

Meeting Report: Ma and PA Community Greenway Feasibility Study
York Township Community Focus Group

Date: April 13, 2009
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: York Township Municipal Building
Project No.: 08MPR-01
By: Ann Yost

Persons Attending: Josie Dick, resident
Fred Kennedy, resident
Timothy Blessing, resident
Robert Thompson, resident
Walter Hains, residents
Andrea McLain, resident
Larry Pritt, resident
Craig Miller, resident
Robert Grove, resident
John LeCates, resident
Jerrold Keyes, resident
Diane Eberly, resident
Mark Baxley, resident
Susan Fulton and Robert Wilson, residents
Joe Laucks, resident
Paul Knepper, Township Commissioner
Don Yoder, School Board President
Dennis Ness, Township Commissioner
Jim Holmes, resident
Ben Geesey, resident
Tim Salvatore, Planning Commission member
Rebecca Hicky, resident
Debra Hatley, York Township Recreation Department Director
Ann Toole, Toole Recreation Planning
Chuck Strodoski, YSM
Ann Yost, YSM

Meeting Purpose: To explore ideas, opportunities, and issues regarding use of the historic Ma & Pa rail corridor for a recreation trail.

Of Record:



1. A. Yost began the meeting with introductions of the consultant team.
2. A. Yost defined the purpose of the Ma & Pa Community Greenway Feasibility Study, the purpose of the Community Focus Group meetings in each municipality, and identified the geographic limits of the study area. The three perspectives of feasibility to be explored as part of the project include 1) legal feasibility, 2) physical feasibility, and 3) operations and management feasibility.
3. The planning process was described which seeks input from the public through:
 - Working with a Study Committee
 - Surveys of attendees at community focus groups and municipal officials.
 - Key person interviews
 - Two public meetings – one was held in January and one will be held mid-way through the planning process
 - Open house
4. A. Yost provided a summary of the work completed to date:
 - Kick off meeting and goal setting with the Study Committee
 - Public meeting in January.
 - Legal Feasibility – The railroad right of way has been formally abandoned and the land of the right-of-way has reverted to the contiguous property owners.
 - Physical Feasibility – Site analysis has been completed for the entire corridor study area. There are issues to be addressed such as road crossings and stream crossings but the existing physical setting of the former rail bed is compatible with conversion to a recreation trail.
4. Public comment and questions were requested from the attendees. A question was asked regarding the consultant teams experience on other similar projects. The York-Hanover Trolley Trail Feasibility Study was cited as well as other projects in Berks, Dauphin, and Bucks counties.
5. A. Yost presented a PowerPoint overview of benefits of community trails. Information provided was based on the 2007 Users Survey and Economic Impact Analysis of The York County Heritage Rail Trail, as it is a well known local trail. The presentation included statistics on trail users, typical times of trail use, safety and security, economic impact. The survey can be viewed at www.yorkcountyparks.org.
6. A. Toole described the hands-on portion of the focus group asking attendees to gather around the maps provided and explore opportunities and issues associated with the project study corridor in York Township. Specifically, attendees were asked to identify options for work-arounds in areas where property owners were opposed to a trail or the historic corridor was not compatible with existing adjacent uses, identify any concerns such as flooding or traffic, and locate areas where the trail could be implemented. Attendees broke into three groups to complete the exercise and mark-up the maps provided.
7. Attendees were thanked for their time and input on the project.