

Grand History Trail Feasibility Study in Adams County Study Committee Meeting #7

Meeting Date & Time: Monday, January 20, 2020; 5:30-7:00 p.m.

People attending the meeting:

NAME	ORGANIZATION & POSITION	CONTACT INFO
Dennis Hicketier	Healthy Adams Bicycle/Pedestrian, Inc. Project Officer	tdhicketier@comcast.net 717-337-2932
James Paddock	Cumberland Township Township Supervisor	jepaddock@centurylink.net 717-334-3303
Rich Luquette	Liberty Township, Planning Commission	rich.luquette@gmail.com 717-642-3780
Chris Berger	Borough of Gettysburg-Council member	cmberger35@yahoo.com 717-339-7151
Sarah Kipp	Land Conservancy of Adams County Land Conservation Coordinator	717-334-2828 skipp@adamscounty.us
Robert Thomas	Partner in Charge Campbell Thomas & Co.	rthomas@campbellthomas.com 215-985-4354
Douglas Maisey	Project Planner Campbell Thomas & Co.	dmaisey@campbellthomas.com 215-720-5167

1. Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr. Douglas Maisey, with Campbell Thomas & Co. (CTC), distributed the following documents for each participant:
 - a. An 11x17 inch map titled, "Study Area Delineation Map", DWG NO. A.1, dated January 20, 2020, showing most of the roads that they analyzed in the study area.
 - b. An 11x17 inch map titled, "Base Map", DWG NO. A.2, dated January 20, 2020, showing how different land areas are classified as being under Land Conservancy easements, being preserved farms, and being within the Gettysburg National Military Park.

- c. An 11x17 inch map titled, "Alternative Alignments", DWG NO. B, dated January 20, 2020, showing in yellow, places for a trail, a side path, an on-road lane, or an advisory bike lane.
- d. An 11x17 inch map titled, "Alternative Segment Map", DWG NO. C, dated January 20, 2020, showing alternative segments on roadways with four color codings that correspond to text in the draft report.
- e. An 11x17 inch map titled, "Interim ON-Road Alignment", DWG NO. D, dated January 20, 2020, showing the recommended route for the first, quick trail.
- f. An 11x17 inch map titled, "Long-Term Alignment", DWG NO. E, dated January 20, 2020, showing the recommended route for the final trail, side paths, and advisory bike lanes.
- g. An 11x17 inch spreadsheet labeled "Segment Reach Analysis Chart (Reference Map C)," file dated January 17, 2020, showing characteristics of 40 different segments of roads.
- h. An 11x17 inch spreadsheet labeled "Segment Reach Analysis Chart-Interim On-Road Alignment (Reference Map D)," file dated January 17, 2020, showing characteristics of 20 different segments of roads.
- i. An 11x17 inch spreadsheet labeled "Segment Reach Analysis Chart-Long-Term Off-Road Trail Alignment (Reference Map E)," file dated January 17, 2020, describing the start and end points for each trail segment and the characteristics of those 22 different segments of roads.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Bob Thomas asked that we do introductions around the table so he and Doug could refresh themselves with the participants and their representation.

AGENDA

Bob said he wanted to focus on the following agenda topics, along with questions and suggestions about the trail study report from meeting participants:

1. Confirming the presented trail alignments
2. The type of trail surface we wanted and where
3. Maintenance and management
4. Where costs for trail segments would be applied
5. Preparation for the public meeting in one week
6. Continuing discussion with property owners
7. Phasing the approach
8. Adjusting the design

INPUT FROM STUDY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Dennis Hicketier, customer Project Officer, asked if we could first allow the committee members to provide their response to the draft report and ask questions. Dennis pointed out that he had emailed his responses to everyone but had not seen any other responses. He started immediately to his right with Mr. Chris Berger.

- a. Chris asked for clarification about how the off-road trail would travel from Sachs Covered Bridge, through Mr. Shields property, to Red Rock Road. Dennis displayed a very large map and was able to show on the map what was being proposed. Several meeting participants gathered around the map and Jim Paddock provided clarification on where Mr. Shields wants the trail to go, relative to his property. Jim also noted that Mr. Shields prefers the Nature Center not be listed as a Trailhead. There was more discussion about neighboring properties and possible routes. Doug suggested that we display this large map at the public meeting and Dennis certainly agreed. Dennis also asked if CTC would print and display larger maps of those labeled B, C, D, and E. This would make it much easier for people to see where the routes are proposed. Doug said they could print the maps in 24x36 inch size.
- b. Chris asked about hours for the trail, especially on park service property, and possible lighting. He wanted to know if it would be a dusk to dawn operation. Bob stressed that the park service would dictate hours on their property and it is usually dusk to dawn but that can vary with the season. He said this has been a problem on some trails that are used by commuters who travel in the dark with front and rear lights. It was also explained that lighting is a trail element that can be added in the future should the need present itself.
- c. Ms. Sarah Kipp asked if the side paths would need easements from property owners. Bob said “yes” because few if any roads have sufficient right-of-way to add a separated bike lane.
- d. Someone asked, “What is the minimum width for this trail?” Bob and Doug said that a multi-use trail is preferable 10-12 feet in width, but can be as narrow as 8 feet depending on the projected use and nature of the trail. However, for some difficult situations and for short distances, it could be 4 feet. Sometimes this creates a one-way effect with people waiting for others to cross a narrow bridge or trail pinch point.
- e. Mr. Rich Luquette asked if the route he recommended going down to Seton Avenue in Emmitsburg could be added to Map C or E. There was a lengthy discussion about this route and how to display it. Dennis pointed out that it is shown on Map B with the other alternatives and he felt that was sufficient. Rich did agree that where we go after getting to Red Rock Road is a decision far in the future. As the trail progresses, the route to Seton Avenue may become a better alternative or may disappear as an alternative. Bob pointed out that we need to be aware of what is coming up from Maryland. He learned recently that Emmitsburg is planning to improve the streetscape along Seton Avenue.

- f. Mr. James Paddock provided comments throughout the above discussions. He then asked if we had sought County approval to use the Eisenhower Bridge and Sachs Covered Bridge as part of the trail. Dennis said they had not but would address the issue with the County Commissioners as Healthy Adams Bicycle/Pedestrian, Inc. usually brief the commissioners once a year on trail activities. Dennis would also brief the staff at the Adams County Office of Planning and Development regarding the issue. Bob mentioned that the September 11 Memorial Trail will also cross Adams County. He talked about how it would come from Chambersburg and continue from Gettysburg to Hanover and York. We do not know if the County Commissioners are aware of that either.

AGENDA- The type of trail surface we want and where

Dennis suggested in his written response to the report, that we provide this suggestion by each segment. That can be very time consuming. He said that we want crushed limestone, as on most rural rail-trails, except where steep grades may necessitate a paved surface for stability. He wondered if there couldn't be some general guideline that once a grade exceeds a certain number, paving is recommended. Bob stated that there are other factors besides grade, such as drainage and soil types in the area, and desire for handicap accessibility. Given our desire for crushed limestone, Bob said that CTC could make the determination for the segments we select.

AGENDA- Where costs for trail segments would be applied

Dennis asked for clarification and as we now understand, the Study Committee needs to select one of the several alternatives to be costed out. Dennis suggested we wait until after the public meeting. We may need another committee meeting to make that determination. The recommended off-road route will also be costed.

AGENDA- Preparation for the public meeting in one week

Dennis said he would like each township representative to talk for five minutes at the start, explaining why they support the trail, trying to win over some of their constituents. Rich said that he felt they would be repeating each other and taking up time. Jim echoed those sentiments. Bob said that what was important was for someone to simply talk about how the townships and park service support the trail. He suggested that we have a representative from the Gettysburg National Military Park, possibly Dafna Reiner who is a park employee and, on our committee, to state the parks support for the trail. Dennis will ask Dafna if she or her supervisor could do this for us. He or Bob will talk about township support for the trail.

Dennis thought we were going to meet in groups again to hear and discuss the study report. Bob said that would be like going back to gather more input rather than present the report. He said we need to thank the audience for their input at the previous meeting and allow them

questions during the presentation. Consequently, the chairs will be arranged in rows. Maps will be displayed on the walls prior to the meeting and committee members can stand by the maps and answer questions that meeting participants may have, prior to the meeting. Bob and Doug are nearly finished with their PowerPoint presentation and will send it to committee members this week for a final review.

Dennis said he wanted to start the meeting by talking about the benefits of creating the trail, stressing ways a landowner could benefit from the trail. Dennis would like a handout about benefits that participants could take with them. Doug showed some information that could be used for that purpose. Dennis also asked if Bob could explain to participants how the easement and purchase of property for trails normally works, since that might persuade some landowners, or make them less hesitant. Bob thought it would be good to do so and he will.

AGENDA- Continuing discussion with property owners, and benefits to them

As Bob pointed out, we need to continue to seek out and meet with property owners. He mentioned the Radnor Trail and how there were many such meetings over several years before agreement for the trail was reached with property owners. He stressed how it is important to try and find a benefit for individual property owners since every situation is a little different. He recommended opening the part of the trail that is easy. That gets the public quickly exposed to the trail so they are more likely to see the benefits and want more trail.

AGENDA- Phasing the approach

In his response to the draft report, Dennis suggested that the trail through the park be designated as Phase 1, while they also worked on Phase 2 which put the trail on property owned by Tim Shields. Jim Paddock felt we should start work on Tim's property since he is agreeable and the park trail could take a long time getting approved. After a short discussion, we all agreed that this would be a better approach. A number of actions can be taking place at the same time, but the priority should be on getting trail easements on Tim's property.

AGENDA- Adjusting the design

Trail development is an evolving process. New opportunities and new obstacles can appear at most any time. We must be willing to follow new opportunities, while keeping our end goal in mind.