

# Grand History Trail Feasibility Study in Adams County

## Committee Meeting #3

Meeting Date & Time: Wednesday, December 19, 2018; 5:30-7:15 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. Doug Maisey, with Campbell Thomas & Co. (CTC), distributed an updated 11x17 inch map showing most of the roads that they analyzed and two other maps of the area. These are attached to the file copy.
3. A list of people attending is the third attachment.

### **I. MEETING UPDATE**

- a. Bob Thomas discussed the separate meetings that he, Doug, and Dennis Hicketier conducted with Jim Paddock-Cumberland Township Supervisor, Paul Kellett-Freedom Township Supervisor, and John Bostek-Liberty Township Supervisor. The meetings provided good information about township specific recommendations and concerns. Separate minutes of those meetings were distributed previously.
- b. Jim Paddock arranged a meeting with Tim Shields, a major land owner in the area of Sachs Covered Bridge and south of the bridge along Marsh Creek. It was a very productive meeting and Mr. Shields would welcome a trail near the bridge and the environmental museum he is planning to build near the bridge.
- c. Jim said that Mr. Shields had spoken with a neighbor, Mr. Nearly, about the trail and he is also open to the idea but wants more information.
- d. Paul asked Dafna how she thought the park would feel about creating a trail on their land along Marsh Creek. Dafna thought it was a good possibility.
- e. Bob talked about our afternoon meeting in Emmitsburg with the Frederick County, MD Planning Director, the Frederick County Bike/Ped Coordinator, the Emmitsburg Town Manager, Town Planner, and Mayor. It was a good meeting that allowed us to explain what is being done with the study, to get their recommendations on possible routes to the MD border. They had a number of questions which we answered. Minutes of the meeting will be completed soon.

## **II. UPDATES TO ALIGNMENT MAPPING**

- a. Doug provided updated green and white maps to everyone and Bob explained the updates.
  - There is a new line along Marsh Creek
  - The roads of Bigham, Camp Gettysburg, Dawn, McLaughlin, and Water have been marked on the map.
  - The view at Pumping Station Road and Bullfrog Road has been marked.
  - Gordon Road with a possible footbridge has been added.
  - A potential trail from the Eisenhower Farm to Red Rock Road has been added to the map.
- b. Bob talked about several Corridor Alternatives
- c. The detailed mapping south of Sachs Covered Bridge was to be examined at the end of the meeting.

## **III. PALTA CHANGES TO MODEL GRANT OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**

- a. Bob explained that recent changes deal more with administrative notifications about desired property use than how easements are processed or created.
- b. There was a lengthy discussion about easements and the difficulty that may occur when trying to obtain easements on property that is either in Land Conservancy or Ag Preservation, even if the property owner is willing to grant an easement.
- c. Bob stressed that once a route is recommended, we need to look at possible impediments such as the status of the land under consideration.

## **IV. NEW ACTING SUPERINTENDENT AT GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK & EISENHOWER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

- a. Paul and Jim explained that Superintendent Ed Wenschhoff Jr. grew up in the area of Wenchhoff Road and Middle Creek Road.
- b. Dennis suggested that we meet with the new superintendent in January and asked Dafna Reiner, the biologist at the park, if we should try and arrange a meeting through her or the Public Affairs Officer. She said that she might be able to get us scheduled sooner.

## **V. SCHEDULE / PROJECT MEETINGS**

- a. CTC and the Project Officer will continue to meet with key stakeholders as is appropriate. A meeting with Mr. Nearly seems to be the next meeting that should take place. The other key meeting will be with the new park superintendent.

- b. Bob said that he and Doug will be meeting with the PennDOT District 8 representative to see if any road improvements are planned in the study area in the near future. Such improvements could help us in developing the trail, depending on the road.
- c. Bob thought that we should be ready for our first public meeting in February. We need to announce the meeting at least 30 days in advance in the local newspaper and other media sources. The meeting will have groups of 5-7 people around a couple tables with large maps of the study area. After a brief explanation by Bob of what we are trying to do, people will be asked to study the maps and mark them up with their recommendations. At least one member of the Study Committee should be with each group to hear what they recommend and then take that information back to CTC. The structure of the meeting will be flexible so people can stop in anytime during the meeting.
- d. Bob will probably schedule another Study Committee meeting prior to the public meeting.

## **VI. NEXT STEPS/OPEN DISCUSSION**

- a. As stated previously, meetings with key property owners will continue. Bob is hopeful that we may be able to pave the way for establishing some trail easements which is beyond what most trail studies are able to accomplish.
- b. CTC will not be ready to recommend preferred alternative routes until after the first public meeting.
- c. Once the draft trail study is completed, CTC will go over the document with the Study Committee and give us a couple weeks to make recommendations. The second draft will then be presented at the second public meeting.
- d. For the open discussion, Dennis asked each committee member who had not spoken to comment and those follow.
  - Chris Berger from the Borough of Gettysburg: When do you think you will have a recommended route? Bob said it will be a couple months yet, and not until after the public meeting.
  - John Bostek, Liberty Township Supervisor: Is it okay to tell residents about the study now? Bob said it is not a secret so feel free to tell people but to get the full explanation and be able to ask questions, they should attend the public meeting so encourage them to attend.
  - Kipp Hamilton representing area churches: He mentioned that a lot of roads in the county get the tar and chip treatment and that could make a two-colored road, like in the photo that was distributed, subject to mistreatment. Bob said there are other ways to use the concept without using two-colors of pavement. Simple lines might be best. Kipp said that we should listen carefully to suggestions that Dafna makes about roads and routes as she has a great deal of experience riding the roads in Adams County.

- Paul Kellett, Freedom Township Supervisor: Paul suggested that townships consider developing an “Official Map” which could designate areas for future trail development (as well as other land uses). He feels that might help in future negotiations with land owners. Jim Paddock wondered how the county feels about “Official Maps” and if we were keeping the county informed about the trail study. I (Dennis) said our county representative could not attend this meeting but I would brief him about our meeting the next day.
  - Jackie Dwyer, Executive Director of Gettysburg Area Recreation Authority: Jackie said she would like some flyers explaining the public meeting because many people coming into the Charlie Sterner Building ask questions about events being conducted there.
- e. Study Committee members gathered around some large size maps of the study area to look more closely at land parcels and where the trail might go and to offer suggestions.

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

