

**Marsh Creek Greenway
Pine Creek Rail Extension
Trail Advisory Council
March 15, 2023**

Attendees: Deb Bigley, Marc Rice, Kaye Aumick, Julie Henry, Tim Morey, Skip Cavanaugh, Terry Borneman, Kristin Hamilton, Jim Weaver, Ben Stone, Meredith Hill, Jim Hyland, Chuck Dillon, and Erica Tomlinson

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

Public Comments: Julie stated that she had 2 citizens that stopped to talk to her about their concerns. There is concern around the green space at Pinnacle Towers that will be taken up by the trail. The other concern was about the trail into town; using Pearl Street rather than Main Street.

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

Deb advised the council that the website for this project will be updated with a brief paragraph about the council and a link to the meeting minutes will be added. The link to have your name added to the distribution list will also be added to the site.

Chamber/Borough/Develop Tioga/GROW:

- Julie (Chamber) – There is a lot happening right now.
 - Laurel Festival planning is coming along.
 - The ED stations will be going in soon. The borough parking authority needs to approve the location; there will be 3 around the green.
 - The restoration of Wynken, Blynken, and Nod will start in May.
 - Working to replace the clock on the Vickory building.
- Kristin (Develop Tioga) – Ready to release Discover Tioga to the general public for use. This app has a lot of great information that is available about Tioga County. Kristin asked that we download and take a look and send her any feedback. This is an interactive app with lots of variety. There is no cost to businesses or nonprofits that wish to be listed.
 - Tioga Works is another initiative to help current businesses and expansions.
 - Housing and Community Needs is another group that is starting up to address the needs of the county. Some needs that were addressed in the initial meeting; child care, transportation, housing needs, and recruitment.

DCNR/PennDOT:

- Aaron (PennDOT) – per Deb for Aaron – The work orders for the Charleston Street connector and Northern section are up and running with Wilson. There is a PennDOT MTF meeting on April 3 to review the open grants and applications. We are in good shape as we are spending design money on Charleston Street and starting work on the Southern Section.
- DCNR – Meredith stated that the C2P2 grand deadlines is coming soon. There is a meeting to talk about the crossing at 287.
 - Jim H. commented that there is a commitment for CXT's to be delivered at Butler and other areas throughout the County.

Grant Applications:

- PA Gaming Statewide Local Share Account – On the agenda for the March 16 MTF meeting.
- CFA/MTF – No update; still pending.
- ARC – Economic Development Grant – Should have answers soon. This is being bundled with EDA and PA Wilds because the BBB was unsuccessful.
- EDA Community Development
- PennDOT/MTF – Pending the April 3 meeting.
- DCNR C2P2 – We have 2 applications in the works; 1 for the Rt. 287 crossing for \$188,700., and 1 for the work from the Mary Worthington bridge to Rt. 287 for \$513,950.
- Ear Marks – We are submitting a congressional appropriations request for \$1.3M for the Northern section. This is exciting as it should fully fund the Northern section with no local match.

Trailhead Design:

- Working with EADS and Wilson toward final design. The timeline is dependent upon the ARC and EDA applications that are pending. Utility coordination is almost complete and getting very close to submitting the land development and other permits.

Landowner Communication:

- Mary Worthington Lane – Not doing any improvements to this area; for cost savings and no disturbance to neighboring land owners. The contractors will negotiate right of way for construction.
- Easement with Backstreet Dreams – Moving ahead quickly, should have a signed easement by the end of the month.

Old Business:

- Southern Section/Trailhead Schedule:
 - Design Schedule – Southern Section bidding schedule – Deb invited everyone to the pre-bid meeting at the Trailhead site.
Currently we have approximately 75 bids and 8 RSVPs to come to the prebid meeting.
 - March 20th at 11am - Trailhead site
 - April 10 at 10am - Courthouse
 - April 11 at 10am - Commissioners Meeting
- Charleston Street Connector – This is a PennDOT oversight project. It is in the ECMS system and work orders are being executed by Wilson for the design.
- Removal of Rails and Ties – Moving along and are into town. Should be completed in a few weeks.
- 287 Crossing – The plans were shared in the meeting. Safety is a big concern, PennDOT and DCNR are working on this together. There will be signage showing the pedestrians and bicyclist where to go. Lights will flash at traffic when someone is in the crossing area.

New Business:

- Northern Section – This section is in the final design phase and working towards permitting. There will be no wetland impacts!
- Rail Siding Demolition – In the rail yard approaching Rt. 287, G&W will be working with Grey Hill Construction to remove the switch and rail siding in preparation for the trail construction.

Public Comment:

- Terry Borneman stated that everyone is doing a great job and things seem to be moving along quite well. He also stated a concern for dark skies. This prompted a discussion in the room concerning the lighting at the trailhead facility. We want to ensure the safety of the users of the facility, but keep with the dark skies and keep the lighting downward facing.
- Tim Morey stated that there is a new individual in the area who is an astronomer. He can possibly give some ideas/thoughts on how to meet the dark skies and keep the trail users safe.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22AM

Next meeting: May 17 @ 8:30AM Chamber Building and Zoom

Notes respectfully submitted by Kaye Aumick.