

EPTA/SIGNAGE COMMITTEE REPORT 1-7-16

Submitted by committee

The EPTA Signage committee met via conference call at 11:00 AM on Thursday, January 7, 2016.

Members present:

Roy Weil
Deb Frawley
Marilyn Black
Toni Henry

General meeting notes:

- The focus of the meeting was on outlining the signage types that EPTA would want to include in the EPT Signage Guidelines.
- It was agreed that we would like to use the GAP Graphic Identity & Signage Guidelines as a model.
- The purpose of the Guidelines would be to offer EPTA trail members standards and guidelines for certain types of signs that they may be considering. Existing installed signs are not expected to be removed but future signage plans are encouraged to follow the guidelines. The EPT signage guidelines will define a new (and more extensive) set of signs that will be for the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail (and Trail Towns).
- It is hoped that by encouraging more uniform sign types, trails along the EPT that the trail segments would start to share an identity. This would aid in promoting the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail to tourists as a long distance trail worthy of a visit and encouraging local residents to explore the rest of the EPT system.
- It was noted that use of the EPTA logo is automatically permitted to each trail group that is a part of the EPTA for signage and websites. For other purposes, requests are to be filed as per EPTA logo use policy.

Signage types to be included:

1. Logo signs
 - a. EPTA has a logo use policy.
 - b. These signs are available for use with existing signs on member trails.
 - c. The EPT logo will be utilized on future sign types.
2. Roofed Informal Message Boards
 - a. These wooden structures can be utilized at trail heads to consolidate important trail notices such as:
 - i. Location id (example "East Brady Trailhead")
 - ii. Trail map (you are here) and maps of adjoining trails
 - iii. Contact information for the trail owner, trail volunteer organization and emergency services.
 - iv. Trail rules and etiquette.
 - v. Local amenities.
 - vi. Map holders.
3. Informational Kiosks 1, 2 or 3 Paneled
 - a. These types of signs have been installed at some trailheads and trail towns.
 - b. Currently they follow the specifications in the GAP manual with approved modifications.
 - c. Future kiosks are encouraged to adhere to the specifications developed.
4. Access Area Signage
 - a. Trailhead identification and Wayfinding signs to trail heads and towns.
 - b. Use TODS when appropriate.

5. Trail Blazer/Decision Point Signage
 - a. Placed along the trail to identify distances between points and current location (you are here).
 - b. Placed at decision points to indicate trail route.
6. Rules & Etiquette/Trail Stewardship Signs
 - a. These signs are encouraged to have a consistent size, material and header to be easily recognizable.
 - b. Rules & etiquette per trail segment may vary thus the body of the text will change. These signs should include text regarding the removal of trash.
7. Accessibility Signs
 - a. These signs illustrate grade, slope, surface type etc. and are encouraged to be placed at trail entrance points as recommended by the ADA Board.
 - b. These signs are encouraged to be designed similar to the Rules & Etiquette signs (same size, header, etc.) so that visitors can repeatedly find them.
8. Supplemental and Reverse Wayfinding
 - a. These signs will guide users from the trail to town and from the town to trail.
 - b. They can point to trail destinations (tunnel, Belmar Bridge, waterfall) or town amenities.
 - c. These signs may be on trail owned, private or borough/township/city property.
 - d. Sharrows may be a part of this plan (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices).

Signage types not to be included at this time:

1. Mile markers and numbering system
 - a. Until the entire trail is complete each trail segment will continue to use their own mile markers.
2. Historic/Interpretative Signs
 - a. Many trail segments have already installed these types of signs.
 - b. It was agreed that these sign types do not need to be standardized.
 - c. Use of the EPT logo on these signs was suggested but not agreed on.
3. Special Feature Identifiers (such as scenic or historical sites along trail)
 - a. At features that don't warrant interpretive panels but are important
 - b. Helps trail users identify where they are, similar to what the state water trail committee is suggesting for on bridges.

A graph illustrating typical sign locations in relationship to typical parking at trailheads should be included in the Guidelines.

The Guidelines will include pages on approved colors, fonts construction/fabrication and installation methods.

The next step is to review these recommendations with the EPTA board. If approved, or revised and approved, the committee will further define each of these sign categories. Color, font, shape, size, material and installation methods must be determined.

Future committee work may include:

- Estimate costs to develop a set of Guidelines
- Prepare a list of possible designers, sign fabricators, sign/post installers and other related services
- Search for funding sources
- Receive written approval from Cathy McCullom and ATA to use their manual as a prototype. Request a list of required modifications