

ERIE TO PITTSBURGH TRAIL ALLIANCE, INC. (EPTA)
Minutes of April 20, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting
Held at Webb's Captain's Table Restaurant, 115 West Lake Road, Mayville, NY 14757

Participants

Organization

Trail Organization and At-Large Members:

Toni Henry	Armstrong Rails to Trails Association (delegate) (ARTA)
Jim Fincher	Chautauqua Rails-To-Trails (delegate) (CRT)
Barney Scholl	Mercer County Trails (delegate) (MCT)
Kim Harris	Oil Region Alliance (delegate) (ORA)
Sandy Mateer	Redbank Valley Trails Association (delegate) (RVTA)
Jim Becker	Titusville Redevelopment Authority (alternate) (TRA)
Debra Frawley	At-Large (delegate)
Roy Weil	At-Large (delegate)
Mary Shaw	At-Large (alternate)

Guest:

Adam Trott	Bike Erie
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Welcome And Introductions: In the absence of President Ron Steffey, Vice President R. Weil called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M. and welcomed everyone. Participants introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the January 20, 2016, regular quarterly EPTA Board of Directors meeting were provided in advance of the meeting. S. Mateer moved to accept the minutes, seconded by M. Shaw; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report covering the period of January 1, 2016 through April 6, 2016 was submitted by T. Baxter electronically, and was distributed at the meeting. The ending balance is indicated on the report as \$8,595.77. T. Henry motioned to accept the report as presented, B. Scholl seconded; motion carried. A copy of the written Treasurer's Report will be filed with the minutes.

New Business:

1. EPTA Logo Usage Request Received

No requests received this past quarter.

2. Request for Letters of Support -

The Oil Region Alliance requested a Letter of Support for a request they filed for a DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program Grant that includes eight projects. Required copy of the draft grant request was provided. The letter was signed and provided.

The Allegheny Valley Trails Association requested a Letter of Support for a DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program Grant request for a study from Parker to Upper Hillville. The study will include primary and alternative routing, property ownership identification, and initial communication with property owners. A copy of the complete grant request was provided. The letter of support was prepared, signed, and provided to AVTA.

3. Grant Opportunities and Workshops

A handout of known funding and educational opportunities was provided.

Old Business:

1. Peer to Peer Study

K. Harris reported that R. Steffey, Erin Wiley Moyers from DCNR and herself met with several Northwest Commission staff members about the possibility of the Northwest Commission partnering with the EPTA by being the applicant and thus the fiscal agent for a grant applicant to DCNR for a Peer-to-Peer Study for the EPTA. After discussion and defining specifically the roles of the Commission and the EPTA if the funding request is approved, the Northwest Commission agreed to submit the application on behalf of the EPTA. EPTA prepared the funding request, and forward to the Northwest Commission for signature. The application was submitted, and is under review. Note: In June, notification was received that the \$10,000 grant was approved by DCNR.

2. Signage Guideline Committee

T. Henry provided progress report. D. Frawley via a PowerPoint illustrated types of signs the signage committee feels should be included in the EPT signage guide. R. Weil handed out drafts of the EPTA signage guideline. Discussion regarding the guidelines was held. The guidelines will be just that - "guidelines" – each individual trail organization will choose to use the guidelines or not. At a minimum, the EPT logo sign can be added to existing signage on a trail.

A motion was made by T. Henry for EPTA to request written authorization, and exceptions for EPTA to utilize the GAP signage guidelines and EPTA agrees to provide credit to the Allegheny Trails Alliance, S. Mateer seconded; motion approved.

M. Shaw motioned that uniform signage across the EPT system will benefit the system as a whole and the EPTA should utilize the GAP signage guidelines as much as possible while drafting the EPT guidelines; thus, reducing design and specification work (time and cost) as long as written authorization is provided by ATA, S. Mateer second; motion approved.

The signage committee provided visuals to discuss colors to be used for the signage. After a brief discussion K. Harris motioned to use Dark Green with white font, B. Scholl seconded; motion approved.

R. Weil will upload the revised draft guidelines on the EPT website, under the private tab, for comments by Board Members. R. Weil will provide user name and password to the newest Board Members.

3. EPT PowerPoint Presentation for use by Board Member Groups

The purpose of a PowerPoint presentation is so Board Members can all be delivering a consistent message about the EPTA. When complete the PowerPoint can be used as a standalone or incorporated into presentation, such as another trail, or the economics of the trails, etc., and placed on the EPT website. At the January 2016 EPTA Board meeting R. Steffey requested each trail organization submit two images and a few lines about their trail and current status. Submissions are to be sent to K. Harris via email kharris@oilregion.org.

K. Harris stated she has received photographs from a number of trail organizations/board members, but not all. She reminded those in attendance to submit their photographs and information to her.

4. RTC / Industrial Heartland Trail Coalition Trail Counters

K. Harris provided a brief update. The four counters on the EPT (2 on the Oil Creek State Park Trail, one on the Allegheny River Trail, and one on the Armstrong Trail) have all been down loaded once. Due to the unusually warm weather this past winter, the raw data shows days with some significant counts. The counters will be in place until late this fall.

5. Website Updates

R. Weil noted that google translate has been added to the site. Board Meetings are located under the private section of the site. If you become aware of a media mention, check EPT website to see if Roy has it listed under “Media Mentions”; if it is not, send the link in which the EPT is mentioned to Roy to be added to the website.

6. Social Networking

The EPT Facebook page and group continue to grow. Discussed were people providing information to others on the Facebook group, some of the information being put out there is not necessarily correct. M. Shaw moved to designate that the “group” is unofficial. Kim seconded; motion carried.

7. Industrial Heartland Trail Coalition

D. Frawley provided an update on IHTC. The IHTC will hold a summit during their autumn meeting in Cranberry PA just north of Pittsburgh. It will be for all trail groups and stakeholders throughout the region and be a chance to network and form new groups. It will not be a “how to build trail” conference but a problem solving workshop to help get trail gaps completed. EPTA is not currently a member of IHTC - membership was discussed. K. Harris moved to seek membership with IHTC at a cost up to \$200, M. Shaw seconded; motion approved.

8. Other New Business

No other new business was brought to the floor.

Member Reports on Progress:

Written reports from members were distributed electronically with the agenda packet prior to today’s meeting. Written reports will be filed as part of the official minutes.

J. Fincher noted that four counters were placed on the Chautauqua Rails-to-Trails in 2015; the counts showed yearly users were 54,000 in the Mayville area, and 4,000 on the southern trail segment.

B. Scholl indicated that EPTA Board Members and meeting attendees may have the opportunity to ride 2.5 miles of new trail (Greenville toward Jamestown) at the July 2016 Board Meeting scheduled to be held in Greenville.

Adjournment:

The next meeting is scheduled to be held Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. at Carini Restaurant, 212 Main St, Greenville, PA 16125. B. Scholl noted that there is parking at the rear of the restaurant building.

R. Weil noted that perhaps Linda Boxx, very instrumental in the GAP, would be willing to attend the October EPTA Meeting in the Pittsburgh area to discuss overall challenges with the GAP and long distance trails.

K. Harris motioned to adjourn, S. Mateer seconded; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Harris, EPTA Secretary
Minutes Prepared June 23, 2016