

Minutes of Meeting on February 28, 2019

with personnel from the Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP)

See attached list of attendees

An hour of discussion produced the following key points.

Use of land parcel next to Sachs Covered Bridge

- Acting Superintendent Wenschoff and Zachary Bolitho thought that the park could do a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to allow the proposed trail to cross this park property and recommended it go closer to the parcel boundary with the Shields property rather than along Marsh Creek.

Getting from the Visitor Center to Sachs Covered Bridge

Bob Thomas and Doug Maisey, from Campbell Thomas & Co. (CTC), used a large map to point out the possibility of going down Millerstown Road and then utilizing the entrance road to the Eisenhower Farm, or continuing westward on Millerstown Road to connect to Red Rock Rd. Another preferred route includes connecting from Emmitsburg Rd. to Red Rock Rd. by way of Eisenhower Farm Road.

- Ahna Wilson, Site Manager at the Eisenhower Historical Site, discussed the pros and cons of both options. She expressed concern about the safety of bicyclists riding against traffic on the entrance road, which is used by bus tours, when trying to leave the Eisenhower Site. Bob Thomas suggested the possibility of having cyclists ride into the farm on the entrance road but exiting the farm on the Eisenhower Farm Road to avoid these safety issues.
- Ms. Wilson also expressed concern about people using the trail after closing hours for the park. Mr. Thomas stated that many trails are only open dawn to dusk and trail users know they must use the roads or some other route if the trail is closed.
- Jim Paddock expressed great interest in locating the trail inside the fence that runs along the south side of Millerstown Road. Mr. Wenschoff and Mr. Bolitho said that would require several studies and approvals and would take a long time.
- Ms. Wilson suggested the possibility of using the “dump” road that follows the historic road alignment and connects from the Eisenhower Farm entrance rd., behind some barns and out to Red Rock Road. Ms. Wilson also stated that a large portion of Eisenhower Farm floods

near the intersection with Red Rock Road. Portions of the road wash out frequently and require repair once or twice a month during wet weather.

- Mr. Bolitho commented on the beautiful views when entering the Eisenhower Farm Road from Emmitsburg Road. Everyone agreed and as the discussion continued, the use of this road through the property and out to Red Rock Road became the preferred alternative. How to deal with washouts and bus traffic will need to be analyzed.

Status of the Trail Study for GNMP

- Mr. Bolitho stated that the study would not be completed and published due to changing situations. However, GNMP personnel will use the findings of the study to pursue trail development when feasible.

Status of the Spangler Trail

- Mr. Bolitho said that one approval has not yet been received but they anticipate starting construction in 2020. This will serve as the way for the Grand History Trail to enter the park from the east.

Status of Signage Prohibiting Bicycles on Walking Trails in GNMP

- Mr. Bolitho said the park does not currently enforce the “no bicycles” signs, but they had planned to request approval for bicycles on the trails as part of the trail study. He said that with the completion of the park trail study, the park was going to submit an Environmental Analysis to obtain approval to allow bicycles on their walking trails. Since the trail study was not completed, that approval request has not been submitted. He said that when they submit the approval, they will now plan to add the Eisenhower Farm Road, and maybe the entrance road, to the study. He also said that approval for bicycles on any trails that will be on or connecting to the Harmon Farm would be submitted separately.

Next Steps

CT&C will prepare more detailed maps or drawings to show where the trail might cross park property near Sachs Covered Bridge and the Eisenhower Farm.

The meeting concluded at 12 noon.