

Grand History Trail Feasibility Study in Adams County

Committee Meeting #2

Meeting Date & Time: Tuesday, September 11, 2018; 5-7 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: To be decided

1. See the attached meeting agenda. The topics and headings below are taken from the agenda. The bullets describe what was discussed or took place.
2. Bob Thomas, Partner at Campbell, Thomas, & Co. (CTC) made a presentation, using PowerPoint, to explain what he and his team found as they conducted field research in the study area. Doug Maisey with CTC distributed an 11x17 inch map showing most of the roads that they analyzed. This is the second attachment.
3. A list of people attending is the third attachment.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

- It was the first meeting for Paul Kellett and Bob Jackson so they were introduced to the CTC team as they came in.
- We quickly went around the room at 5 p.m. so everyone knew the organization attendees represented.

II. MEETING UPDATE – GNMP and ITS TRAIL NETWORK

- Bob Thomas briefly discussed our meeting with Dafna Reiner and Zach Bolitho from Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP). Minutes from that meeting were distributed to committee members previously. Bob was pleased with the meeting and the information provided by Mr. Bolitho.

III. RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

a. Background Materials/Previous Studies and Reports

- Bob started by saying that in general all the easy trails are done. Most unused railroad beds have been converted to trails and now we need to work with municipalities and landowners to find acceptable locations for trail easements.
- A key point that Bob made throughout his presentation was that trail developers need to talk with landowners to find how the trail can benefit them. The benefit could be a new fence they want; it might be

landscaping, it might be trail access for their family members and neighbors; it could be good standing in the community, better access to parts of their property, the possibility of adding a small business (like a fruit stand) next to the trail, and any number of things. The key is to find what would appeal to the landowner.

- Bob talked about trails becoming destinations in themselves. If a trail has interesting features like historic bridges, beautiful views of the landscape, stops at interesting or historic places, it adds to the appeal of the trail and more people will support it.
- Bob explained how sometimes there needs to be changes in legislation to allow trails to be built in certain areas like those that are conserved. He cited other examples of such changes and of course, these take time.

b. Local Resources/Important Connections

- The fact that this proposed trail will connect with both the Grand History Trail and the 9/11 Memorial Trail needs to be stressed.
- Local resources like businesses and community groups need to be used to build support for the trail.

c. On-going Site Visits

- As this study progresses, the CTC team will continue to conduct field research to analyze potential alignments suggested by members of the Study Committee and landowners.

d. Potential Right-of-Way (Railroad, Utility, Old Road ROW's etc.)

- Bob showed a photo of the Morris Arboretum sidepath in Montgomery County as an example of a trail alongside a roadway. The Arboretum moved their fence to accommodate the sidepath.
- Bob showed a photo of one utility line they spotted in a field during their site visit, but Paul Kellett said it was in an easement, not ROW.
- No attendees knew of other ROW's in the study area.
- Bob talked about low traffic roads that could be used with "advisory bike lanes". He showed a photo of the old Lincoln Highway at the Flight 93 National Memorial and how it had been adapted, using different colored surface material, so cyclists could safely use it and the occasional vehicles could safely pass.
- Another photo showed bike lanes on each side of a single travel lane but where motorists could still pass without creating a dangerous situation.
- Bob showed a photo of Shorb's Mill Road that could be equipped with "advisory bike lanes" as a "country walking road" with minimal vehicle traffic.
- Dennis stressed that the goal for this trail is a safe place for young children to ride their bicycles. Bob said that it should also be a safe,

comfortable place for more senior riders or those who have not ridden their bicycles in some time.

- Also shown was a view of Emmitsburg Road and the entry to the Marsh Creek Campground. The point was made that a sidepath could be constructed here but it would require more work than other locations. Also stressed was how businesses like this often support trails because it can help their business.
- Paul Kellett mentioned the possibility of a small business being established near Sachs Covered Bridge.

e. On/Off-Road Alignment Alternatives

- Bob showed several slides of roadways starting from the Gettysburg Square to the GNMP Visitors Center and then down Emmitsburg Road to Millerstown Road to Sachs Covered Bridge and other roads on the way to Emmitsburg.
- Using several slides and the 11x17 inch map we were given, Bob took us down several roads into Emmitsburg, MD and then back up to Gettysburg using different roads. He discussed possibilities with each road.
- Bob then showed a small path leading south from Sachs Bridge. Mr. Paddock and Mr. Kellett said it only went a short distance.
- Bob also showed aerial views of several roads, including Pumping Station, and Mr. Kellett and Mr. Paddock were able to comment about the owners of the property along this road and others and how they might react to the prospect of a trail along the edge of their property.
- Bob showed aerial views of a possible path along Marsh Creek from Sachs Bridge to Cunningham Road. Again, Mr. Kellett and Mr. Paddock, as well as Ms. Reiner from GNMP, were able to provide information about property owners along the proposed path and in general, did not feel these landowners would cooperate. Bob mentioned that in some cases the ability to provide some streambank stabilization with the trail could help gain cooperation.
- Many roadways were discussed and included Pumping Station Road, Bullfrog Road, Bingham Road, Dawn Road, McGlaughlin Road, Middle Creek Road, Stultz Road, Rohrbaugh Road, Red Rock Road, Waterworks Road, Wenchoff Road, Stultz Road, Irishtown Road, and others. A copy of the map that was distributed will accompany these minutes.
- Gordon Rd. required fording and Bob showed a photo of how this was handled at Hickory Run State Park.

IV. MAPPING OF POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES

The map that was provided by CTC was fairly complete but will need to be updated as other roads are evaluated. Larger maps will also be used to better show the roadways in conjunction with property lines, topography and woodlands and fields.

V. SCHEDULE / PROJECT MEETINGS

a. Key Stakeholder Interviews

- One such interview took place when we met with personnel from GNMP.
- The municipal officials at this meeting are key stakeholders and a separate meeting with each group of township officials may be in order.
- Identification of other “key stakeholders” needs to be discussed further and determined.
- The project team will also look to coordinate with Emmitsburg, MD to discuss how the trail may tie into their trail work.

b. Public Meeting #1

- Bob stressed that before this takes place, interviews with key stakeholders and key landowners need to take place.
- We don’t want a lot of people coming to a public meeting who would be impacted by the trail but who have not been involved in discussions about the trail in advance of the meeting. When this happens, there is almost always a lot of negative opinions about the trail voiced in the meeting.

c. Next Steering Committee Meeting

- This will take place in October and should focus on our strategy for contacting landowner and other “key stakeholders.”

VI. NEXT STEPS/OPEN DISCUSSION

a. Identifying property ownership along proposed corridors

- CTC will be using land ownership records to identify the property owners and bring these larger maps and data to the next Study Committee meeting.
- Bob stated that sometimes properties are assigned a “Red-Yellow-Green” status to indicate the relative possibility of locating a trail on the property based on feelings of each property owner.

b. Conducting initial interviews with key property owners

- The strategy for doing this will be discussed at the next Study Committee meeting.

c. Selecting a Preferred Alternative Alignment

- This is will not take place for several months.

These minutes were prepared and submitted by Dennis Hickethier, Project Officer, with input from CT&C.

