

# Grand History Trail

## Township Supervisors Meetings

### (Liberty, Cumberland, & Freedom Townships)

Minutes of Meeting on October 9, 2018

with supervisors from Liberty, Cumberland, and Freedom Townships

Follow-ups are in **BOLD** type:

#### **Attendees:**

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Dennis Hicketier	HABPI
Robert Thomas	Campbell Thomas & Co.
Douglas Maisey	Campbell Thomas & Co.
John Bostek	Liberty Township
James Paddock	Cumberland Township
Paul Kellett	Freedom Township

#### Key Items discussed in Liberty Township Meeting:

- Bob went over the proposed trail alternative within Liberty Township, noting that the trail looks at a share-the-road experience along Irishtown Rd. from the north end of Emmitsburg to Boyle Rd., then a sidepath along Boyle Rd. and Shultz Rd. before connecting to Wenchoff Rd., where it enters Freedom Township.
- John asked what would be entailed in developing the off-road trail along Shultz Rd. and Boyle Rd.
  - Bob discussed the potential for trail easements along the road edge. ROW may be partially available within the road ROW, but certain locations will likely require use of private property. Negotiations with these property owners would be required to develop the trail.
  - Bob explained his experience in developing sidepaths along similar roads. Fences/landscaping/mailboxes/etc. can all be moved back in an aesthetically sensitive way to provide space for the trail without negatively impacting the property owner.
- John noted that he believes these Township roads have a ROW of 33'.
- Dennis asked Bob to touch on the potential benefits to the property owner associated with providing a trail easement. This included:
  - Tax benefits from providing a trail easement.
  - Protection from liability

- Maintenance and management that is provided by the trail entity.
- Increased land value is often attributed to trail access.
- Access to the trail for transportation and recreation.
- Potential for small business opportunities, whether it is a farm stand, Air B&B, etc.
- Option for landscaping and fencing improvements on property.
- John noted that there is a proposed Liberty Estate development planned for 2020 at the intersection of Tract, Wenchoff, and Crum Rd. that could potentially tie into the proposed western trail corridor. This development is for 569 homes.
  - **CT&C will reach out to Wendy Peck (Township Secretary, 717 642-3780) to get copies of the plan.**
  - John noted that they are studying the need for intersection improvements in Liberty Township to see if improvements need to be made to support the additional development traffic.
- Bob asked how John feels the community would react to a trail in Liberty Township.
  - John noted that it is hard to say. There were a number of people who opposed the Liberty Estate Development and are not supportive of major changes in general, but a trail is very different. A number of people in the community do walk and bike.
- There is also an equestrian community in the area that may be interested in using the trail. Equestrian trail users are being considered for use of the trail as part of this study.
- Bob mentioned the idea of “Advisory Bike Lanes” for Irishtown Rd. These bike lanes provide a sense of safety to trail users on narrow roads that have little vehicular traffic.
- John noted that Boyle Rd. and Orchard Rd. can see some traffic, as it is occasionally used as a bypass.
- **Dennis asked what the best approach is for reaching out to the community?**
  - **John noted that a public meeting would work best. Currently the Township has meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm, so the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday might work for a Public Meeting.**
- John mentioned that there are members of the Planning Commission that live along Stultz and Irishtown Rd.
- **Bob Thomas will send John a copy of the Wool Production Map he mentioned at the end of the meeting.**

Key Items discussed in Cumberland Township Meeting:

- Jim provided the design team with a copy of an old plan for a walking trail between Sachs Covered Bridge and the Historic Eisenhower Bridge. This 2007 design was never implemented. Jim thinks that Waterworks Road, now closed to most vehicular traffic, is all that is needed for the trail in this location.

- Jim went over the proposed alignments south of Sachs covered bridge and identified a number of property owners he feels would/would not support the trail.
  - Mr. Tim Shields owns a number of properties in the area and is heavily invested in preserving Adams County. Jim believes Mr. Shields would be a supporter of the trail project and he might be a good place to start with property owner outreach.
  - The Neiler property recently added some wetlands and may be good to speak to.
  - Others mentioned as “maybe supportive” included the Kern and Sentz properties.
- **Mr. Shields primarily owns property in Freedom Township, but Jim knows him well and would be happy to speak to him with Paul Kellett and Dennis.**
- Jim noted his interest in connecting the swinging bridge located west of Gettysburg, but this would likely be a connector trail rather than the primary Gettysburg to Emmitsburg alignment as its outside the study corridor.
- Jim agreed with John’s previous comment regarding equestrian use. Horses are a major part of the Township and large horse groups would love to have better access to the Gettysburg National Military Park. Currently they must use large trailers to get to the park, but they would certainly support a trail that would allow them to ride there. This trail access could also encourage equestrian tourism in the area.
- In discussing the Emmitsburg Rd. corridor:
  - Jim noted that some of the campgrounds have changed ownership, as they have not upgraded their sewage treatment facilities as required.
  - Jim also noted that there is a lot of interest in commercial development along the Emmitsburg Rd. corridor and the current zoning has little restriction on commercial development.
  - Jim does not believe the Emmitsburg Rd. corridor is the best option due to the commercial development and limited trail experience.
- **Jim recommended that prior to speaking with Mr. Shields, he and Dennis should speak to the Planning Committee and all the supervisors to inform them about the work being done on the trail study.**
  - **Jim acknowledged that the other Township Supervisors are going to have questions regarding cost/maintenance/liability/responsibility that they should be prepared to answer during this meeting.**

Key Items discussed in Freedom Township Meeting:

- **Before Jim left, Paul agreed that they could both contact Mr. Shields to discuss the trail.** Paul mentioned that Mr. Shields is currently working on developing a Chestnut Tree Museum near the covered bridge that the trail may help to support.

- Paul noted that Freedom Township has 3, rather than 5 supervisors. He believes it would be a 2 to 1 vote in favor of an “on-road trail route”, but he is unsure if an off-road trail would gain support.
- Paul agrees that the Emmitsburg Rd. Corridor is too difficult. There are a number of properties that are too close to the road to allow for a trail or sidepath. He also noted that Commissioner Matt Young owns a number of properties along Emmitsburg Rd. and he would not likely support recreational uses on his property.
- Paul recommended a few other back-roads, west of Pumping Station Rd. This alignment included Bingham Rd., Camp Gettysburg Rd., McGlaughlin Rd., & Water St. These roads are not the most direct route but offer some quiet back road alternatives.
- Paul noted that there is land on both sides of Pumping Station Rd. that has restrictions due to “Land Preservation” and do not allow impervious surfaces such as a trail. This may be an issue with taking the trail off-road in certain areas.
- Bob asked Paul what the road ROW dimensions are within Freedom Township.
  - Paul noted that he is unsure of the exact dimensions, as the plot lines were developed many years ago with limited records. Generally, township roads are 33’, but he has always assumed that Pumping Station Rd. has a general ROW of 50’, but that likely varies.
- Paul noted that the Gordon Rd. option is also a good option and he would be happy to see a pedestrian bridge installed over the creek adjacent to the ford.
- When asked how Paul feels the community would react to a trail proposal, he stated that Freedom Township is a “Land Rights Area” and there are a number of wealthy property owners who may not support a trail through their property.
  - Paul does not anticipate many people in the Township using the trail, but sees the value it offers as a longer distance trail that visitors would use.
- Paul also noted that Freedom Township has very limited resources and does not have funding to provide for trail construction/maintenance.
- **Paul is happy to introduce the trail concept to the other Township Supervisors.**