

Meeting Minutes
Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee
Friday, December 2, 2022

The Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee was called to order by Chairman Matt Price at 9:30 A.M. The meeting was in the Annex I Building's Conference Room, at 205 Penn Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Attending:

Matt Price, Jen Bellis, Jayme Reck, Brian Wisner, Laura White, Vince Greenland, George Conrad, Debra Clark-Loner and Zack Lee.

Not in attendance:

Charles Harper, Judy Scott, and James Lettiere

Minutes

Matt Price called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. The first item up for discussion/action were the minutes from the September 30th, 2022 meeting. Jen mentioned somebody from Huntingdon Borough was interested in being a part of the Active Transportation Committee. The Borough feels they should have some involvement. The Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department sent an invitation allowing (1) person, either Adam Miller or Chris Stevens, to join. The HCPDD hasn't heard back as to who will be representing the Borough. Matt asked for a motion to approve the September 30th, 2022 minutes as amended. Laura made the motion and Debra seconded it. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The second item up for discussion/action were the minutes from the October 28th, 2022 meeting. No issues were found with the minutes. Matt asked for a motion to approve the October 28th, 2022 minutes as presented. George made the motion and Laura seconded it. The minutes were approved unanimously.

There was some discussion about the memorandum from Jim. Referring to the second bullet point on the first page which states, "Sam discussed possibilities of recruiting additional stakeholders to the ATC from the School Districts, Penn Highlands or Broad Top Area Medical Center, Amtrack, a PA-DCNR representative, and the Tri-County Area Agency on Aging." Debra asked if anything has been put out in the public to recruit additional stakeholders to the ATC for the Steering Committee. Matt said not yet, and Debra suggested sending an email out to the different groups that we would possibly like to have a representative from.

Referring to the last (2) two bullet points on the first page which state:

- Linus Fenicle, Esquire, with Reager and Adler PC from Camp Hill does not believe Mr. Michael Speck has any claim to any portion of the PennDOT right-of-way in Henderson Township. He suggested unless we are required to secure a title search, we should postpone incurring these costs. During our discussion with Sam Pearson, she noted if we apply for PA-DCNR funding, they will require a title search as part of their application for funding.

- The ATC should discuss whether we believe it is prudent to use Linus to complete the title search and secure an estimated cost before we enter into agreement to have his firm conduct the search. I believe Deb Clark-Loner and Matt Price noted they may be able to consider funding the title search.

Matt said he and Debra may have some resources for funding a title search and he is guessing that the cost would be in the single-digit thousands. He also said that the ATC won't even move forward with this if a clean title can't be established under the rails on this end. Matt feels we should do the title search up front because (1.) Norfolk Southern doesn't want to discuss this unless the ATC can provide them with proof of a clean title, and (2.) He doesn't want to apply for any grant funding because it all hinges on being able to get under the rails. He and Debra want to see some quotes for different attorneys because they would have to get approval from their respective boards before committing to funding the title search. Matt asked for a motion to move forward with getting quotes for legal services to do a title search on the assumed PennDOT right-of-way at Numers Hollow Road and Penn Street. Debra made the motion and Zack seconded it. All were in favor of getting quotes.

There was discussion on the last bullet point on the back of the page which states, "I have not completed the inclusion of the 3 segments for the 9/11 trail on the Southern Alleghenies Candidate Project Selection List for consideration in December 2022. Can a volunteer from the committee work with Zack Lee to get this submitted if they are still being accepted?" Zack said the questionnaire is open and advertising for the next round of the candidate project listing will occur in the next week or two. This will run until mid-January. There is an online form and supporting documentation (Matt mentioned the Campbell-Thomas Study) can be uploaded. Brian Wiser volunteered to work with Zack.

George mentioned a webinar that he followed-up on discussing DCNR and the need for volunteers and non-profits to work more closely with them to help out with projects to promote active transportation. Matt suggested that could be an aspect of the Active Transportation Plan. Having a support structure, like an engineer consultant for these projects and grant writing. Debra suggested getting youth organizations involved.

Vince stressed the importance of coordinating with PennDot as soon as possible on projects early in the design phase. Recreational signage/signage trust pilot project in the Laurel Highlands and the Southern Alleghenies region was next in line for signage. Matt said the signage trust hasn't been discontinued, but it was zero funded for a couple of years which is why the Southern Alleghenies project never moved forward. PennDOT has said there is money in that fund if somebody asks for it. The ATC would have to be part of the 4 county RPO effort to revitalize the plan for Southern Alleghenies (the plan was laid out about 12 years ago.) At some point, the ATC might want to become involved in policy advocacy at the state level. For example, in respect with shoulder width mandates or DCNR funding for volunteer trail maintenance improvement.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, January 6th, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayme Reck, Assistant Community Development Administrator