

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

Date: July 8, 2009
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Dallastown Borough Municipal Building
Project No.: 08MPR-01
By: Ann Yost

Persons Attending: Michael Wagner, Dallastown resident
Glenn Rexroth, business owner
Roy Bisking, Dallastown resident
Craig & Susan Folk, Dallastown resident
Steve Rice, Dallastown business owner
Jean Lamar, Dallastown business owner
Richard Bogart, Dallastown Borough Council
Connie Stokes, Dallastown Borough Manager
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.
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.
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. Questions were raised about liability and A. Toole referenced PA's Recreation Use of Land and Water Act which protects landowners that open their lands for recreation. A synopsis of the Act is located on PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources web site. Questions were also raised about trail development funding and grant opportunities for trail development were described.
7. A. Yost invited 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.
8. Stephen Rice and Jean Lamar who own the Broad Street Antiques Market provided a handout which described the reasons for their opposition to the trail in the area of their property and property maps and photos.
9. C. Stokes provided information about Borough property at the corner of North Walnut Street and East Maple Street that would be available as a trail head for parking. She also noted that Jeff Henry, (custom home builder) owns the apartments between North Walnut Street and Pleasant Avenue that back up to the corridor. Mr. Henry could not attend the meeting but expressed interest in the project.
10. Attendees were thanked for their time and input on the project.