

**Pine Creek Rail Extension
Trail Advisory Council
May 17, 2023**

Attendees: Deb Bigley, Marc Rice, Kaye Aumick, Julie Henry, Ron Doughtie, Skip Cavanaugh, Terry Borneman, Kristin Hamilton, Jim Hyland, and Aaron Crist

Deb Bigley opened the meeting at 8:30 AM. Introductions were given.

Public Comments: None

Notes were reviewed from the last meeting (March) with no changes.

Chamber/Borough/Develop Tioga/GROW:

- Julie (Chamber) – The groundbreaking at the new trailhead site was wonderful.
 - Busy with the Laurel Festival.
 - EV stations are up and working. People have been using them.
 - Wynken, Blynken, and Nod restoration has started.
 - Security cameras have been installed at Woodland and Packer Parks.
- Kristin (Develop Tioga) – The discover Tioga App is available. Training and publicity for the app are ongoing.
 - A new person to the area used the app to find a realtor and bought a house in the area. Restaurants are getting more visitors.
 - Live, Work, Play photo contest is going on now until the end of June. Kristin encouraged everyone to participate. They have been receiving pictures already. The grant prize is a \$250.00 eCard for shops in the county; and \$50.00 eCard for the winner in each category.
 - Whole Home Repair – Applications are being accepted now. The hope is to help improve the homes in the county.

DCNR/PennDOT:

- Aaron (PennDOT) – Wilson continues to work the North section and downtown connector pieces. They should have the preliminary right of way soon.
- Jim and Ron (DCNR) – The CXT's at Butler Road are up and ready, they will just need to be inspected before opening.
 - The parking will be changing when the trail opens at Butler, parking will extend into the picnic area.

Grant Applications:

- PA Gaming Statewide Local Share Account – Awarded \$1M for the trailhead site work. This is a match free grant!
- CFA/MTF – No update; still pending.

- ARC – Economic Development Grant – The ARC and EDA were split again. We were asked to separate and resubmit ARC. The EDA felt they could fund the trailhead building, but not the site development, ARC can fund the site development.
- EDA Community Development
- PennDOT/MTF – No update; pending.
- DCNR C2P2 – One application was submitted and not two. This will be for the Mary Worthington bridge to Rt. 287 for \$513,950.
- Ear Marks – Tioga County (sponsored by PennDOT) was successful in being added to Fetterman’s list for ear marks.

Trailhead Design:

- Working with EADS and Wilson toward final design. Working to finish the lighting plan. Working with Steve Conrad on lighting to be dark sky friendly.
- Working on the Land Development application and permitting.
- The design should be done soon and then it can go to bid.

Landowner Communication:

- Housing Authority – Working with the housing authority to minimize the impact on their property. A public meeting was held with the tenants of Pinnacle Towers.
- Easement with Backstreet Dreams – Working towards closing the easements on both the bridge and driveway.

Old Business:

- Charleston Street Connector – Deb showed the most current map for the connector to Charleston Street. This plan will change some. The location of the bridge will change some to help minimize the removing of trees. Permitting is needed for the stream crossing.
- 287 Crossing – DCNR owns this crossing and will be funding this portion of the project. DCNR and PennDOT will be working together on the crossing. They will use the county engineer’s design to complete the project. The secretaries were able to meet and view this project on Friday, May 12.
- Northern Section – This section is still on track to be ready to go to bid next spring; 2024.
- Rail Siding Demolition – This is complete. We will be using PennDOT MTF funds to cover the costs.

New Business:

- Southern Section Construction/Ground Breaking – May 12th was a very successful day! We had around 70 people that gathered for the celebration. Thank you to Deb, Marc, Aaron, Meredith, and everyone that helped make the day successful! A news broadcast can be viewed on the Wellsboro Home Page and an article can be found in this week’s addition of the Wellsboro Gazette. H&P Construction is at the site and set up and ready.

The provide a schedule and have begun to work. You will begin to see silt soxs, safety fences, and cleaning and grubbing over the next few weeks. Bridge work will begin this summer at A9 and trail work will be complete next spring. The anticipated completion is May 2024.

- Downtown Connector – We have had positive conversations with the Borough and will be working together to move forward with the safe connection from Charleston Street to town.

Public Comment:

- Terry asked about applying to Rails to Trails. Deb and Mark stated that they will look into applying.
- Julie talked about the “what’s next” when the trail extension is complete. There is talk from the community about extending the trail up to the little league fields. This would give the kids a safe way to get to the fields and get them off Charleston Street. There would be a need for partnership and community support for this.
- Kristin talked about First Friday being successful. Julie Schaffer worked hard to coordinate. They have had positive conversations with visitors to the area concerning the trail. Talk is happening in the county and beyond.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22AM

Next meeting: July 19 @ 8:30AM Chamber Building and Zoom

Notes respectfully submitted by Kaye Aumick.