

# Grand History Trail Feasibility Study for Adams County

## Landowner Meeting-Tim Shields

Minutes of Meeting on November 8, 2018

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

### **Attendees:**

---

|                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Dennis Hicketier | HABPI                      |
| James Paddock    | Cumberland Township        |
| Paul Kellett     | Freedom Township           |
| Tim Shields      | Landowner                  |
| Dru Neil         | Gettysburg Nature Alliance |
| Tammy Myers      | Gettysburg Heritage Center |

### Meeting location and time:

Conference room in the Gettysburg Heritage Center, 297 Steinwehr Avenue, starting at 10:30 a.m.

### Meeting structure:

After introductions, Dennis asked Mr. Tim Shields if he knew about the Grand History Trail (GHT) and he did not. Dennis provided a handout to Tim and Tammy and Dru about the GHT and provided background information. He also explained the trail study purpose and funding and some of the activities. With Tim's approval, Dennis called Bob Thomas on his cell phone so Bob could listen and participate in the discussion. Although the audio wasn't the best, Bob was able to hear our discussion and we were able to hear Bob's input.

### Key Items discussed during the meeting:

1. Tim talked about how the area around Sachs Covered Bridge (SCB) needs to be improved. He owns the land adjacent to the road leading to the west side of the bridge. He would like to create a cul-de-sac half way down the road and provide for bus parking. The only road access to the bridge would be for emergency vehicles. Paul Kellett said the township supervisors would support this action. Tim is concerned about the safety of visitors to the SCB and liability for damage or accidents.
2. Tim stressed how he is working with the Gettysburg Nature Alliance (GNA) to preserve the land near SCB. Tim is very concerned about land conservation and educating the public about proper land conservation. He provided funding for re-decking the iron bridge at the

end of Waterworks Road. Tim is also a runner and would like to have a trail for that purpose in this area.

3. A learning orchard is being established on Tim's property near SCB. Tim is planning to construct a barn building in the southeast corner of his land parcel for conservation education. Due to a rise in the center of the parcel, the building would be mostly hidden from view when driving to SCB. An access road for the building would be created on the southwest edge of his property.
4. The GNA is the organization that will be constructing the barn building, which could possibly function as a rest stop on the trail. Tim is interested in trying to obtain use of the adjoining land parcel which is owned by the Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP) since the parcel is of no historical significance and access to the parcel is also very limited. Use of this parcel could also provide a link to the Eisenhower Farm property.
5. We discussed possible use of the trail by horse riders. Although several of Tim's friends have horses they ride, he and Paul did not like the idea because horses can tear up a trail and leave lots of manure on the trail.
6. Using Tim's property and that of his neighbor, Kevin Nearly(?), the trail would go from SCB along the west side of Marsh Creek out to Red Rock Road, near the concrete bridge. From there, Red Rock Road travels west and south to Shriver Road, which connects with Cunningham Road.
7. Paul said that Freedom Township Supervisors will work with landowners in the township to support the trail. Although the township has a small population, Tim mentioned that there are several wealthy landowners in the township.
8. The property at the intersection of Bullfrog Road and Pumping Station Road provides a beautiful vista. The property owner is in failing health but the young relative working the land does not appear to be the type to allow a trail easement.
9. Tim and Paul will help arrange meetings with other property owners. Tim will talk with his neighbor Kevin Nearly(?).
10. Jim Paddock suggested trying to use the swinging bridge between the southern end of Plank Road and Scott Road, or to construct a bicycle/pedestrian bridge across at this point across Marsh Creek. The old bridge abutments are still there according to Paul.
11. Jim asked Tim if he had recommendations for a trail route once it leaves his and Kevin's property. Tim and Paul do not like the idea of following Emmitsburg Road. From Kevin Nearly's property the trail could connect to the old Boyd's Bear Property and/or adjacent land owned by Gary Lowenthal, the founder of Boyd's Bears. Paul mentioned the use of McGlaughlin Road.
12. Tim is concerned about liability for someone injured on the trail. Paul and Bob discussed current legislation that protects land owners if they do not invite people onto their property for the purpose of selling a product. Tim was also concerned about trail maintenance for

picking up trash on the trail. Plans for this will be presented in the trail study but usually include use of volunteer groups for regular trail inspection and clean up.

13. Since SCB and the “iron bridge” near Red Rock Road are county bridges, they must have roads on both sides of the bridge, but use could be limited to emergency services vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
14. Paul wants to require future land development plans to show the proposed trail on the plans to make it easier to provide easements for the trail.
15. The American Chestnut Foundation is planning a conference here in October 2019. Tim is interested in establishing a chestnut planting area in Freedom Township. The foundation could be another trail supporter. Tim suggested contacting the Chesapeake Bay Foundation regarding water runoff for a trail along Marsh Creek.
16. Other groups Tim would like to be involved are the American Battlefield Trust and the Audubon Society as there are significant birding areas on the land we are discussing.

#### Next steps

- 1. Tim will talk with his neighbor Kevin Nearly to see if we could meet with him.**
- 2. We should probably meet with GNMP personnel regarding the parcel they own next to Tim.**
- 3. Campbell Thomas & Co. will prepare new maps which consider the routing we discussed.**

First draft prepared by Dennis Hicketier, HABPI