

**ERIE TO PITTSBURGH TRAIL ALLIANCE, INC. (EPTA)**  
**Minutes of January 15, 2020 Regular Business Meeting**  
**Held at Rachel's; Roadhouse, Mercer, PA**

Participants

Organization

**Voting Members**

Bob Jennings	Allegheny River Trail in Clarion (delegate) (ARTinC)
Chris Ziegler	Armstrong Trails (delegate)
Mike Baker	Erie County Planning & Community Development (alternate) (ECP&CD)
Courtney Mahronich Vita	Friends of the Riverfront (delegate) (FOR)
Marty Radock	IMPACT Corry (delegate) (IC)
Barney Scholl	Mercer County Trails (delegate) (MCT)
Kim Harris	Oil Region Alliance (delegate) (ORA)
Sandy Mateer	Redbank Valley Trails (delegate) (RVT)
Leah Carter	Titusville Area Trails Association (delegate) (TATA)
Emily Beck	VisitErie (delegate)
Roy Weil	At-Large (delegate)

**Voting Members Absent:**

Bill Weller	Allegheny Valley Trails Association (AVTA)
Debbie Sweetenman	Butler Freeport Community Trail (delegate) (BFCT)
Jim Fincher	Chautauqua Rails to Trails (delegate) (CRT)
Tom Baxter, IV	At-Large (delegate)
Ron Steffey	At-Large (delegate)

**Guests:**

Designated Alternates--

Dan Kostella	Armstrong Trails (AT)
Mary Shaw	Alternate for Roy Weil
Marilyn Black	ORA
Chris Corban	Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Brett Hollern	Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Honey Stempka	Erie County Planning & Community Development
Lyndsie DeVito	Penn DOT District 1-0
Ed Hartle	Penn DOT District 1-0
Toni Henry	East Brady Development
Beth Kostella	

President B. Scholl called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. welcoming everyone to the meeting. Self-introductions were made by meeting attendees.

A quorum of the Board of Directors was present (25% of the total shall constitute a quorum).

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the October 16, 2019 regular quarterly EPTA Board of Directors meeting were provided in advance of the meeting. R. Weil moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by C. Ziegler. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was provided in advance of the meeting. It was noted one additional membership arrived prior to the beginning of today's meetings S. Mateer moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and placed on file, seconded by B. Jennings. Motion approved.

**Communications Received:** The Secretary, K. Harris reported that no communications were received.

**Letters of Support:** No letters of support were requested this past quarter.

**Logo Usage Request:** No requests received this past quarter.

**Grant Opportunities and Workshops-** Erin Wiley Moyers, DCNR Regional Advisor, continues to issue a comprehensive list of grants, workshops, and other pertinent information via email weekly. L. DeVito noted that a round of Transportation Alternative funding will be open in June 2020 with reviews in in the fall and announcements in the winter 2021.

### **Old Business:**

1. **2021 PA Greenways and Trails Summit:** H. Stempka, Director of the Erie County Planning and Community Development indicated that they would like to have a press conference and would like to discuss with EPTA Executive Committee role EPTA could play in the Summit. H. Stempka and K. Harris, EPTA Secretary will arrange for a conference call for discussion. Conference date is scheduled for later part of September 2021.
2. **2020 EPTA Meeting Schedule Discussion:** Hosts are needed for the meeting schedule in 2020. Titusville Redevelopment Authority will host the April Meeting at Towne Square. C. Ziegler agreed to host the July meeting in East Brady. Discussion regarding the October meeting it was mentioned that possibly we could host in Spartanburg; E. Beck stated Erie is always willing to host, and S. Mateer is willing to host along the Redbank Valley Trail.

It was noted that there has been some discussions in the Trail Connections Committee that hosting meetings in areas where there is work happening may be a good idea, so that local partners, stake holders, and supporters could attend the meeting, and then have a meeting after the EPTA meeting that was confidential that would be dedicated toward their project(s).

### **Committee Reports:**

1. **Trail Connections Committee:** A written report, prepared by Committee Chair R. Steffey was provided in advance to Board Members which contained a brief summary update. R. Weil would like more details in the report. K. Harris noted that the Trail Connections Committee is building relationships with stakeholders and others. Anyone is always welcome to connect Trail Groups or others, but the Trail Connection Committee will keep information confidential until the trail group/stakeholders, etc. wants it released to the public. B. Jennings spoke to the need to keep information private. R. Weil moved that the EPTA Board take time at the next regular meeting of the Board to begin at the start of the EPT and review the

trail north to south and what is happening on each section, S. Mateer seconded. Motion Approved

2. **Strategic Plan Committee:** No update
3. **Industrial Heartland Trail Coalition Update:** C. Corban provided a brief update on the IHTC Meeting held in Pittsburgh. B. Hollern provided a feasibility update on the study being conducted on all sections of the EPT and the PA Wilds Loop that did not already have studies completed. This study is being paid for with Appalachian Regional Commission funding that PEC received. The study is 98% complete. Eight projects have been identified as appearing to be ready to go. PEC will share the 190 page document with the Trail Connections Committee for comments, and to verify information. PEC met with DCED about submitting an implementation grant and they are supportive and enthusiastic about such a grant submission. Match is required for the grant, PEC will be working with the Connections Committee to see what funding in other projects might be available that could be used and to assist with other needs, and will be seeking additional funding. PEC would like an all cash match. A County will need to be the actual applicant, PEC is working on this.
4. **Membership Committee:** A written committee report was provided. Memberships are coming in nicely from a recent mailing the Committee mailed out. The Committee has put together packets for members to solicit there municipalities.
5. **Marketing Committee:** A written report was provided in advance. C. Mahronich Vita noted that the new website will be launched in early March 2020. Please be sure to get any information to either C. Mahronich Vita or K. Harris by February 2, 2020. The 2019 Annual Report is being worked on, pictures and potential stories/information should be sent to C. Mahronich Vita or K. Harris by January 24, 2020. Save the Date notices for the 2020 Summit will be sent out soon.
6. **90 x 90 Campaign - Discussion on Progress:** R. Weil prepared a report on the campaign. It was asked that it be shared in the EPT Annual Report.
3. **2020 EPT Trail Summit:** A written Committee Report was provided prior to the meeting. The Summit will be held on August 21, 2020 in Franklin. C. Mahronich Vita and K. Harris are working on a Trail Workshop grant that is being offered by PALTA.

### **New Business:**

1. **2020 Budget:** R. Weil presented a handout with estimated costs that were collected from committees. After discussion with several changes that included removing the \$125 in expense category for Membership since it is included in Marketing Committee budget figures, and increase the memberships and donors from \$500 to \$1,000. The total income becomes \$2,300 with total expenses being \$3,650 – leaving a deficit of \$1,350. The deficit in the budget will be covered with surplus dollars carried over from 2019 for a balanced budget. It was moved by C. Mahronich Vita to approve the 2020 budget as adjusted, seconded by K. Harris. Motion approved. It was noted that the budget does not include the 2020 Summit and this will be presented for approval at a future meeting.

2. **EPTA and ORA Partnership on DCNR C2P2 Partnership Grant:** A concept of this partnership was provided in advance. M. Black, Vice President of Heritage Development for the ORA presented the concept in more detail and answered questions from those present at the meeting. She explained that DCNR specifically suggested application be submitted. 50% match is required, ORA would draft the application. Applications are due April. She noted that a Memorandum of Understanding between another PA Heritage Area and a greenways corridor forward their MOU as a sample of what works for them. It was asked who would oversee the contracted services – EPTA will determine the scope of work, the ORA will handle the day to day activities. M. Black mentioned that a special meeting could be called for approval of the application, and asked anyone that wanted to sit in on a small committee to work on the application to assist with the application to let her know. C. Mahronich Vita moved to proceed with the development of the application and budget for this grant opportunity, E. Beck seconded. Motion Approved with K. Harris and L. Carter abstaining

**Member Reports on Progress:** Written reports provided in advance were issued as part of the agenda packet.

**Adjournment:** K. Harris moved to adjourn the meeting, M. Radock seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

The next EPTA meeting will be hosted to be held in Titusville at Towne Square, on April 15, 2020 at 10:00AM. Additional details will be forth coming.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Harris, EPTA Secretary  
Minutes Prepared January 20, 2020