

Web site Content and ownership

There have been some questions raised recently about the ownership of content, software and themes used on the EPTA websites. A request has been made for written clarification of the verbal agreement that was made and accepted by the board on Apr 22, 2014 in Titusville. At that time the web site was limited to 4 pages, costing yearly maintenance fees and was difficult to update.

Where I am coming:

I have been developing and maintaining web sites for two dozen or more trails (and other organizations) for approximately 20 years. In the course of this work, I have developed web site structures, content organizations, presentation themes, support code, self-checking, add-ins, mapping, database schema, content, procedures, etc. that are used in multiple sites.

The EPTA web site, in particular, incorporates much of this content.

I offer the resulting web sites to trail organizations without charge in exchange for credit on the web sites. In other words, the intellectual content (IP) is mine, and I allow the trails to use it. I even cover the costs of hosting these sites on a national Internet Service Provider including the yearly domain name fees, and software license fees.

The following is a formal agreement of the Apr 2014 arrangement:

Roy Weil, Shaw-Weil Associates, and Roy Weil Consulting (the grantors) grants a non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-assignable license to the content, software, and themes (their intellectual property) used on the Erie to Pittsburgh websites (eriepittsburghtrail.org and its subdomains) to the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance (the grantee). The grantor will also host the website on a national internet service provider and provide monthly maintenance service.

In exchange for the free license and service by the grantor, the grantee authorizes the acknowledgement of support on the websites sponsors page, and the inclusion of a mention in the footer line on all web pages.

The overall content of the websites is controlled by those willing/authorized to make changes within the guidance/control of a website committee.