

**ERIE TO PITTSBURGH TRAIL ALLIANCE, INC. (EPTA)
Minutes of April 15, 2020 Regular Business Meeting
Held Virtually on Zoom Platform**

Participants

Organization

Voting Members

Bob Jennings	Allegheny River Trail in Clarion (delegate) (ARTinC)
Chris Ziegler	Armstrong Trails (delegate) (AT)
Jim Fincher	Chautauqua Rails to Trails (delegate) (CRT)
Joy Fronzoli	Erie County (delegate) (EC)
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)
Tom Baxter, IV	At-Large (delegate)
Ron Steffey	At-Large (delegate) <i>*Did not join the meeting until after agenda item 3</i>
Roy Weil	At-Large (delegate)

Voting Members Absent:

Bill Weller	Allegheny Valley Trails Association (AVTA)
Debbie Sweetenman	Butler Freeport Community Trail (delegate) (BFCT)
Emily Beck	VisitErie (delegate)

Guests:

Designated Alternates--

Dan Kostella	Armstrong Trails (AT)
Mike Baker	Erie County Planning & Community Development (alternate)

Marilyn Black	Oil Region Alliance
Chris Corban	Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Kathy Dahlkemper	Erie County Executive Director
Brett Hollern	Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Ed Hartle	Penn DOT District 1-0

President B. Scholl called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 January 15, 2020, regular quarterly EPTA Board of Directors meeting were provided in advance of the meeting. L. Carter moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by C. Mahronich Vita. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was provided in advance of the meeting. Was accepted and placed on file.

Communications Received: See Secretary's Report issued in advance

Letters of Support: See Secretary's Report issued in advance

Logo Usage Request: See Secretary's Report issued in advance

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.

Old Business:

1. **EPTA and ORA Partnership on DCNR C2P2 Partnership Grant:** M. Black, ORA reviewed the specific documents that were provided in advance to the full Board for review. Several questions were asked and answered. S. Mateer, asked that the Section 9 Termination of this Co-Operative Agreement be changed as follows: be changed to the *This Co-Operative Agreement may be terminated by either party with ninety ~~thirty~~ (390) days written notice to the other citing the effective date of such termination. In such event, the terminating party shall, within ~~thirty~~ ninety days of the date of such termination, pay to the other party its fair pro-rata share of allowable expenditures made up to and including the date of termination. The non-terminating party may seek another cooperating party to continue to meet the grant terms. Notice of any substitution of parties shall be sent to DCNR for approval.* No one voiced opposition to this requested change.

R. Weil asked if in the CA, is K Harris being project manager and contact for EPTA a conflict of interest. It was noted that EPTA could change this as they felt necessary.

It is noted in these minutes that Ron Steffey was not present during this discussion, nor during the following voting process.

After initial discussion K. Harris and M. Black left the meeting while a vote was taken. C. Mahronich Vita filled in for K. Harris, Secretary to record the vote. The motion presented by the committee to submit the EPTA Partnership funding request to the DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program required no second to the motion. Motion unanimously passed. The motion presented to enter into the Cooperative Agreement with the Oil Region Alliance as presented with the change requested by S. Mateer noted in this topic's discussion of these minutes requires no second. L. Carter and C. Ziegler abstained; K. Harris, was not present for vote; two nay votes, Motion passed with 6 yay votes.

2. **2021 PA Greenways and Trails Summit:** J. Fronzoli provided a brief update on the planning for the summit.

Committee Reports:

1. **Trail Connections Committee:** Activity along the EPTA trail corridor will be presented after the business meeting.

2. **Strategic Plan Committee:** A written report was provided in advance.
3. **Industrial Heartland Trail Coalition Update:** PEC will provide a brief update on the trail report that was conducted and completed in early 2020.
4. **Membership Committee:** A written committee report was provided. L. Carter pointed out that membership is double of what it was last year.
5. **Marketing Committee:** A written report was provided in advance. C. Mahronich Vita noted that the new website is up, if changes need to be made let the Marketing Committee know. The 2019 Annual Report nearly complete and the brochure would be done soon, K. Harris has been working with the trail owners featured in the brochure on a few things.
6. **2020 EPT Trail Summit:** A written Committee Report was provided prior to the meeting. Speakers are being lined up, and other tasks are being taken care of but slowed up a bit due to COVID -19.

New Business:

1. **Virtual Meetings:** Discussion on whether EPTA should invest in their own virtual meeting software. There were opinions that we should and those that felt it was not necessary. S. Mateer moved that we table the discussion of a later time, C. Zeigler seconded. Motion approved.
2. **Sharing Open Trail Information:** A motion was issued with the agenda materials in advance of the meeting. R. Weil began the discussion of desiring to have public information shared. There was much discussion and questions regarding the motion. B. Scholl president stopped discussion after a bit and asked R. Weil, B. Jennings, and R. Steffey to discuss this item on the side and bring back a resolution to the Board a recommendation.

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

The meeting was opened to public with a presentation of the EPT corridor and activities happening along it. R. Steffey, Chair of the EPTA Trail Connections Committee, lead the presentation, beginning with PEC representatives providing a brief update on the study of the EPT and PA Wilds Loop Corridor that was completed in early 2020. A link to the study was posted in the chat section of the zoom meeting platform, so those who have not read the report can download a copy if they wish. PEC continues to work on a funding request to be submitted to ARC for projects on the EPT and PA Wilds Loop. The presentation continued with each trail or trail related organization having the opportunity to provide an update of the trail they are involved in. The meeting was then opened for comments and questions, which none were made.

The next topic that was brought up for discussion was how COVID -19 was affecting our local trails. Open discussion indicated that in the Pittsburgh Area the trails are not being maintained due to the City action during this time, so there is trash building up around trash cans and the trail corridor. Overall everyone is seeing more use on the trails with people wanting to get out. Events are being cancelled, with some being rescheduled, others being held in creative ways such as virtual races, etc. C. Zeigler mentioned that the BFCT debated whether to go forward with their annual membership campaign, they did and have gotten great response, vs. ArtinC who began a membership campaign just prior to the

virous outbreak, which is not seeing good results at all. It was noted DCNR has been putting out good information about outdoor recreation and the COVID-19 and E. Wiley-Moyers had a great selection of related materials in her Monday, April 13 email.

Adjournment: B. Scholl adjourned the meeting at 12: 47 p.m.

The next EPTA meeting will be hosted by C. Ziegler in Freeport at Lily's (River Forest Country Club) on July 15, 2020, at 10:00AM. Additional details will be forth coming.

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