restricted for use on EPT trail signage; these funds are to encourage the leveraging of additional dollars for the purchase of signs, posts, fasters and installation of EPT signage along the EPT. Those wishing to access these funds should submit a request to the EPTA Board of Directors for action.

**New Business:**

1. EPTA Logo Usage Request Received –

- Report provided in the Secretary's Report that was provided in advance of the meeting, and included as part of the official minutes. There were no questions or discussion.

2. Letters of Support Requested

- Report provided in the Secretary's Report that was provided in advance of the meeting, and included as part of the official minutes. There were no questions or discussion.

### 3. Upcoming Grant Opportunities and workshops

- DCNR C2P2 applications due April 16, 2015; those wishing to request a letter of support from the EPTA for their grant submission should submit their request to K. Harris two-weeks in advance. Anyone who would like to request a letter of support needs to include a draft of the application including the budget (income and expenses).

### 4. Other New Business

- Honors received and flowers of congratulations were presented to the following EPTA Board Members:
  - Mary Shaw received the very distinct honor of receiving a National Medal of Honor for Technology and Innovation. The award is the nation's highest honor for achievement in the field of technology, innovation and invention. President Obama presented the award to her on November 20, 2014 at a ceremony at the White House. Mary was one of only ten to receive this award.
  - Sandy Mateer is among fifty 2014-2015 local Jefferson Award recipients. She along with the other local recipients will be honored at a reception and receive the bronze Jefferson Award medallion. Six to eight of the honorees will be chosen as finalists for the region's Most Outstanding Volunteer award. One winner will be chosen and will represent Western Pennsylvania at the national Jefferson Awards ceremonies in Washington, D.C.
- Mark Balezentis approached the NW Greenways and Trails Coordinator regarding his desire to prepare and publish a Bike Trail Guide similar to the "Pittsburgh Boaters Guide 2014". The trail guide is an ad-based publication, and will be free once printed. The information provided indicates that the guide will cover trails in Western PA, Northern WV, Western MD, and Washington, D.C. including the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. There is a cost for map listing of \$50. Discussion concerning this publication was held. A motion was made by R. Weil that D. Frawley review the EPT map prior to print and the owner of the publication must request logo use, seconded by S. Mateer; motion carried.

K. Harris will contact the owner regarding questions that were raised at today's meeting. S. Mateer motioned to authorize the expenditure of \$50 to have the EPT map included with Executive Committee Approval once information is received from owner, seconded by T. Henry, motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

#### 1. Conflict of Interest Policy

The Policy is still being circulated for signature. K. Harris requested that any Board Member present at today's meeting that have not signed the policy to see her prior to leaving the meeting.

#### 2. "NW Passages"

The E-magazine is distributed on a monthly basis, issued the first week of the month. Currently, the publication is distributed to approximately 2,000 individuals. The grant supported trial period for this publication is July 2014 to April 2015. Future editions may have ads to assist with the financial support of the publication. M. Black asked for recommendations for featured businesses. Discussion included access to the publication's mailing list (via editors) for major sponsors. It was noted that it is important the mailing list be not sold. A meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2015 regarding the publication past the April issue.

3. EPTA Website Update

R. Weil announced the website is published. Board Members were asked to check the links on the site. A mileage chart was circulated for review and corrections. Links will be added to trail websites; those without websites will link to "Free Wheeling Easy." If a segment is "closed" should add why, please provide any information directly to R. Weil. Email through the site is going directly to R. Weil, he will forward to appropriate entity.

4. Social Networking Update

G. Troyer, Chair noted that the EPT currently has a Facebook page (151 members) and group (355 members). He asked for suggestions as to other social medias that the organization should have presence on. After a brief discussion, it was determined to stay solely with Facebook.

5. Jim Holden Memorial Ride

Discussion was held on who wants to host a 2015 Jim Holden Ride. The ride can be shorter, it can be out and back, or a loop ride. If any organization is considering hosting the event in 2015, contact K. Harris and she will provide documents from the 2014 ride.

6. National Trails Designation

At this time, it is up to individual trails if they wish to make application. It is best to wait for additional miles to be connected before EPTA submits and application for this designation.

7. EPT Signage

M. Black presented the highlights of the project; details are included in the Oil Region Alliance written report which are included as part of the official minutes.

8. Power of 32+

R. Steffey provided an overview of the Power of 32+ that is being led by PEC and RTC. Power of 32+ are interested in working with the EPTA as we are more prepared than other organizations. D. Frawley and R. Steffey led discussion on the base map; the 2014-connectivity analysis of the 1,600 miles envisioned network of trails. Currently, approximately 53% of the network of trail is open and being utilized, but there are numerous gaps. The Power of 32+ will be requesting the EPTA to assist with examining the "B" gaps shown on the map by use of a detailed questionnaire that will be distributed likely the second week of February. It was noted that designated "on road" segments should be included as needed when completing the questionnaire. A sample of questions that may be asked was distributed, but these were only samples, and are not the final questionnaire that will be distributed.

Designated Responders to the questionnaire are:

B-1	Tom Baxter	B-7	Deb Frawley
B-2	Ron Steffey	B-6	Deb Frawley
B-3	Bill Weller	B-9	Jim Fincher
B-4	Kim Harris	B-10	Jim Fincher
B-5	Kim Harris	B-11	Pending (Seaway Trail)
B-8	Greg Troyer and Deb Frawley		

D. Frawley requested trail groups logon to [www.gototrails.com](http://www.gototrails.com), and zoom in to their trail to see if the map is correct. If there is information that is not correct, please contact D. Frawley, she will pass corrections along to PEC.

### **Member Reports on Progress:**

President R. Steffey thanked everyone for the written member reports. Written reports are included as part of the official minutes. K. Harris requested that we continue submitting written reports in advance, thus they are then distributed to directors prior to the meeting for review.

Mercer County Trails Association will be hosting a bus tour on Monday, April 20, 2015 to three trail towns along the Great Allegheny Passage (West Newton, Connellsville, and Confluence). There is no cost at this time for this trip other than your meals. Those wishing to participate should contact Barney Scholl at [scholl@scholl.org](mailto:scholl@scholl.org); or Janet Shilling at 724-456-7334, email: [janet.shilling1957@gmail.com](mailto:janet.shilling1957@gmail.com).

### **Strategic Plan:**

Bob Good, from Pashek and Associates, our contracted vendor for strategic planning via a Rec-TAP grant, provided an overview of the project. He noted that due to funding available this is a scaled back version of strategic planning, more of pre-strategic planning, that the EPTA Board agreed on. Mr. Good was provided and he reviewed what documents we had which he had requested.

Bob proceeded in leading the group in a SWOT analysis to identify our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

He distributed results from the survey that EPTA Board Members were requested to complete and submit, and discussed the results. Mr. Good then with the results assisted the meeting participants to identify a top 10 list of priorities.

#### Top 10 Priority List (not in any order of importance)

- Technical Assistance
- Branding/Publicity, Public Relations
- Advocacy (Promoting Corridor)
- Represent (Helping with plan)
- Set priorities (prioritizing trail gaps, etc.)
- Secure Funding for Members to Develop Segments
- Funding for EPTA
- Identify Route (including route to navigate around Closed sections)
- Planning Trails
- Capacity Building

The next step in this process is a strategic plan. Strategic Planning has a greater cost associated to it than the pre-strategic planning that the organization is currently finishing up. A strategic plan could be a work product of a DCNR Peer Study grant. Peer Study grants are accepted by DCNR year-round. The maximum grant amount is \$10,000 with a \$1,000 cash match. There is a fairly rapid DCNR review process for this grant category. A municipality is required to be the grant applicant for the Peer Study Grant.

Mr. Good will meet with the Strategic Planning Committee on more time to complete the pre-strategic planning project documents, which will be on the agenda for adoption at the next EPTA Board Meeting.

It was mentioned that the EPTA really should do an annual report; grantors often request this document when applying for funding. In addition, EPTA obtaining trail counter equipment and share as needed was mentioned, as was the tracking of volunteer hours and employed people hours provided to the EPTA.

Strategic planning will determine existing conditions, goals, desired outcomes, strategies, measurable strategies, and results (accountability).

Discussion was held on whether the organization should move forward with a full strategic plan.

L. Carter motioned to authorize the strategic planning committee to explore funding sources to conduct strategic planning for the EPTA, including application for DCNR Peer Study pending securing a municipality willing to be the applicant, seconded by K. Harris; motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled to held in April, date and location to be determined. When a date and location is determined for the next meeting, the Secretary will notify board members.

**Adjournment:**

K. Harris moved, R. Steffey seconded, and motion carried to adjourn. Adjourned 2:45PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Harris, EPTA Secretary  
Minutes Prepared 1/30/2015

Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance, Inc.

Transaction Detail

January 1 through December 31, 2014

	Type	Date	Name	Memo	Amount
<b>Contributed Support</b>					
Trail Group Memberships	Invoice	10/30/2012	Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park	Trail Group Membership - 2014 paid in 2012	0.00
	Invoice	03/10/2014	Redbank Valley Trails Association	Trail Group Membership	100.00
	Invoice	03/10/2014	Mercer County Trail Association	Trail Group Membership	100.00
	Invoice	03/20/2014	Friends of the Riverfront	Trail Group Membership	100.00
	Invoice	03/20/2014	Allegheny Valley Trail Association	Trail Group Membership	100.00
	Invoice	03/20/2014	Armstrong Rails to Trails Association	Trail Group Membership	100.00
	Invoice	04/09/2014	Clear Lake Authority	Trail Group Membership	100.00
	Invoice	04/09/2014	Oil Region Alliance	Trail Group Membership	100.00
	Invoice	04/25/2014	Titusville Area Trails Association	Trail Group Membership	100.00
	Invoice	05/15/2014	Chautauqua Rails to Trails	Trail Group Membership	100.00
Total Trail Group Memberships					900.00
Memberships			4 Basic (\$20) + 1 Family (\$35) + 1 Business (\$50)		185.00
			1 Membership restricted to trail signage		1,000.00
					1,185.00
<b>Special Event - Jim Holden Memorial Ride</b>					
Donations	Registrations		Jim Holden Memorial Ride		1,326.00
	In-Kind Donation		Jim Holden Memorial Ride - Little Ceasar's		42.40
					1,367.40
Event expense		09/22/2014	Bill Weller	Reimb 8 pizzas for Jim Holden Mem Ride	-42.40
		09/22/2014	Bill's Service Company	Rental -Sept 8, 2014	-100.70
		09/22/2014	Baker's Transportation	24 Pax Bus - AC Valley School to Titusville - J Holden Mem Ride	-243.75
		10/16/2014	Engles Trucking Services, Inc	Jim Holden Ride	-150.00
		11/19/2014	Williams Insurance Agency, Inc.	Insurance - J Holden Ride	-150.00
Total Event expense					-686.85
In-kind Expense		09/06/2014		Donation - Little Ceasar's 8 pizzas for Jim Holden Memorial Ride	-42.40
Total In-kind Expense					-42.40
Net Special Event Income					638.15
Internet Expense		05/15/2014	Reeves Information Technology, Inc.	Web Site Hosting ( 6/14 - 5/15 )	-119.40
Professional Fees		11/19/2014	Pashak Associates, LTD	Prof Svc October 2014 - 4 hours EPTA Rec TAP	-200.00
					-319.40
					2,383.75
<b>Net Income</b>					
Beginning Cash 1-1-14		\$ 3,623.42			
Plus Income		3,390.00			
Less Expense		-1,006.25			
Ending Cash 12-31-14		\$ 6,007.17			
			<b>Note: Unpaid dues as of 12-31-14</b>		
			Erie-Western PA Port Authority 100.00		
			Northwest PA Trail Association 100.00		
			Total unpaid as of 12-31-14 200.00		

Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance, Inc.

c/o Friends of the Riverfront, Inc.  
33 Terminal Way, Suite 333B  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

# Membership Donation

Date	Number
12/23/2014	65

Given By
Roy Weil 5337 Darlington Road Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Check No.	Payment Method
5077	Check

Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
Family Membership restricted to the purchase of signs & related hardware for trail routing, either along the trail or on the on-road segments -- we appreciate your support!	1	1,000.00	1,000.00
Thank you for your support!		<b>Total</b>	\$1,000.00

Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the promotion, acquisition, development, and maintenance of a safe non-motorized trails network that connects the "Bayfront" in Erie to the "Point" in Pittsburgh. No goods or services were offered in return for this gift. Our tax identification number is 26-4218609.

Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance  
Secretary Report  
For the January 21, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting

- **Communications Received** - Letter dated December 15, 2014, received from Parke Wentling officially resigning from the Board of Directors effective immediately. Parke's resignation is due to his newly elected position to the PA State Representative. Parke is representing the 17<sup>th</sup> District. This district covers part of Crawford, Erie, Lawrence and Mercer Counties.
- **EPT Logo Usage Request** – The Trail Town Program® submitted a request to use the EPT logo on the Trail Town Program® website and other marketing materials including social media, newsletters and informational materials as it relates to the EPT and Trail Towns along the corridor. This request was approved on December 5, 2014.
- **Letters of Support from the EPTA Requested** - One letter of support was requested in this past quarter. The Oil Region Alliance requested a letter of support for a funding request that they were submitting to the Department of Community Economic Development's Discovered in PA, Developed in PA grant program for a project that would provide low cost space for two trail related businesses directly on the trail route in Oil City. A letter of support signed by the EPTA President was provided. Awards have not been made on these grant applications.
- **Conflict of Interest Policy** – The document is still in signature stage.
- Other items –
  - The Mercer County Trails Association will be represented on the EPTA by Barney Scholl now serving as delegate, and Fred Kiser and Mike Kotyk will share the responsibilities as the alternate position.

EPTA,

Thank you to all for being supportive of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail.

A special thanks to the EPTA Board for your time and effort. EPTA asked the Board to complete an online survey to assist EPTA to understand who we are and what we want to accomplish. EPTA also requested updates of the Organizations that comprise EPTA and also updates from Committees. Most have taken the time to give EPTA the valuable input requested.

The Executive Committee and others met with AJ Schwartz, representative from the "Power of 32". We discussed the opportunities that the "Power of 32 Trail Committee" may be able to provide and assist the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. While the "Power of 32 Trail Committee" does add another layer to our trails, it is a larger layer with a larger voice. We will take a short period of time to discuss and illustrate these opportunities.

We have a full agenda, and we will attempt to keep the meeting moving forward so we have as much time as possible for Bob Good. I look forward to this meeting and hearing from everyone as we discuss moving forward.

Safe travels and see you Wednesday!

Ron Steffey  
President  
Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance

## **ARTA notes for January 2015 EPTA meeting**

Update from October 2014 through January 2015

- Volunteers installed 2 historic signs and 1 memorial bench on the November 15<sup>th</sup> work day. December and January work days were canceled due to the holidays and the weather.
- The next work days will be dedicated to installing the remainder of the historic signs and memorial benches on the Clarion County end of the trail.
- Donated materials from A&K Railroad were delivered to the Phillipston Trail Turntable work site on November 21.
- Application for 2 TODS signs was signed by East Brady Borough and submitted to Penn Dot by ARTA.
- A signage standards plan is being considered for the Armstrong Trail. The signage committee will meet later this month. ARTA would like to partner with EPTA and RVTA to develop uniform standards for our connecting trails.
- The purchase of a walk behind mower is being considered as moving the large tractor from one work site to another in mowing season is often problematic.
- ARTA held a board of director's retreat on November 1 to plan short and long term goals.
- ARTA bylaws are being edited and the Master Plan updated
- Several events are being planned for 2015
  - April 18 – Keep PA Beautiful cleanup Roston through Kittanning
  - May 16 - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Eat, Play, Ride
  - June 1 (Date to be confirmed) – Grand Opening Celebration for DCNR project Mile 61-66, 100 year anniversary of the Brady Tunnel
  - June 27 – 5 K and 10 K Race
  - September (exact date and location TBD) – Annual Members Fall Ride
- At the December 2015 meeting the board was reduced from 9 to 7 members.
- 2015 John Pryde will take the VP position vacated by Bob Jennings and Dick Starr will take the treasurer position vacated by Sarah Heppenstall.
- New maps are being considered as stock of existing outdated maps is low. Sponsorship and ads will be sought.
- Chain saw training for members is being scheduled for spring of 2105.



217 Elm Street / Oil City, PA 16301-1412 / 814.677.3152 / FAX 814.677.5206 / 800.483.6264 / [www.oilregion.org](http://www.oilregion.org)

Oil Region Alliance Update Report  
for the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance Meeting  
January 21, 2015

- **EPT Signage Along Trail Routes** –A total of 41 elongated reflective oval EPT sign design developed by PennDOT, have been installed on state-owned sections of the trail route through Oil City, on the short section of State Route 8 that the trail route is share-the-road (near Rynd Farm), and along State Park Road in Oil Creek State Park, from Route 8 (Rynd Farm) to Petroleum Centre. These signs are consistent with the MUTCD for on-road long-distance bicycle trails.



A total of 21 standard EPT signs were provided and installed along three miles in Oil City. Then replacement signs were ordered for the three standard EPT logo signs that were stolen from the trail route in Oil City. City personnel have installed the replacement signs using tamper resistant fasteners.

A Rails-To-Trails Mini-Grant and National Park Service Funds via the Oil Region Alliance funded this two-part project which cost \$8,021.

- **Oil Creek Memorial Landing** - (Trailhead for McClintock Trail and Access area for Oil Creek). This project will utilize Transportation Alternative funds via the City of Oil City for construction as well as several other sources. Due to the estimated project, costs (based on the PennDOT costs figures from 2014), we had to remove items that did not affect the overall purpose and function of the original project intent; such as a set of steps that connected the site to an adjacent business, and plantings. The items that were removed will be put back in the project if the bids come in under the estimated costs, or they will be added in the future when funding is secured. PennDOT is anticipating bidding this project in February 2015 with construction in the spring of 2015.



- **Community Connection Grants** - Oil Region Alliance was awarded two Community Connections Program Grants through the Trail Town Program®. The first grant was for the purchase and installation of an outdoor enclosed locking case near the front entrance of the Oil Region Alliance Office to display trail information. The display case now provides an area where trail users can access information when the office is closed.

The second grant received through the program is toward the kiosk that will be designed, fabricated and installed at the Oil Creek Memorial Landing.

- **2015 Oil Region Visitor Guide** - The Oil Region Visitor Guide produced by the Oil Region Alliance has a focus again this year on trails. This year's edition includes a full-size map of the section of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail network that lies within the Oil Region. The 2015 guide will be released at the end of February, and will be available in hard copy, or on the ORA website ([www.oilregion.org](http://www.oilregion.org)). The web version will be interactive.

- **The Get on the Trail! Entrepreneurial Business Plan Contest for along the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail** -

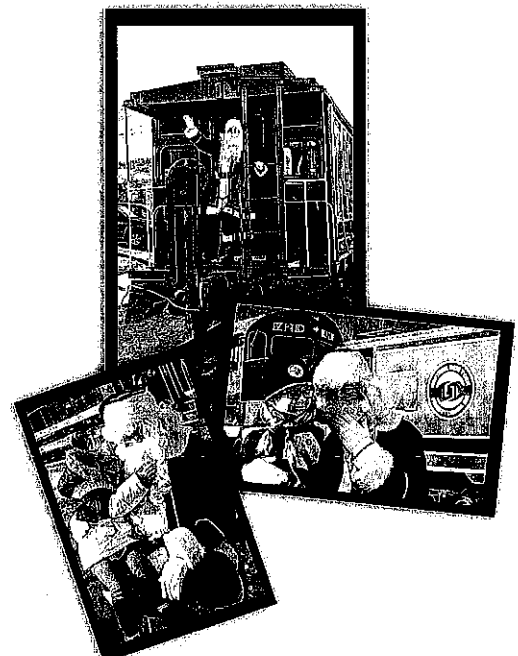
The Entrepreneurial Business plan Contest is designed to create entrepreneurial opportunities in the Oil Region from Hydetown-to-Foxburg corridor of the Erie to Pittsburgh trail. The three winners for the 2014 contest were announced on December 3, 2014. First place and \$ 5,000 went to Bella Cucina Restaurant in Franklin for expanding their outside deck/dining space by 50% to accommodate more trail users; second place and \$2,000 was awarded to Foxburg Tours to purchase special bikes for their mobility challenged customers and offer winter equipment for the trails; third place and \$1,000 went to the Emlenton Mill Emporium to expand marketing and promotion of the Emporium, a year-round business on the trail. *Note: this was the second year for the contest.*



- **Trail Route Through Emlenton Borough**- Emlenton Borough has been awarded two grants for the implementation of the trail route through the Borough. They have been awarded a Northwest Commission Greenways Grant and a Community Connections Grant through the Trail Town Program ®. These two funding sources will purchase trail signage, posts, and materials to add sharrows to the route; in addition, design and fabrication for a kiosk on the east end of the community. Borough staff will install the signage and kiosk, and paint the sharrows along the route.

- **“Imagining Squares”** is the title for a grant application ORA will submit to the National Endowment for the Arts in February. It entails hundreds of people painting 4”x4” bisque tiles that will be installed on existing vertical surfaces along the EPT in Oil City, especially Justus Park and the Library.

- **Santa along the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail in Oil City** - The Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad transported Santa making a stop in Oil City on December 4, 2014, during the communities “Christmas Past” celebration. Santa’s stop was along a segment of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail on the Northside of Oil City. Children who visited with Santa received a golden ticket to see a special viewing of the “Polar Express” at the Venango Museum, the location of the community’s visitor center and a trail-friendly business. This event was a collaborative project with the Railroad and the Oil Region Alliance. Projects such of these help to continue and solidify partnerships already developed. The Railroad has already indicated they wish to repeat this event in 2015.



Questions - Contact Kim Harris, Project Manger, 814-677-3152, Ext. 120; or email [kharris@oilregion.org](mailto:kharris@oilregion.org).

## **EPTA January 2015 report for Redbank Valley Trails Association**

**Redbank Valley Trails Association** has a lot of irons in the fire some of which are:

- We are working with TechReady Professionals to update our website to a more smartphone friendly platform with help from a grant from the Clarion Co. Tourism Promotion grant program.
- Work on Phase I of Climax Tunnel rehabilitation to fix the fall of bricks at the western end is proceeding with MAP 21 funding. Engineering bids for Phase II will be the next step. Phase II includes steel arching about 100 feet in on the East and West Wings of the tunnel. Phase III will be guniting the interior "Oval Office" with necessary supports. Phase IV will be improving the approaches to the tunnel to prevent rockslides. Grants have been received to allow the work to continue. The tunnel remains closed at this time.
- Volunteers are working on the trail downstream of the tunnel with about 2.5 miles completed. A donation of 1000 tons of crushed limestone has been received to help with that work. However, many drainage issues are making the project more difficult. We also continue to have problems with ATV users trespassing destroying gates and stealing a camera.
- A kayak launch will be installed by volunteers at Moore Road in Jefferson County in the Spring thanks to a grant from the Western PA Conservancy.
- The Hawthorn sewage plant and line installation work is still not finished. We're monitoring trail conditions from New Bethlehem to Mayport. The trail is now closed between the Pine Run bridge and Mayport due to sewage line installation.
- A DEP permit filed in April 2014 was just received in Dec. which will allow the Lawsonham washout on the Sligo Spur to be repaired.
- Brookville Borough saved its trail funding despite intense budget pressure and is working to connect their Depot Street spur to RVT at Rose Siding to take trail users directly into downtown.
- Many people are out enjoying cross country skiing and hiking on the trail.
- An opening day hike will be held on the last Saturday in March. Tentative plans are to hike from the Climax Tunnel to St. Charles and back with snacks and drinks at the turn around. Details will be posted on Facebook.



January, 2015

Update for EPTA:

Unfortunately, weather delayed the recent trail meeting in Titusville until just this week so this update missed the email deadline; however, here is an update on the Queen City Trail & Trail Town activity received by TATA from the Titusville Redevelopment Authority (TRA), the lead agency in charge of trail & trail town development for the City of Titusville.

- Oil Creek Waterways Feasibility Study to begin this year; Centerville to Oil City; complete by Oct, 2015. Mackin Engineering has been awarded bid.
- Fleming Park – Downtown Gateway Trailhead draft plan from Stiffler-McGraw is under review; comments due 1/31.
- Three Dero “Fix-It” stations are ordered for Fleming Park trailhead, Drake Well - Jersey Bridge trailhead & Petroleum Center trailhead at OCSP.
- Trail directional & wayfinding signage at city gateways is planned for this year.
- Numerous share the road spurs/trails are planned to be signed & marked to take trail users to variety of points of interest in City (i.e. schools, parks, UPT, etc.). Considering different kinds of pavement marking systems for share the road markings (paint vs. vinyl vs. dyed concrete, etc.).
- Several businesses/agencies have or are in process of becoming Trail Town Certified. Two businesses have utilized TT signage grants.
- Sending more event info to TT Program for promotion.

TATA activities include:

- Assisting with trail-related events & cross-promoting with other area events.
- Exploring collaborative Bike Rack Design Contest with local artists.
- Collaborating with area entities concerning trail safety (crosswalk at Jersey Bridge), signage (archway sign at beginning of QCT at Jersey Bridge) and trail event scheduling & maintenance (TALSC/City).
- Advocating completion of trail from current endpoint at Martin St. to Hydetown.

Titusville Area Trail Association is a committee of Titusville Renaissance, Inc.,  
a non-profit Downtown Revitalization Organization

# Council on Greenways & Trails

## 2014 Work Plan – January 2015 Report

**NWPA Greenways E-Magazine** has close to 2000 subscriptions throughout the 8-county NW PA region. It also covers all of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. The January issue awarded the winners of the photo contest in three categories: heritage, nature and recreation. It is free to subscribe to *NW Passages* by emailing your request. Story ideas, event information, photos and suggestions are encouraged and welcome. email: [stephen@westpamag.com](mailto:stephen@westpamag.com)

The 2015 Oil Region Alliance's **Visitor Guide** will again feature a trail type theme. The mapping has been updated and enhanced by the Greenways Coordinator. Each major community within the OHR will also have a close-up map. The maps indicate places that visitors would most likely want to find, activities available and the trails.

**Trail Town Program** Community Connections Grants have been awarded in each of the participating communities:

- Titusville – “Fix It” Stations (bicycle repair) installation
- Oil City – Design and fabrication of an informational kiosk for Justus Park along the EPT
- ORA – Purchase and installation of an informational bulletin board outside of the office for after hours information along the EPT
- Emlenton – Gateway signage, landscaping and artwork; Design and fabrication of an informational kiosk to be placed near the trailhead
- Foxburg – further enhancements of the trailhead including landscaping, Caboose signage, etc.

Trail Town business networking meetings are being planned for January or early February. Interested businesses will gather to discuss how they can network amongst themselves to assist trail users and grow their businesses by referring own another.

### Trails and Trailheads

- Cornplanter Township received Growing Greener funding for the stabilization of the Russell's Corners Road area along Oil Creek and the OCSP Recreational Trail.
- The Foxburg Trailhead project is continuing with plans for renovations to the caboose, bike racks and benches, a future boat launch and access from the river to the businesses.
- Kiosks and signage projects have recently been funded in EPT towns and will be installed this spring.

Penn Soil RC&D will be sponsoring several projects in a “**Crowd Funding**” program under the direction of the National RC&D organization. Up to 10 projects in the Penn Soil region will be uploaded to the internet and promoted to receive funding through public donations. Outdoor recreation or conservation related project ideas can be submitted to Penn Soil RC&D Council for consideration.

**Power 32+ Regional Trail Network** is now a trail system linked over five states (PA, OH, NY, WV, MD) and will be 1,600 miles long when complete including the EPT. It is about 53% complete. Corridor planning meetings are being scheduled for the EPT and the PA Wilds Connector.