

Meeting Report: Ma and PA Community Greenway Feasibility Study
Yoe Borough Community Focus Group

Date: June 22, 2009
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Yoe Borough Municipal Building
Project No.: 08MPR-01
By: Chuck Strodoski

Persons Attending: Tom Allar, Yoe Borough Council
Dana Shearer, Yoe Borough Maintenance
Marcy Nicholas, Pastor, Christ UMC
Joe Strobeck, Yoe business owner
Kathy Stough, resident
Jim Stough, resident
Seth Noll, resident
David Landis, Yoe Parts
Hank Wagaman, Yoe Parts
Wendy Tyson, Yoe Business
Polly Bailey, resident
Ann Toole, Toole Recreation Planning
Chuck Strodoski, 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. C. Strodoski began the meeting with introductions.
2. C. Strodoski 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. C. Strodoski 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.
 5. C. Strodoski presented an 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 Yoe Borough. 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 two groups to complete the exercise and mark-up the maps provided.
 7. Concerns were raised regarding trail development at the intersection of Main Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, based on existing commercial properties and available parking. Traffic and safe crossing was also noted as a serious concern. T. Allar presented a potential “work-around” to avoid these area. The work around was favored by the group over the historic corridor, and was added to the map.
 8. Attendees were thanked for their time and input on the project.