

## **Meeting Minutes**

Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee

Friday, October 27, 2023

The Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee was called to order by Chairman Matt Price at 9:30 A.M. The meeting was in the Huntingdon Borough Municipal Building-Borough Council Chambers, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

### **Attending:**

Jen Bellis, Judy Scott, Zach Lee, Robert Turnbaugh, Matt Price, Chris Stevens, George Conrad, Alisha Grove and Laura White

### **Not in attendance:**

Wendy Melius, Jayme Reck, Debra Clark-Loner, Vince Greenland, Charles Harper and Brian Wiser

### **Minutes**

Matt Price called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. The first item up for review and action were the meeting minutes from September 29, 2023. Matt asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Judy made the motion and Zach seconded it. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Matt mentioned that the ATP is available to view online at the County website. The next step, which is currently underway, is getting the ATP added to the Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan. The Commissioners adopted the Plan as a stand-alone plan by resolution on September 12, 2023. A public meeting was held to discuss the ATP on October 19, 2023 before the Huntingdon County Planning Commission meeting. Matt stated that there was good attendance, with most of the public in attendance concerned about the Mainline Canal Greenway Segment 1, which will connect the existing Lower Trail trailhead at Alfarata with Alexandria Borough. He stated it was a good chance to dispel misinformation that was out there, as well as share other priorities of the Plan. Matt also shared some information that was shared via email from Laurie Nearhood regarding the PA Municipalities Planning Code and the schedule for the comprehensive planning process. He stated the ATP is currently in the 45-day comment period which ends on November 16, 2023. After that, it will be presented to the Commissioners on November 21, 2023. They, in turn, will hold a public hearing and could adopt the ATP as part of the Comprehensive Plan as early as December 12, 2023.

Matt then turned the floor over to Mr. Robert Turnbaugh, a citizen from the Porter Township/Alexandria Borough area, who was concerned with Segment 1. He received

some information that concerned him about how Segment 1 would affect his property. Matt informed him that the information he received was incorrect. He stated that the ATP is a county-wide plan for active transportation that is being considered. It's not a specific project plan/design and it includes recommendations about Segment 1. Matt went on to inform Mr. Turnbaugh of (4) different alternatives discussed for Segment 1 alone. He stated there have been no decisions made and that the ATC can only give advice/recommendations to the Commissioners or help to advise local government/townships. Judy mentioned she would be happy to meet with him since she represents the area in question. Mr. Turnbaugh asked about a timeline for the project. Matt stated that at this point it's not feasible to have an exact timeline because certain aspects haven't happened yet. It was discussed that any additional public comments can be submitted to the Planning Department if any members of the public weren't able to make the public meeting.

The next item up for discussion was promoting the ATP. Judy and George attended the Huntingdon County Association of Township Supervisors conference on October 12, 2023. They were successful in scheduling specific dates to meet with Clay, Springfield, Oneida and Tell Townships, respectively. There were several other townships that need to be contacted to confirm meeting dates. Judy stated that they promoted it as the ATC has information that can help them (township) when moving forward with projects or whatever their needs may be. Matt asked if they needed to assign ATC members to attend these scheduled meetings. Judy said she would attend and if anybody wants to attend with her they are more than welcome to. Matt mentioned he is scheduled to present the Plan to the Huntingdon Rotary Club on October 31, 2023 at noon at the Sunset Golf Club. If anybody would like to attend, they needed to let him know by noon today (10/27/23).

The Main Line Canal Greenway Segment 1 was the next item up for discussion. Matt stated he attended the Porter Township Supervisors meeting on October 3, 2023. He asked the supervisors to consider an application for a PennDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Fund grant for Segment 1. They did not act on the request, being that it wasn't on their agenda and it was brought up during the "public comment" period of the meeting. Matt didn't expect them to take action, he just wanted to bring it to their attention. Some discussion was had between committee members regarding the PennDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Fund grant and Local Share Account (LSA) funding. Matt feels the multi-modal would be the better one to go for, but because it requires a 30% match Judy feels it would be very difficult for Porter Township and Alexandria Borough to come up with that amount of money. She asked if LSA could be used for this type of project. Matt and Zach said it could, but Zach said it has to have a lot of community and legislative support. The benefit being that no match is required, but Zach also said it doesn't offer as much as multi-modal, usually between \$500,000-\$600,000 and

it's very competitive. It was mentioned that PA Walkworks and DCNR grants will be coming up in spring of 2024. Matt was questioning if the ATC should have a conversation with the Joint Municipal Authority to see if there's a possibility that the waterline work they've done through Segment 1 could be retroactively included to clear the right-of-way as a part of the match. Zach said it typically would have to occur after the grant award, so it couldn't be included retroactively. Laura asked if Allegheny Ridge Corporation could possibly be a sponsor. Matt said he didn't know if they had the actual funding, but that they (Jane Sheffield) has the expertise to help construct a funding matrix for this type of project. Judy asked if Jane could figure out a way to get the 30% match that the ATC is unaware of before the November deadline. Matt felt she possibly could, but that she's more than likely working on other projects within the Greenway, but that it's worth having a conversation with her.

The next item for discussion was the Main Line Canal Greenway Segment 13. Kirby Lockard (Africa Engineers) was planning to do field work today (10/27/23), but the ATC never reached out to the property owners of the three properties located within Segment 13, so the field work has been delayed until contact is made. Matt's suggestion was for the ATC to write a notice and give it to the Commissioners to distribute to the property owners. He is unsure what the PUC action that Kirby found legally means (does vacated mean they released ownership of it, or they just weren't going to use/take care of it anymore.) Matt wants more clarity on this from an attorney before money is spent for a survey. Jen asked if anybody wanted to draft the notice letters and she can get them on the Commissioner's Tuesday meeting agenda. Matt said he'd like to have the Commissioner's office ask Larry Newton (County Solicitor) what the PUC order means first. Jen told Matt to forward that information and she can get it to the Commissioners/Solicitor.

As far as the Main Line Canal Greenway Segment 19 section, Matt isn't aware of anything that is currently progressing with that Segment.

Lifeway projects was the next item up for discussion. Matt mentioned he did speak with the Porter Township residents about lifeway projects in that area, specifically connecting to Route 22 to get to the Dollar General, Martin's, etc. They understand the need for this. He also focused on the lifeways when he spoke to the Porter Township Supervisors.

The next item up for discussion was trail management coordination. Matt stated he's been told SAP&DC is considering the option of a network or hosting a network of circuit riders through DCNR. Zach said they're working on a very large, multi-state Appalachian Regional Commission Arise project. They're looking at a 7 million dollar request, and part of that would use DCNR circuit rider funding as match towards the overall project. They

would like to deploy circuit riders in Cambria, Blair and Huntingdon counties. Basically, it means a person is hired through DCNR to promote and drive trail and recreation projects. It's a 5 year program and is heavily focused on the 9/11 Memorial Trail project.

Jen mentioned she had reached out to the president of the 9/11 National Memorial Trail and he will be the guest speaker in March 2024 at the annual dinner. He would like to come to an ATC meeting and present the committee with some opportunities and link the ATC to some people that may have some assistance available.

Upcoming funding opportunities were the next discussion topic. Matt asked when the Greenways Mini grants would happen. Zach said he believes the supplemental round just closed and round 10 will be open around March/April 2024. Judy says she thinks it actually opens in January 2024. Matt mentioned Act 13 funding and Jen said applications typically will come out in February/March 2024 and the announcement of who will receive funds is made in June.

Matt also mentioned he understands there are some efforts afoot to re-start the Juniata River Sojourn. This is a paddling event that is a multi-day/night canoe trip. It includes environment/watershed education and meals are provided.

**Next Meeting**

**Friday, December 1, 2023 at 9:30 A.M.** in the Huntingdon Borough Municipal Building-Borough Council Chambers, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Reck  
Assistant Community Development Administrator