

**ERIE TO PITTSBURGH TRAIL ALLIANCE, INC. (EPTA)
Minutes of October 19, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting
Held at Fugh Hall, Etna, PA.**

Participants

Organization

Trail Organization and At-Large Members:

Toni Henry	Armstrong Rails to Trails Association (delegate) (ARTA)
Tom Baxter	Friends of the Riverfront (delegate) (FOR)
Courtney Mahronich	Friends of the Riverfront (alternate) (FOR)
Barney Scholl	Mercer County Trails (delegate) (MCT)
Kim Harris	Oil Region Alliance (delegate) (ORA)
Marilyn Black	Oil Region Alliance (alternate) (ORA)
Sandy Mateer	Redbank Valley Trails Association (delegate) (RVTA)
Deb Eckleberger	Titusville Trail Town Action Team (delegate) (TTTAT)
Ron Steffey	At-Large (delegate)
Roy Weil	At-Large (delegate)
Mary Shaw	At-Large (alternate for Mr. Weil)
Debra Frawley	At-Large (delegate) <i>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</i>
Darla Cravotta	At-Large (delegate) <i>Allegheny County Executive Office</i>

Guests:

Jim Becker	Titusville Community Development
Adam Mattis	DCNR
Cathy McCollom	River Town
Jay Breneman, County Council	Erie County & Erie Area COG
Ben Davidson	Borough of Etna
John Stephen	Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy

President Ron Steffey called the meeting to order at 10:23 A.M.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the July 20, 2016, regular quarterly EPTA Board of Directors meeting were provided in advance of the meeting. R. Weil moved to accept the minutes as provided, seconded by T. Henry; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report covering the period of January 1, 2016 through July 15, 2016 was distributed at the meeting. T. Baxter reviewed the report noting there were three board member seats that had outstanding dues; it was noted that Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park does not desire to continue to serve on the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance R. Weil motioned to accept the report as presented, S. Mateer 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 -

No requests for Letters of Support were received this past quarter.

3. Grant Opportunities and Workshops

A handout of known funding and educational opportunities was provided. K. Harris noted that E. Wiley Moyer issued an email that PennDOT was accepting applications for Multimodal Transportation Fund; applications are due December 16, 2016. A. Mattis from DCNR remind attendees of the DCNR C2P2 workshops coming up on November 16, 2016 in Clarion and November 17 in Upper St. Clair. C2P2 grant applications will be due on April 12, 2017 at 4:00 PM. Now is the time to begin thinking about and preparing for a C2P2 grant application.

4. Etna Project Trail Project

Benjamin Davidson of Etna Borough presented the trail project happening in Etna. Etna has a population today of 3,451. The Borough's Riverfront Park and Trail Development Project includes 0.7 miles of proposed trail that is on the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. To connect the proposed trail to town the trail has to cross railroad tracks via a flyover, but in order to get the ADA slopes compliant, the flyover ramp will need to wrap around the 62nd Street bridge pillars. The cost of this project is significant and involves many partners.

5. International Trails Symposium

The International Trails Symposium will be held May 7 – 10, 2017; nominations are being accepted for awards in different categories. After discussion of whether we should nominate Jim Holden for the Lifetime Achievement Award (in 2008 he received the State trail worker designation), and Mary Shan and Roy Weil as a duo for "State Trail Volunteer", Kim Harris motioned to permit the EPTA Board to submit nominations as discussed, S. Mateer seconded, R. Weil Abstained. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Bicycle PA Routes

Authority, presented to the attendees an update on “Bicycle Routes PA.” He noted Bill Hoffman came to the area to examine how to link Titusville to Route 6 potentially using State Routes 8, 77, and 89. Mr. Becker mentioned that if routes 8 and 77 could be used as an alternative route for the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail until the off-road designated trail gaps are developed; thus, showing more of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail as share-the-road and complete. The Titusville Trail Town Action Team will be conducting a “real” feasibility study seeking a way to get the trail from Titusville to Hydetown. After much discussion of this suggestion. R. Weil motioned if Bicycle PA designates State routes to Titusville as a lettered bike route, then EPTA allow it to be signed as EPT. There was no second to the motion.

2. Strategic Plan

Peer-to-Peer in preparation for the first meeting of the Strategic Plan Committee the Board reviewed the “Top Ten Priorities” in Organizational Analysis (April 2015). The Strategic Plan Committee consist of Courtney Mahronich, Friends of the Riverfront; Erin Wiley Moyers, PA DCNR; Sue Smith, Northwest Planning Commission; Kim Harris, Oil Region Alliance; Ron Steffey, EPTA President; Deb Frawley, PEC; and Barney Scholl, Mercer County Trails Association. Deb Eckleberger, Titusville Area Trail Town Action Team and Kathy McCollum requested to be added to the strategic plan committee; approved.

3. EPT Signage Committee

A written committee report was issued with the agenda packet. The committee asked that the Board consider font for the guideline. After discussion, it was noted that signage should be easy to read using a very crisp font not cachet that is used in the logo. The G.A.P. uses Myriad. DCNR requests that Arial is used in acknowledgement signs. S. Mateer motioned to permit the committee to choose a common crisp font for use on the signage, R. Weil seconded; motioned carried.

The committee will tentatively meet a=on Nov. 21 at 10:00 Am at the ORA office, and on Dec. 6 at a site to be determined.

Discussion about whether to include a vendor list, it was decided that to include this list on the EPT website in the private section and not in the signage guideline manual, Also it was decided to include which members used the vendors, and whether the vendor is a DBE or Co-STAR.

4. Industrial Heartland Trail Coalition

The Industrial Heartland Trail Summit will be held on 11/14/2016 in Cranberry, PA (north of Pittsburgh). Instead of the traditional presentations, handled with a brief question and answer period, the summit is being organized on the platform of brief presentations, and more open dialogue with attendees. The Rails to Trails Conservancy is hosting a social the evening of 11/3/16 at the Marriott Courtyard.

Four Community Chats have been held by the IHTC, with the last one held in Kittanning the evening of 10/18/2016. It was noted that we need to get public officials to see trails firsthand or on a bus to go see a good example of a trail town. B. Scholl mentioned the positive experience of the trip that Mercer County Trails Association arranged to the GAP. It was decided that B. Scholl, C. Mahronich, and K. Harris to put an idea together for 2017.

Forms for your corridor updates were sent out with the meeting materials, D. Frawley asked that each trail complete the update for your section. If something does not apply to your section, indicate so with "N/A" so it will be recognized that you did not forget to answer that specific question.

RTC Trail Counters will have completed their 360-day count in the next few weeks. Those folks assisting RTC with data collection, will complete final downloads soon after the end of the count period and submit that to RTC. Trail Counters will be available in the future to sign out from RTC for counts on specific trails. It was noted that these counters will be heavily used, and EPTA could consider purchasing a counter (s) to use among members.

5. Website

No change, Continue to submit news items about your trail, and those you see about the EPT to R. Weil for inclusion on the website.

6. Social Media

See the Secretary's report.

7. Trail Adoption

No action since last meeting.

8. PEC Environmental Award

Nominations for this award are due in early 2017. R. Steffey is remains willing to prepare and nominate the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, but needs members to send him examples of

environmental and protection of natural resources that have been accomplished on/adjacent to their trails this past year.

It was requested that as a group we be thinking about nominating the EPT for 2018 PA Trail of the Year.

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.

Adjournment:

The next meeting is scheduled to be held Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. in Oil City, PA., the location will be determined, and notifications sent out via email.

R. Weil motioned to adjourn the meeting, K. Harris seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Harris, EPTA Secretary
Minutes Prepared January 4, 2017