



**Delaware Canal Vision Study**



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**PUBLIC MEETING NOTES**

**July, 14, 15, 16, 2015**

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**\*Note:** **Highlighted** phrases need clarification from facilitators

# July 14<sup>th</sup> – Riegelsville, Riegelsville Fire Department

## Open House

- Community & Connections
  - Empty around Riegelsville
  - Little buildup
  - Responsibility for home-owners
  - Restore gravel top surface of towpath
  - Improve access and wayfinding
  - Sensitivity to regional uses and users- kayaking and fishing
  - Upper and Lower have different culture and way of life
  - Wayfinding and access towns and canal towpath
  - Improve mapping technology (apps, GPS) especially access points to avoid, respect private property
  - Encourage pack in pack out among private users
  - Remember the historical significance
  - Concerns about privatization (fees, permits)
  - Affordable recreation
  - History is our story- people and places
  - Aesthetic quality to full canal
  - Clean towpath is attractive
  - Emergency repair fund plan in place to avoid leaking
  - Use 2-3 Archimedes screws to fully water canal
  - Poor mowing in lower end- cleaner grass in U. canal
  - Businesses using canal to release used water
  - Communities feel left out
  - Connections to local parks
  - More signs- bike, stop, etc.
  - Wind energy
  - Parking for kayaks
- Conservation
  - Using building for non-profit
  - Barn conversions
  - Farms into conservancy
  - Architecture tour/appreciation
  - Birding
  - More education about water resources
  - Restore riparian buffers
  - Naturalized gardens at canal boarder
  - Beautiful infrastructure (water/sewer plants)
  - Green construction techniques to manage run-off from development
  - Bring in water like D&R
  - Income generation
- Play
  - Why spend money on canal but not maintain it?
  - Mule rides in places other than New Hope

- Paddle boats throughout
- Provide bathrooms and water fountains
- Activities at inns/brunches
- Fishing- possible in canal
- Water
  - Water fully operational/accessible
  - Canal boats in other places- not just New Hope
  - Repair crumbling locks
  - If there was water in canal- place would be packed
  - Towpath needs new surface- easy to bike
  - If tourists increase- protect private property
  - Bike speed is an issue (too fast)- safety
  - Signs to pick up after dogs- to protect/leave along wild animals
  - Ivory soap- was used by boatman to bathe since ivory soap floats
  - Communities that benefit should be more engaged
  - Important source of water for fighting fires
  - Result
    - Water- reliable
    - PennDOT- must cooperate- more road projects forward
    - DCNR be more demanding and an advocate to protect
    - Create more pride, do not take for granted/FODC social media
    - More info about canal history
    - Fix locks- new locks to create smaller segments

### ***Breakout Sessions***

- Group 1
  - Why is Canal important to you?
    - Amazing engineering
    - Preservation of landscape
    - Generates business/wildlife/historical interpretation
    - Unique as an historic waterway and as a body of water that connects communities
    - One of the last potentially fully navigable canals
    - History beauty arts
    - Living history- pristine
    - Walking bridge to connect point pleasant- NJ
    - Tourism, increase real estate value, recreation
    - Interaction point for communities
    - Public way, ice skating
    - Accessible to all people
  - How do you currently use the Canal?
    - Snowshoeing
    - Walk/bike/paddle/commute
    - Frequent businesses
    - Live next door

- A way to navigate- know where you are
- Wildlife
- Inspiration for art
- Fishing
- Ice skating
- Appreciation of natural beauty
- Run
- Cross country ski
- Ice skating
- Dog walking
- Birding
- Geocaching
- Mule barge
- Picnicking
- Proximity to the river
- Community
- Who uses the Canal?
  - Families
  - Visitors from the region- regional residents, canal loops
  - Athletes
  - Bikers
  - Races
  - All ages- especially the young and the elderly
  - Safe for solo trail users
  - Commuters
- Who doesn't use the Canal?
  - Motorized vehicles
  - People who are unaware
  - People who want challenging terrain
  - People who don't know where to park
  - Low income people
- What are the obstacles to using the Canal?
  - Lack of public access/transport to the trail
  - No river access
  - No cohesion with river trail
  - No man lands
  - Absence of water
  - Lack of parking
  - Not knowing where to park
  - Construction repair that block connection with no detour signs
  - Hard to find easy boat access
  - Need of docks
- New ways to use Canal?
  - Mule barge
  - Bike share or rental- bike rides that raise money
  - Boat rental

- Nature walks
  - Historic tours
  - Through bike trips
  - Destination point tours
  - Floating restaurants
  - Working locks
  - Living history- like the national canal museum, could be in the mountainside inn
  - Make it more easily accessible for people with disabilities
  - More public bridges over the canal
- Survival as community, economic, social and environmental asset?
  - Stop weather damage
  - Stop Penn East pipeline
  - More creative maintenance
  - Stop erosion
  - Preventive maintenance
  - Clearer message of who runs what the canal is considered
- Group 2
  - Byron
    - Most problems come from the river (flooding)
  - Wendy
    - Picturesque, historic, ecological, exercise, valuable for families, uses vary by place, nature, sports
    - River flooding affects well water and aquifers
    - Contaminated well water quality
    - Water quality in the canal is important to health
    - 9 working farms in Durham
    - (gallons cooks) E.V. streams (both under)
  - Ed
    - Add log river rafting to timeline
    - Water in the canal is everything- water is positive lock of water is negative
    - Half of Riegelsville is farm land (1/2 sq mi)
    - 1916 Riegelsville created
  - John B.
    - Ask M.E.N. RE 4 lane Riv. RD
  - Why is the Canal important to you?
    - Paul
      - Walking, cycling
      - Water important (2) yr
      - Rieges Home (canal factor)
      - Places
        - Erwina- Gold Pheasant
        - Trail quality
        - Historic points- mill company
    - Tom

- UBE built on river, canal in back yard
  - Chose for grandchildren
  - Exercise
  - Water is important
- Bob
  - 65 years around canal
  - Spend money on canal but reaction not planning
  - Prox. To dr. no good access
  - Traffic river road conflicts
  - 10 years in Riegelsville
  - Low water, over grown- veg/insects
  - Knows Washington Crossing area
  - Plans but no funding
  - Take segments with no water which area make sense
  - Deeds- questions
  - Protects river road
  - Preserve green space
  - River in the canal- Riegelsville
  - Obstacle- geese
- Deca
  - UBE- no water for years
- Maintenance
  - Weather impacts (trees, hill slides)
  - Who coordinates work?
  - Volunteers- better publicity
  - Coordinate groups, use tools- facebook
  - FODC- annual clean up, tenders prog.- adopt a section- trash, canal action team
  - Trail designation- D&L National recreation trail
- Survival as community, economic, social and environmental asset?
  - Keeping water- essential top being
  - Communication about
    - Where is parking- how much? Each point
    - Where are services?
  - Essential goal- systematic parking system
  - Linking local parks to canal- Riegelsville
  - DCNR plans
  - Watered canal
  - Trail and linkages
  - Maintenance
  - Communications- what , where, when, who
  - Partnerships- continue
  - Define limits
- Group 3
  - Why is Canal important to you?
    - Recreation

- Historical blue way
  - Resource
  - Aesthetics
  - Economic value
  - Architectural creativity
  - Wildlife
  - Potential for travel
- How do you currently use the Canal?
  - Cross country ski
  - Kayaking
  - Entertain children/grandchildren
  - Biking
  - Walking
  - Ice skating
  - Exercise- health component
  - Amenity for community
  - Transportation route alternative
  - Social events- place to eat
  - Bridle path
- What are the obstacles to using the Canal?
  - Access
  - Parking
  - Closed sections/obstacles
  - Poor way finding/signage
  - Surface- turf grass/IA modified stones
  - Too narrow for multi-use
  - Safety- ambulance access- need for 911 posts/boxes
  - Fallen trees
  - Low water
  - Steep banks
  - Pipes instead of canals
  - Unleashed dogs
  - Lack of restrooms
  - Lack of access
- New ways to use Canal?
  - Boat touring
  - Restoring business
  - Picnic areas
  - Affordable amenities
  - Alternative energy
  - Bike and boat rental
  - Commercial organized tour
  - Connecting to Philadelphia
  - Camping- island connection
  - Ice- skating from town to town- river communities connected
  - Entertainment along canal

- Expanded barge ride/more boats
  - Survival as community, economic, social and environmental asset?
    - Water levels (5ft deep)
    - Continuous reliable trail
    - Maintenance staff- effective volunteer groups
    - Visitor friendly way finding
    - More local education about canal
    - Operational locks
    - Sustainable sources of funding “innovation zone”- businesses
    - Prioritizing allocation of resources
    - Timely repairs/proactive maintenance
    - Cooperation of PennDOT and other state agencies
    - Proponent of supplemental pumps to maintain water level
- Group 4
  - Gas Pipeline
  - Keeping water
  - Potential as recreation/tourist
  - Pedestrian friendly- cross country skiing, canal clean up
  - How does everything fit- agencies?
  - Privacy- communication with home owners, carry out trash, knowledge of state park
  - Over commercialized- fear
  - Funding
  - Access, ADA access, stroller access
  - Case studies
  - Signage/parking- not enough signage
  - Many trails/signs- common theme
  - Invasive species- greenway maintenance
  - Habitat protection- increase in watered canal- kids learning, mosquitos
  - Permitted uses in water canal
  - Irrigation
  - Youth involvement- ‘beach’ tag, volunteer, families, learning
  - Income from bikes/parking
  - Wellness program, benches
  - Kayak/canoe access
  - Accommodations for new users
  - Bike share to new locations
  - Trifold
  - Partnering with local bus- small scale signage
  - Access app- bikes, trail, parking, local adds
  - Bedford has app
  - Gap in PA
  - Public art
  - Local use
- Group 5
  - Reason we moved here- beautiful/unique/special



- Connects community
- Recreation opportunity
- Aesthetics
  - Water- fishing
  - Wildlife
  - Preserved open space
  - Quiet/peaceful
  - Pedestrian friendly/bike happy
- Economic component
  - Visitors- bring money to the area
  - Economic engine
  - Kayak access difficult
  - Some residents have docks
- Development that meets local zoning but affects canal directly/indirectly
- Overall impact ordinance to protect canal
- Prohibit point source discharge to canal
- Test water in canal
- Old things come back like new
- Need water access- easy to do
- Work with private property owners for access
- Bathrooms/drinking water
- Canal sponsor- money
- Small scale restraint commercial
- Political advocate- agency, non-profit, permanent
- Water access- not consistent
- Boat access/private sector business
- Obstacles
  - Limited parking
  - Directional signage
  - Private property trespass
  - Residents now need more about what to do- How to be steward
  - Understand impact of use
  - Need better stewardship by residents
  - Take ownership of canal/pride
  - Self-serve bike and boat
  - Dedicated fund- money rapid response
  - Wy-Hit-tuk park has DCNR driveway and gate locked by county
- Reconvened Group
  - Watered canal- primary
    - Complexity in stewardship
  - Hydro- money, power
  - Water- critical to machinery viability
  - Maintenance plan- long term, funding
  - Accessibility- ADA, parking
  - Signage
  - Green space

- Partner with local businesses- innovative funding
  - Quick response team
  - Pre-selected contractors
  - Political 'advocate'- non elected
- Pride in community
  - Social media
  - Youth involvement
- DCNR coordinate with PennDOT
- Memorandum of agreement
- Programmatic agreement
  - DCNR, PennDOT, PAMC, Other
- Innovation zones adjacent
- Stormwater from offsite- proper management
- Partner organization- who does what
- Communication
- Canal defines valley- landscape
- Canal as an organizing principle
- Corridor and adjacent properties
- Regional identity define- planning voice
- Increasing users to increase advocacy
- Trail- linkages
- Canal- prop. Values- economic values (unleveraged)
- Beneficiaries help support canal
- How can added value benefit canal maintenance?
- Historic value
  - Beware of commercialization
  - Need appropriate development
- Canal as unifying feature
- Need connections to river
- Through campgrounds

## July 15<sup>th</sup> – New Hope, Eagle Fire Department

### *Open House*

- Community & Connections
  - Bring barges back
  - Water in the canal
  - Historical asset to preserve
  - Worth saving
  - Barges attract people and interest
  - Helps economy
  - Canoe and kayak activities
  - Access
  - Bus ride up canal ride down
  - Pamphlets/itinerary for day hikers
  - 43 years ago resident on canal water skied on canal regularly, pulled by motorcycle
  - Big reason to move to area
- Conservation
  - Uncle (Will) Rivinus wrote about canal and mills history
  - Reputation of Bucks Co. includes canal
  - Valuable asset
  - Choice of materials used for trail (crushed stone vs. clay used in NJ)
  - Bridge repair- same spirit as original
  - Emphasis on arts- painter, sculptures
  - Preservation of mills (art communities)
  - Connection with assets and villages
  - Connection with town outside canal area
  - Books available to public on canal history
  - Connection with past through songs
  - Using duckweed as fertilizer
  - Closures of path due to culvert repair
  - Reenactments- bring history to life
  - Mule barge rides
  - History taught in school
  - Direct access from home/businesses
  - Visible access from New Hope (signs)
  - Wider towpath
  - More people through transit
  - Updating historical and location wayfinding signage
  - With engineering- canal would be re-stored
  - Funding- leakage issues can be solved
  - Selling water like D&R
  - License to use canal (like fishing)
  - Ramps at access points
  - Does chamber believe link to community?

- Play
  - Horses on towpath- Kittlersville and New Hope
  - Provide bike racks
  - Bathrooms
  - Go to Stockton since towpath trail is wider
  - Need public transit to canal towns and more lodging
  - Access via canal park bridge
  - Need more access points
  - Gravel to loose on towpath for bikes
  - People yell at kids who skate- danger
  - Cross country ski on towpath and ice
  - Million visits annually
  - Need better access for horses and people
  - Need water
  - Canoe up canal and paddle down river
  - Need funding
  - No state contracts
  - Privatize canal licensing system- beach tag, fishing license, boat license
  - Fish farm in sections of canal
  - Make porta-potties look better
  - Any planting along canal ongoing?
  - Program to eradicate invasive- needed
  - Daffodil planting program recommended
  - Artist painting photo station/deck
  - Kayak rental by D&L
- Water
  - Wildlife viewing/exercise
  - Prettier to have filled canal and better for wildlife
  - Got married along the river at Lambertville station
  - Like to bike to Dilly's
  - Drinking and hydropower potential here in new hope
  - DCSP teaches fishing along canal first time experience for some kids
  - Important to have water flowing in canal to avoid stagnant pools
  - Watered canal supports wildlife and bird life- turtles, herons, ducks, geese
  - DSCP had interest in going on birding/kayaking trips- birding by boat
  - Having water versus an empty ditch with weeds
  - Skated on canal growing up
  - Schools can use canal for education on history and ecology
  - Water played a big role in all the mills through the region
  - Has an issue with fact that there is all impervious surfaces for all stormwater; runs into canal
  - Like to walk canal and see flower and vegetation and water life
  - Love to bike- some sections need smoother surface
  - Better communication about land ownership- rules, bridge access
  - Not interested in commercializing- keep it nature oriented

## **Breakout Sessions**

- Group 1
  - Ride, run, bike
  - Bike Bucks Co.- nonprofit
  - Public/private- what does it mean?
  - Kayaking in NJ (water)
  - Beautiful
  - Safe
  - Unique public 'commons'
  - Green space
  - Thoroughfare
  - Water- primary- issues physical problems
  - Can the park be great without water?
  - Why does NJ work?
  - Canal and water a defining regional character
  - Water is the history
  - Water is part of the structure
  - Need private money
  - Protect NHL from private investors
  - State reps
  - Commissioners
  - Return on environment
  - Urgency
  - Emergency funds
  - Leaking into adjacent property
  - Other income generators?
  - Public awareness
  - Weekends crowded
  - Public awareness
  - Water priority
  - Safety
  - Economic value of green space
  - National Landmark
- Group 2
  - Why is Canal important to you?
    - Property proximity. Recreation
    - Something- spiritual, historic, timeless
    - Transportation
    - Economically important- connections to towns
    - Historic importance
    - Emotionally, physically, spiritually positive
    - Wildlife- bird life
    - Meeting spot for family/friends
    - Being surrounded by nature
    - Unique experience
    - Beautiful/tranquil

- Integral to the character of the towns
- Ambience that brings people to town
- Long distance, safe outdoor recreation
- Safe place for kids
- How do you currently use the Canal?
  - Skating
  - Birding
  - Biking
  - Walking
  - Running
  - Dogwalk
  - Transportation
  - Kayaking
  - Nature enjoyment
  - Fun/mule barges
  - Clean ups
  - Horseback riding
  - Seeing others enjoy it
  - Free recreation
  - Simplicity
  - Commuting
  - Appreciation of topography change
  - Lifeline for communities
  - Preserving the canal for the next generation
- Who uses the Canal?
  - Adjacent property owners
  - Bikers- groups, individuals
  - Families
  - Fundraising
  - Art shows
  - Birder/birds
  - Photographers
  - Artists
  - Dog walkers
  - Boy scouts/girl scouts
  - Town tours
  - Wildlife
  - Runners
  - Fishing
- Who doesn't use the Canal?
  - Mule barges
  - Motorize vehicles
  - People with disabilities who are not familiar with access points
  - Those who are confused about public access
  - Visitors- uninformed people
- What are the obstacles to using the Canal?

- Trail surfaces
  - Knowledge of canal
  - Public parking
  - Knowledge of distance
  - Entrance and exits points
  - Not enough advanced signage for parking locations
  - Signage
  - Publicity
  - Public access
  - Damage- toxic smells- Clark Park
- New ways to use the Canal?
  - Interpretation for the public
  - Protecting the wildlife nature for the future
  - A museum
  - Historic tours
  - Generating funds through renovating historic buildings for tours
  - Kayak/canoe rental
  - Bike rentals
  - Bike shares
  - Water in the canal
  - Repairs that will last
  - Sustainability of maintenance
  - Clay lining that works
  - Hydropower
  - Off leash dog park
- Survival as community, economic, social and environmental asset?
  - Partnerships- public/private are crucial
  - Preserve the charm and character of canal towns
  - Publicity- education that DE canal is a state park
  - Businesses along the trail with canal views
  - Barge ride
  - Improving trail surfaces
  - Wider towpath- fill in canal a bit
  - Put water back in
  - Family oriented activities
  - Bring back tourism with barge rides
  - Total privatization
  - Independent organizations
- Group 3
  - Why is the Canal Important to you?
    - History
    - Recreational resource
    - Land conservation
    - Unique natural environment
    - Fire protection
    - Borders private property/enhances property value

- Economic value/resource- also a liability
- Essential part of community
- potential income source
- habitat
- transportation
- How do you currently use the Canal?
  - walking
  - biking
  - fishing
  - events
  - viewscape
  - fire protection
  - ice skate
  - bird watching
  - land conservation/development buffer
  - tax management
  - photography
  - kayaking
  - recreation
  - potential water source- drinking
  - transportation
- Who uses the Canal?
  - residents
  - bikers
  - tourists
  - kayakers
  - barge riders
  - fire company
  - commuters
  - special events
  - homeless
  - athletes
  - dog walkers
  - picnickers
  - boaters
  - all with in community
  - advertisers
  - recruitments attraction for businesses/employer
  - concessioners for boating rentals
  - weddings
  - high school athletes
- Who doesn't use the Canal?
  - handicapped
  - restaurants- underutilized
  - elderly
  - young people



- people who are unaware or can't find it
  - people who can't access
  - New Jersey people
  - Only use New Jersey side
- What are the obstacles to using the Canal?
  - Narrow path
  - Interactions between
  - Bikers/walkers
  - Better signage
  - Dry canal
  - Parking
  - Low bridges
  - Funding
  - Inconsiderate property owners
  - Erosion
  - Gaps between Morrisville and Bristol
  - Rest facilities
  - Accessibility
  - No public transit access
  - Better mapping and community engagement
  - Better awareness for activities along canal
  - Red tape- coast guard
- New ways to use the Canal?
  - Research on Best Practices, Worldwide, broaden view
  - Public/private partnerships
  - Recruit private business development
  - Appropriate commercial activity
  - Tour groups, biking, kayaking outfitters
  - Hostels
  - Motorized barges
  - Power source alternative- hydropower, low impact
  - Additional bathrooms
- Survival as community, economic, social and environmental asset?
  - Volunteers
  - Funding
  - Water level maintenance
  - Advocacy
  - Connections to other trails
  - Consistent private endowment
  - Leadership
  - Coordination between agencies
  - Avenues for **ad. Development**
  - Donations sustained overtime- public tv model
  - Focused resources on particular sections- prioritized funding with special attention to water level maintenance
  - Benefactors

- Group 4
  - Ed
    - Canal is a natural treasure for the area
    - Economic opportunity
      - Recreational
        - Improve water flow
        - Trail works for now
        - Add water attractions
        - Restart mule barges
    - Odettes- in progress
  - Bucks co. water and sewer- partner
  - Local municipalities can partner well
  - Joint DCNR app/municipality-
    - DCED/CFA
    - PennDOT
    - Foundations
  - Charging for parking
  - 4th of July Tinicum Park
  - Canal Festival- June
  - Public/private space tension
  - Worried about privatization
  - Residents/tourists
  - Place for community events
  - Millennials seldom seen
  - Difficult for disabled access
  - Points of access- not enough visible
  - More info needed- signage
  - Need more parking
  - Problems
    - Leaks
    - Legislature- won't fund parks
    - Lack of money- maintenance
    - Old- historic care, watchfulness, community, responsibility, 'we' need to act
    - Realtors- possible partners
    - Wet canal properties sell quicker
    - How to keep- watered, sustainable, maintained, improved- need money
    - How to generate money
      - PPP- to do maintenance and repairs
      - Give canal generate visibility
      - Continued media strategy
      - Fund raising vs. commercialization
      - Link to area assets- museum in New Hope
    - What are limits to commercialization?
    - 2004- water good, lots of visitors
    - Fix it and they will come

- Potential for redevelopment as a canal community- will you contribute
    - Businesses- other properties- taxed higher
    - Visitors do not use towpath use main street- need better access
  - Asset
    - Recreation
    - Historic
    - Economic/tourism
    - Natural
    - Preserved open space
    - Ties communities
    - Educational
    - Fire prevention (water)
    - Potential potable water
    - Not a water source ttt
    - Yardley- canoe week
    - 'ownership'
      - Locals feel ownership
      - Outsiders also feel ownership
    - Events
- Group 5
  - Who pays the bills?
  - What are maintenance costs?
  - Who is accountable for the canal?
  - Who can authorized to remove duckweed?
    - Makes canal unusable
  - Decision must be made to run the mule barge- now
  - Group to manage beautiful canal
  - Path too narrow for pedestrians and bikes
  - Advocacy/dept. in DNCR for canal- facilitator
  - Canal = laboratory for teaching- local schools
  - School trips, connect families, history of environment
  - Online maps
  - People don't know where the canal is
  - Bike share
  - Visitor center in New Hope
  - Define Private/public partnership
  - No over commercialization
  - Trail friendly businesses
  - Why was vision study now? Why not sooner?
  - Social media- raising awareness/concern
  - Context- local or full 60 miles
  - Make it beautiful again- no duckweed
  - Don't make it too popular- too used
  - keep wilderness elements
  - Access
    - Boats- need periodic with parking

- Bikes
  - Parking dictates
  - Wheelchairs- width an issue, access near parking
  - Connect to other community trails- share parking
  - Horses- on trail- need to be included- parking for trailers
- Relationship with private owners, majority do a good job, real estate value increases
- Events- who has jurisdiction?
- Tech- apps, google
- Scavenger hunt in Jim Thorpe
- Why isn't there better signage to divert trail users to NJ to go around?
- Keep it repaired
- Keep it watered
- Keep it maintained
- What are ongoing costs?
- Where does the money come from?
- Connect artists
- Reconvened Group
  - Water mule barge
  - Tourism
  - Alternatives to raise money
  - Management coord.- who decides?
  - Sense of ownership/stewardship
  - Historic Landmark
  - Fire protection- water
  - Visibility
  - Sense of ownership- media, beer fest, access
  - Communication
  - Programing
  - Education opportunity for students
  - Spiritual/emotional aspects
  - Emphasis on green space
  - Buffer to development
  - Linear park- links circuit
  - Maintenance- funding, timing, urgency, priority
  - Limits of commercialization
  - BCW & S
  - Public Funding- Auto-deposits

## July 16<sup>th</sup> – Morrisville, Morrisville High School

### Open House

- Community & Connections
  - Vegetation Management- wild flowers, natives
    - Education
    - Save money
    - Create habitat
  - Kayak and canoe rentals- ON the canal- access and docks
  - Use Bristol Lagoon as good community example
  - Rt 1 pipe and grate are major issues
  - Canal management should be under engineering not parks
  - Recertify NHL status under turnpike bridge
  - Canal is priceless
  - Use coffer dams during construction
  - More help (staff) in the park- was 26
  - Clean up tower end- remove fallen trees
  - Engagement in youth
  - Stagnant water leads to mosquitos
  - Spread money and resources
  - Grants for education
  - Get local political involvement
  - Leverage resurrection of canal with Grundy
  - Education on not throwing yard debris in canal
  - More restroom/trash/recycling
  - Bike rental/ice cream shops
  - Lehigh resources on Bridge Street- reuse
  - Morrisville Motel- should advertise canal- it is our backyard!
  - Homestead general store on canal
  - The canal hasn't 'developed' it has gone backwards, except the lagoon
  - DCNR needs to change
  - Section under Turnpike doesn't have NHL designation
  - Treat regions (U, M, L) equally
  - Become a stormwater system- no riparian buffer (over mowing), need BMPs
  - Riparian Buffer- habitat, aesthetic, cost savings, less mowing)
- Conservation
  - Morrisville- birdtown certified because of canal/park
  - Doggie-bag waste dispensaries
  - Morrisville needs parking at canal- ex. Restroom
  - Heritage theater- ex. Cultural resource, draws visitors
  - Signage- car and bike- need bike racks
  - No branding- state park needs better demarcation
  - Stone bridge in Morrisville need maintenance at Colhoun street bridge
  - 118 master gardeners in Bucks- possible partner "volunteer workforce"
  - Bowman's Hill- possible partner expertise
  - Walk Levee- community activity in Morrisville

- Home owner education on how to manage canal landscape
- Play
  - Need local branches of FODC
  - River/canal bridges iconic- plant/enhance bridge landings
  - Create art displays along canal
    - “tour canal through art”- with smart phone app
  - Canal Festival along 60 miles
  - Food/music/art/events
  - Tie music with history- living history
  - Open walk at Bridge Street- Morrisville
    - Need state/volunteer backup to clean canal through Morrisville
    - Unearth Morrisville’s history
    - Interpret Morrisville history along towpath
  - Organize/need leader to get projects done
- Water
  - Allow a barge ride at Bristol (Amish market)
  - Put Bump Bridge back at Jefferson Street- Bristol
  - Water!- auxiliary pumps- use lake for water source
    - River powered pump?
  - More aggressive funding- grants legislature
  - Stronger leadership to take advantage of opportunities
  - Dorrance family money- Campbell’s soup responsible for bringing canal to Bristol
  - H2O important for wildlife/plants
  - H2O creates micro-climates
  - Joint grant apps with adjoining municipalities
  - Canal stories- learning from residents
  - Underutilization in Morrisville (water)
  - Canal Fest is first exposure to canoes/kayaks
  - Cast iron signs along road should be along canal (PH MC)
  - Hydraulic mapping
  - Add auxiliary pumps at falls township
  - More exposure to southern end
  - Access to water for boats, etc.
  - Need water that moves

### ***Breakout Sessions***

- Group 1
  - Why is the Canal important to you?
    - Heritage
    - Historic sites
    - Historic continuity/education
    - Recreation
    - Public community access
    - Free recreation
    - Appeals to all ages

- Universal access
  - Environmental access
  - Preserved green space
  - Nature
  - Convergence between industry and nature
  - Connectivity of communities
- How do you currently use the Canal?
  - Reflective place
  - Walking
  - Clean ups/volunteering
  - Events/special occasions
  - Biking
  - Fishing
  - Cross country skiing
  - Photos
  - Nature watching
  - Birding
  - Alternative transportations
  - Commuting
  - Ice-skating
  - Frequent businesses
  - Fitness
- Who uses the Canal?
  - Visiting fisherman
  - Families
  - Homeless/illegal activities
  - Healthy people
  - Birders
  - Photographers
  - Amish markets
- Who doesn't use the Canal?
  - Busy young families
  - People who are unaware
  - People who are trying to get places
  - People who need to park to use it
  - Elderly
  - People who don't feel safe
  - People with disabilities
- What are the obstacles to using the Canal?
  - Interpretive signage- damaged/vandalize/non-existent
  - Lack of visibility in towns
  - Poorly marked
  - ADA access
  - Bathrooms
  - Water- drinkable water
  - Bike racks/amenities

- Connections- town/canal
    - Gaps
    - Obstructions
    - Publicity/branding
    - Grassroots awareness
  - New ways to use Canal?
    - Mule barges
    - More activities along the canal
    - Better connection between canal and river
    - Healthy family friendly eco-tourism
    - Bike rentals
    - Make it safe
    - Cross marketing with existing attractions
    - Make it attractive
    - Lighting
    - Increase use as alternative transportation
    - Amenities
    - Public restrooms
    - Bring more people to the canal
    - Events/engaging activities
    - Pop up parks
    - More involvement with northern part of canal
    - Canal museum- partner with NCM, Mercer)
    - More education
    - Morrisville access points
  - Survival as community, economic, social and environmental asset?
    - Leadership
    - Strong advocacy/lobbying
    - Engage kids
    - More money- funding
    - Legacy fun
    - Public/private partnership
    - Upkeep/consistent maintenance
    - Beautification
    - Preservation
- Group 2
  - Events
    - Kayak races
    - Charity walks
    - Bike races- more (or rides)
    - Concerts
    - More events
    - Each town can have events
    - New hope fireworks good
    - Bristol- mule rides, canal boats
    - Habitat



- Aesthetics/scenery
  - History
  - Recreation
  - Educational
- Canal Kids?
- Some people still don't know about canal
- Still a lack of info
- H2O fire protection
- Be more aware of unique canal
- Educate- schools
- TV- PCH- feature canal
- Events- advertise- promote
- Bucks County visitors bureau
- Shop owners promote
- Priorities
  - Big companies
  - Residents- need awareness
  - Vision plan- needs facebook page
  - Canal apps (FODC)
  - William Penn Foundation
  - Municipalities
  - School districts
  - Artists of Yardley (and canal)
  - DCNR
  - Fish and boat commission- docks?
  - FODC
  - Chamber of commerce
  - EAC- Morrisville
  - Redevelopment auth.
  - Yardley business association
  - Makefield Women's association
  - Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
  - PennDOT
  - DVRPC
  - Bristol connected to transit
  - Maintenance- volunteers, public/private
  - Signage needed- you are in a state park, info, carry in carry out
  - Access- parking
  - Patrol frequently
  - Some bad activity in Morrisville
  - Preserve canal for use
  - Habitat
  - Storm flow- flood preparation
  - Stocked for fishing
  - Color run- Morrisville, event exposed people to the canal
  - More events a plus

- Need parking
    - Old Lehigh Building- parking location
    - Resources to re-development
    - Promote canal side use
    - Need municipal involvement
    - Daylight canal at Bristol
  - How do People Find out?
    - DCNR survey
    - Social media
    - Canal business association/promotes
    - Raffles- raise money
    - Not sticker for boats
    - Artwork- redecorate for save
    - Awareness- schools
    - Events
    - Access
    - Partners/sponsors
- Group 3
  - Mike
    - Fishing in canal
    - Water depth sometime too low
    - Fish kills sometimes (not lately)
    - Pre-emptive releases
    - Sometimes too high
    - Delaware canal '25' - modern water level system
    - NOAA sensor on Calhoun BR
    - Correlate river level to canal level
    - In flow from local streams
    - F&BC- trout, catfish, pike, carp
    - Mercury level?
    - Who monitors license?
    - People harvest frogs
    - Adjacent wetlands habitat
    - Educating adjacent property owners- compost dump
    - Morrisville 'trash weir'
    - PennDOT dumps trees in canal
    - Berm side, RR tracks- trees in canal
    - Add riparian buffers with access for fisherman
    - Walking, serenity, biking
    - Most users are respectful
    - Congestion- centered around parking area
    - More access points
    - Below tunnel loc. Remote, past acola
  - Joe
    - 2 sections of historic park connected by canal
    - WCHP has great parking

- Friends want people to use WCHP
- Tell history of Taylorsville- milling center, local streams, Pidcock creak (flood damage)
- Boy Scout campground
- Canal pipe into lagoon
- No interpretive signage
- WCHP goal 'sustainable park'
- Operable locks- water for boating, active navigation
- U.K. houseboat Manchester
- WCHP navigation- benefit, attraction
- Thompson Neely House- increase visitors
- Culverts 'interrupt' navigation
- Where are feasible segments for navigation?
  - Parking/launching access
- Gaps- Taburn Road, RR track, Shopping center
- Economic development- mixed uses, near transit, local sidewalks
- Urban park section
- Welcome to Yardley **Borough**
- Seek feasibility- owner, municipalities, DCNR, Partners, Walmart, Home Depot
- Justice Douglas walked this section of canal
- Fishing wildlife based on watered canal
- Integrating park systems and stories- infrastructure
- Educate residents waste and environment impacts
- Daylighting Levittown shopping center
- Collaboration with PennDOT
- Group 4
  - Why is the Canal Important to you?
    - Natural resource
    - Historical
    - Economic
    - Like no other
    - Path connecting Easton to Bristol
    - Bring community together
    - Beauty in the cultural landscape
    - Playground- swam BAB
    - Ice skating
    - More kayaking
    - Ice hockey
    - Fishing
    - Growing up along canal
    - Run
    - Walk
    - Hike
  - How do you currently use the Canal?
    - Fish

- Barge ride
- Bicycling
- Hiking
- Nature walks
- Walk
- Photography
- Jogging
- Biking
- Walking
- Biking
- Picnicking
- Cowboys and Indians
- Swimming
- Canal festival
- Trap muskrat
- Plein air painting
- Who uses the Canal?
  - Fisherman
  - Biker
  - Joggers
  - Student- educational
  - Canal clean ups
  - Festivals
  - Nature study on canal and surrounding area
  - Geese- wildlife
  - Need more schools to use it in the curriculum
- Who doesn't use the Canal?
  - Need water depth for some users- canoes, paddle boats, kayaks
  - Wheel chairs, strollers need better access
- What are the obstacles to using the Canal?
  - Parking- need more- handicap parking users
  - More water
  - Publicity/signage for parking
  - Way finding
  - Access to water- boaters (ramp/dock), handicap
  - Map/ramp fir access point for handicap
  - Unsightly businesses
  - Filled in canal
  - Safety- geese, dawn to dusk park, feel safe
  - Maintenance amenities- bathrooms near lagoons, graffiti
  - New bridge- camel back for end to end trips
  - Benches
  - Privacy- guard it, noisy trail users
- New ways to use Canal?
  - Barge ride- Green Lane to Jefferson Ave
  - Bump bridge- opened when barge bumped it, closed after it passed

- Overnight accommodations- canal boat, hotel
    - Hostels
    - Bed and Breakfast
    - Boat rental, bike rental
    - Bike share
    - Café- food- easy access to trail
    - Snowman contest
    - Ice festival
    - Boat parades/decorating
    - Bridges over canal and D&L trail
    - Native plant areas for education
    - Buggy ride along canal
    - Horse
    - Tullytown canal tunnel could have had canoe access
    - Canal is priceless
    - Audio tours- technology
  - Survival as community, economic, social and environmental asset?
    - Educate adjacent property owners
    - Operate as it was originally designed
    - Canal and river level should be the same
    - Persuade law makers about the value
    - Remove obstructions that create floods- pipes
    - Reconsider flood control
    - Boat through locks- pays
    - Charge for docks - at places you stop to eat with docks
    - Crowd source funding
    - Organize trips- bikes, hike, kayak
    - Design symposium with all entities that have control
    - BCCUB- bush trips
    - Increase number of trail tenders- sponsors for trail sections
    - Bike and brew events- brew call
    - Tax credit incentives for businesses to donate
    - Funding from fish and boat commission
    - Kayak tag number
- Group 5
  - Funding
  - Commercial
  - Educational signage
  - Riparian buffer along water's edge with native plants
  - Bird watching- signage for native birds- platforms
  - Benches
  - Trail obstacles
  - More access points/highlight accesses from towns
  - Increase usage/appreciation
  - Fully watered/resilient to floods
  - Uniform material for trails

- Narrow for bikers?
- Education in schools
- Public/private partnerships/ support
- Advertising?
- Synergy to bring people in
- Adopt portion of canal
- Issues with concessions- public say- localized concessions
- Each community is asset
- Morrisville- connecting canal to summer sea
- Structure- is historic resources- should be preserved
- Attract younger through technology
- Water skiing
- Technology to help monitor health of canal/ crisis management
- Test water quality
- Hydrology map
- Canal needs to be aesthetic- riparian
- Restrooms
- Mile markers
- Environmental education
- Communication- groups (municipalities)
- Coordinate with D & R- emulate their program/success
- Partner with Bowman's Tower
- Riparian- don't extend into towpath
- Regulations for property maintenance?
- Education for property owners
- Consistent water flow- regulated by over flows
- Automatic overflow cleaner
- Seeing how locks work
- Kids attractions
- Cell phone tours- GPS powered tour
- Historical value/ natural value
- Stormwater control
- Health/free recreation
- Link to towns
- Exercise/skating/cross country skiing
- Kayaking
- River powered pump/ Archimedes screw
- Water fountains/ stations
- Image of canal- not used because of image- perception of being unsafe
- Disconnects- physically
- Easy portage- boating/biking
- ADA access
- Water park
- Skating race
- Designated hire/camp/event/run on path
- Partnership with extreme sports

- Reconvened Group
  - Use was it has been
  - Missing segments
  - Water the canal
  - Water as theme for connecting
  - Innovate
  - Generate awareness use events
  - Increase partners
  - Technology info- coordination volunteers, audio tours
  - Safety increased
  - Partnering for education- canal & culture
  - Cross marketing - ecotourism, other attractions
  - Concierge concept
  - Adopt a canal
  - School-park-educate stewardship
  - Amish market

## ***Emailed Comments***

*SF, 7/14:* I am hoping those of us who do attend will articulate the DC21 priority for keeping water in the canal to stem further deterioration through improved preventative maintenance, inspections of key structures and back water solutions for as many sections of the canal as possible while we seek a long term vision and more lasting solutions.

*JF, 7/15:* As a resident of New Hope and a neighbor to the Delaware Canal, I am certainly concerned about the condition of the Canal, especially including the three major repairs which are currently being executed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and contractors. We all agree that a fully watered Canal has been only a dream for many years, and that the Canal's aging infrastructure requires continual attention.

I am disturbed, however, at the possibility that "park privatization" or "commercialization" models are being considered as a potential alternative management and/or funding source. In my opinion, the Delaware Canal State Park is a "public good," belonging to all the people, and as such its maintenance and management are everyone's responsibility. Entire communities benefit from the Canal's beauty and tranquility; thousands of our citizens enjoy recreational adventures within its bounds; volunteers and private donations, supporting projects along the entire length of the Canal, have been generously given to supplement its upkeep. "We the people" should *demand* that our government, on our behalf, adequately fund the integrity and safety of this unique and historic treasure.

In return for our citizen commitment of donations and perhaps increased tax dollars, we should also expect transparency, communication and responsiveness from DCNR. In my experience, both the DCNR Park Staff and the DCNR leadership team have shown a great sense of urgency and focus throughout these past trying months. The public should continue to demand this behavior from our public servants. I would also implore our State Legislators to examine their budgeting priorities and ensure that this "public good" is adequately funded so as to remedy the fiscal neglect of recent years.

It is often said that, "Everybody wants everything, but nobody wants to pay for it." I hope that Pennsylvanians will not fall prey to that destructive mentality. If we do, the loss to our future generations will be incalculable.

*JF, 7/17:* Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the recent Town Hall meetings and am thus submitting these comments and observations for consideration by the Grant Team. These comments represent my opinions and should not be considered as being endorsed by the New Hope Borough Revitalization Committee, which I Chair.

My comments in no particular order follow:

- 1) I would recommend that previous Canal Master Plans be reviewed and evaluated. For example, a perusal of the 1987 Master Plan would surface many parallels between the environment that confronted planners 28 years ago and that which we find ourselves in today. So, if the past is prologue, what can we learn from what has and has not occurred since then? The goals espoused in 1987 seem remarkably unchanged from those that are contained in DCNR's 2015 Plan. In 1987, The Major Purpose was :
  - a) To preserve and improve the Canal, and



- b) To preserve, protect and carefully develop lands that affect the Canal beyond its boundaries.

Aiding in the pursuit of these purposes are five underlying themes:

- a) Return and keep water in the Delaware Canal
- b) Maintain the Canal in a safe and attractive condition
- c) Preserve and enhance the Canal's recreation, historic and scenic qualities
- d) Provide compatible land uses along the Canal
- e) Encourage municipal initiatives to enhance the Canal

The Plan then proceeds to amplify on these goals and develop actions designed to achieve them including the identification of projects. While the projects will have certainly changed in the intervening 4 decades most, if not all, of the goals/themes have not. As a matter of fact, in today's environment we can add another underlying theme which is:

- f) Encourage institutional and private supplemental funding of Canal maintenance and capital projects.

To reiterate, what can we learn from the previous 1987 Master Plan? How has it served the Canal over the past 28 years? What has worked and what has not? More importantly, why? What can and should we do differently as we develop a new plan?

- 2) In reviewing the DCNR 2015 Canal Plan on the [delawarecanalvision.org](http://delawarecanalvision.org) website, I am not clear as to the relationship regarding the 20 projects listed and categorized in phases. These projects are referred to as "immediate" but associated in five phases. It is not clear what the phases represent. For instance, how does one phase-in "immediate."

In addition, there is an appendix listing 72 projects divided into 5 categories. What do the categories represent? Years? Priority groupings? How do the Categories relate to the Phases for the aforementioned 20 projects which are repeated in the appendix?

DCNR has done a terrific job over the years coping with the damage to the Canal due to a hostile environment, especially when given their manpower and financial resource constraints. Furthermore, I do not have the knowledge to second guess their prioritization of projects nor does their overall performance warrant micromanaging. That said, some recent culvert failures (Cutaloosa and Upper Black Eddy) suggest that the maintenance/replacement methodology or budgeting process was not sufficiently sensitive to the current state of the infrastructure. While DCNR's response to the breaches has been creative and expeditious, it nonetheless requires the damming of the Canal and forcing a delay in the watering process which had been underway. In addition to time lost and plans deferred, there is undoubtedly an increased demand upon already dear financial resources.

I would suggest that a post mortem of these incidents be undertaken with emphasis placed on the criteria for determining the timing of infrastructure repair/replacement.

Lessons learned from this review should trigger a reevaluation of current projects to determine if any acceleration of repair/replacement schedules is in order.

- 3) Despite everyone's best efforts "stuff happens," resulting in the loss or reduction of water flow. In the past, this has been occasioned by low water on the Delaware or some infrastructure breakdown (caused by nature, time or manmade) that requires the stoppage or diversion of water flow. Dependent upon where this occurs it may be possible to augment/restore the flow of water by the use of pumps or alternative means such as an Archimedes Screw. There has been some consideration of these devices proposed by The Friends of the Delaware Canal and DC21. Furthermore, New Hope for Our Canal and DCNR have funded the provision of water into New Hope Borough by utilizing the Center Bridge pump. I recommend that this study incorporate an assessment of where such water augmentation could occur, the best means (pumps, screw, water wheel, etc.) to accomplish such an end, the conditions which would justify their use and, of course, a cost/benefit analysis.
- 4) It should come as no surprise that State funding will undoubtedly continue to be an obstacle to timely implementation of any Canal Master Plan. Thus, every effort must be made to develop a coordinated initiative to increase private funding. Currently, nonprofit groups such as the Friends of the Delaware Canal and New Hope for Our Canal have raised money from donors motivated primarily for altruistic reasons. Foundations supporting and celebrating the preservation of open space, the environment, historic and cultural heritage can also be called upon to award grants from time to time. (Note: The New Hope Revitalization Committee is considering applying for an Open Space Grant that features public access to the canal.)

Those opportunities notwithstanding, this study should explore how the private investor, including for profit businesses, can benefit in supporting the Canal. Specifically, what obstacles currently exist that preclude or make it more difficult for businesses that abut the Canal (for example, the Logan Inn) from taking advantage of that proximity? Can these obstacles be relaxed in a *prudent* way if the business makes an improvement to the general Canal area associated with its project? Can the business owner use a financial offset that funds a Canal project/fund to overcome an obstacle? Can the Canal become a business development zone consistent with all the environmental protection warranted by watershed property? Any assessment should also include similar consideration of municipal obstacles and incentives that might accrue to any business or individual who invests in the Canal. (Note: The Odette's project is currently under review due to its proximity to the Canal. There is an opportunity for the developer to make improvements to Canal infrastructure, for example Lock 8, for consideration of project requirements.) This evaluation could be viewed across a variety of State, County and local government agencies so that a package of credits/benefits could accrue to a potential investor along with his required obligations.

There has been some reference to the High Line in New York City as a model that the Canal can aspire towards. The High Line is approximately a mile long (the Delaware

Canal is 58.9 miles), and in the middle of the hustle and bustle of NYC. It was 10 years in the planning stage with the first section completed in 2009 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> section completed last year. Thus far, the project has cost \$187 million, of which \$44 million was raised by the Friends of the High Line and developers who took advantage of the West Chelsea Special District that was created to spur real estate development. (It is unclear how much of the \$44 million was from developers.) The remaining funds came from the city (\$123 million) and the Federal Government (\$20 million). The takeaway for me is that you have to incentivize businessmen to provide funding and horse trade over the details. In addition, this will take much time to navigate through the bureaucracy and align the stars. However, it can be done. That is why I am suggesting that the study explore how such incentives and quid pro quos can be packaged to achieve that end.

It should also be emphasized that such funding should not drive concomitant decreases in the State funded DCNR budget or in any way mitigate the State's stewardship of the Canal.

The Study should also take a look at what concessions can be contracted to private businesses. For example, DCNR should revisit their Mule Boat Ride concession to determine if the current proposition allows for a successful business plan. The Mule Boat Ride is an iconic reenactment that ideally complements the existing historical Locktender facilities in New Hope. This period- authentic interpretation only reinforces the proposed establishment of a DCNR Resource Center adjacent to this existing historic centerpiece. Any potential concessions like the Mule Boat Ride must be able to be profitable and operated by a reputable and competent business owner. Otherwise, it will no longer be an attraction, only a "turn-off."

- 5) The canal is 58.9 miles long and popular with visitors. With people comes litter. I recommend that the study explore methodologies for limiting litter and collecting and disposing of litter. For example, organizations can take a page from highway related programs and "adopt a section of the Canal." Many park systems provide "Carry in, Carry out" stations along their trails. The posting of "no littering" signs and the enforcing of fines would seem an effective awareness mechanism. Clearly, municipalities and businesses along the canal can be enrolled to maintain the tow paths before the trash finds its way into the Canal where it is even more unsightly and harmful to animals.

Along similar lines of thinking, the study can explore how and where private citizens and organizations can provide landscape along the towpath. There are many locations along the towpath that can benefit from privacy landscaping as it wends its way through the backyards of businesses in towns. There is no doubt that residents and towpath users would prefer to view greenery over dumpsters, air conditioners and parked cars.

Furthermore, the Park Police and municipalities should coordinate the enforcement of existing statues regarding weed control, litter, garbage containers and property lines to insure that the towpath is unencumbered and garbage free.

- 6) The Master Plan should examine the current landscape of public and private organizations that have as their stated mission the welfare of the Canal. Is the current structure the best way to accomplish the collective end? The Canal, in many ways

benefits from an embarrassment of well-intentioned riches, and organizational differences can be a distraction. What better time to examine process and to insure transparency and open communication than when planning for the future. It is a wonderful time to be introspective and address in a non-judgmental way how all these groups can function more effectively.

*RB, 7/16:* I would love to come to the visioning meetings, but I will not be available to speak about the needs of the region for a fully watered canal which is my primary interest in supporting DC 21 and its vision for its activities.

*RR, 7/20:* OPINION: “This vision study started off better than previous studies”

DC VISITOR CENTER: “The Grundy Powerhouse should be considered as a site for a new DC visitor center. It is beside the canal, it is large and there is parking.”

PA TURNPIKE BRIDGE: “This bridge caused an obstruction to the canal and the National Landmark status was decommissioned for under this bridge. There is room for the canal to be routed around the bridge obstruction.”

ROUTE 13 UNDERPASS: “This facility was not constructed optimally. The towpath trail and the waterway should have been constructed side by side under Route 13. The way it was built was longer and more expensive, and separates the features.”

FLOODING AT MORRISVILLE (RR Spur and Tyburn Road): “The pipe under the RR is too small and gets clogged with debris during storms. The outlet only works when the outlet to the river is open. When the backflow preventer shuts that canal water backs up to flood in Yardley.”

FUNDING SOLUTION: “The funding for the RR underpass should be combined with flood control / prevention funds – to build a complete trail / waterway project the right way, not piecemeal.”

DAYLIGHTING THE CANAL IN BRISTOL BORO: “The land where the former school once stood was never transferred to Bristol Borough, but remains in state ownership to this day.”

*JB, 7/20:* Could water from some of the larger streams flowing under the Canal be diverted to the Canal for emergency back up water? Could this be done by gravity and wouldn't need to pay for electricity or pumps?

*A.B. 7-10-15:*

1. Remote controlled waste gates, etc. along with remote weather and water condition monitoring so one staff person at HQ could observe and adjust as conditions change.
2. Fabricate and sell sectionalized boats along the Canal.
3. Historically themed commercial activity. Like Williamsburg.
4. Consideration of one or more special services districts - or neighborhood improvement districts.
5. Electric boat rides between the two portions of Washington Crossing Park

6. Additional barge rides at Bristol, and somewhere above New Hope.
7. Backup watering pump at Wheatsheaf Lake, Bristol.
8. Solar panels to generate power for backup pumps. Solar power in general.
9. Sale of drinking water to Philadelphia assuming salt line continues to move.
10. Focus on ice skating on the Canal in winter time. Old traditions of bonfires at certain villages, etc.
11. Develop relationship with DCNR under which Delaware Canal 21 can advocate on behalf of the Canal for River Flow Management Policies that will protect the Canal from severe flooding. DCNR gives pertinent info to DC21 and we then advocate with DRBC and the four states.
12. Macro: Develop a working relationship between PennDOT and DCNR so that they work together on maintenance, preventive maintenance, and other issues.  
Micro: Get them to work together permanently and properly to fix the areas of River Road that are collapsing into the Canal. (Paxson Road intersection, just below and above Virginia Forrest.)
13. Could we have a separate private maintenance company that would contract with DCNR to do preventive maintenance, planned maintenance, and perhaps emergency maintenance, so as to avoid the many bureaucratic delays and expenses that DCNR has to endure if it does the work internally?
14. Could there be some sort of reserve fund for emergency repairs that could be tapped quickly when needed?
15. A second mule barge ride in Bristol.
16. A bump bridge at Jefferson Ave. in Bristol.
17. Consult with engineers in Europe (or other locations) where canals seem to function much more reliably than here. Find out how they address common problems.
18. Restore Ground Hog Lock power generating station and sell electricity. (Partial canal self-sufficiency.
19. Archimedes screws for power generation.
20. Harden infrastructure (both prism and structures) to make it flood resistant, especially in areas known to be prone to flood damage. This may involve sacrificing historical accuracy to some degree, but so what.
21. Work on finding and implementing ways to avoid or mitigate future flood damage.

- a. Develop a relationship and protocol by which Delaware Canal 21 can advocate for the Canal before the DRBC and other agencies.
  - b. Research and explore other ways (scientific, technical, political, social science) to reduce severity of future flooding.
22. Signage about birds that can be seen along the Canal.

## **Questionnaire Responses**

### **July 14<sup>th</sup>, Riegelsville**

#### **1. Why is the Canal important to you?**

It is local recreation, a flat biking path, a great place to see herons, bald eagles, red-wing blackbirds, meet fellow bikers/hikers/birding enthusiasts, relax and disconnect with technology and reconnect with nature.

#### **2. How do you currently use the Canal?**

Walking with family and friends, biking with family, birdwatching, snacking (from Mueller's), firework viewing and other member of family for fishing and boat launching.

#### **3. Who uses the Canal and who doesn't?**

I don't know who doesn't, especially in Riegelsville! Perhaps those who cannot access it due to disability?

#### **4. What are the obstacles to using the Canal?**

Sometimes finding the parking areas can be a bit tricky, but there are plenty once one finds them. Damage from flooding can be a deterrent if not a complete roadblock.

#### **5. How can we think about using the Canal in new ways?**

Tasteful, not too large- signposts for local businesses and canal-user friendly spots with restrooms would be most useful, I think. So yes, I am actually saying tasteful advertising would be okay. Otherwise spreading the word about current events and uses would be great be great.

#### **6. In what ways can we ensure the survival of the Canal as an important community, economic, social and environmental asset into the future?**

Don't allow the pipeline!

#### **1. Why is the Canal important to you?**

History, beauty, arts, pristine, swim, fish, tourists, impact on revalue, recreation, public, ice skating

#### **5. How can we think about using the Canal in new ways?**

Mountainside Restaurant, Point Pleasant

## **Questionnaire Responses**

### **July 15<sup>th</sup>, New Hope**

#### **1. Why is the Canal important to you?**

It's a main scenic feature for our communities such as New Hope because it's beautiful has historic signage, and provides recreational opportunities like walking and biking and kayaking (when there's water).

#### **2. How do you currently use the Canal?**

Biking and walking

#### **4. What are the obstacles to using the Canal?**

Recently there have been areas closed due to damage, and it's been more than 10 years since I've been able to kayak due to lack of water- access concentrated in a few spots

#### **5. How can we think about using the Canal in new ways?**

It would be nice to have a place where people could gather for festivals? Music? (Even longhorn host outdoor concerts)- aquafarm, art shows, boat (no motors) rentals run by park not private, canal boat 2-3 day live aboard rental

#### **6. In what ways can we ensure the survival of the Canal as an important community, economic, social and environmental asset into the future?**

Bike rentals, by park, hike and camp in limited area (20 mile spacing), focus of community, new hope instead of river road by shops, rest, galleries, public space

#### **1. Why is the Canal important to you?**

To get away and be with nature. Love to bike and walking and the canal allows me to be safe in terms of not having to deal with cars.

#### **2. How do you currently use the Canal?**

Primarily biking. Occasionally walking.

#### **3. Who uses the Canal and who doesn't?**

Active kids and adults

#### **4. What are the obstacles to using the Canal?**

Access point. Currently an issue in Yardley with homeowner cutting off access to McKinley Road Bridge. Would be nice if Lower Makefield Township purchased access path from homeowner. Trail gets rocky north of New Hope making it difficult for biking.

#### **5. How can we think about using the Canal in new ways?**

Perhaps organized nature outings. (Historical walking tours, kayaking trips)



**6. In what ways can we ensure the survival of the Canal as an important community, economic, social and environmental asset into the future?**

Small directional signs to towns, but please don't commercialize the canal. Keep it as a place to get away.

**1. Why is the Canal important to you?**

The canal is a centerpiece for New Hope Borough and it is critical to get it running again after all these years.

**2. How do you currently use the Canal?**

I only look at it and am disappointed at the level of duckweed prevalent. This can be corrected through the use of chemicals thereby improves the view of the canal

**3. Who uses the Canal and who doesn't?**

We desperately need to find another co/individual to operate the Mule Barge! Would like to kayak on it if it was clean.

**4. What are the obstacles to using the Canal?**

Duckweed. No reason to use it when it looks so poor.

**5. How can we think about using the Canal in new ways?**

Not at this time

**6. In what ways can we ensure the survival of the Canal as an important community, economic, social and environmental asset into the future?**

Find someone to operate the mule barge soon!

**1. Why is the Canal important to you?**

Open space, nature, history, exercise, walk and bike

**2. How do you currently use the Canal?**

Walk and bike, FODC events

**3. Who uses the Canal and who doesn't?**

Lots of people- want exercise, people use it as a sidewalks from one place to another

**4. What are the obstacles to using the Canal?**

Too narrow for walkers and bikers. Low bridges. Gaps from Morrisville and Bristol. Cultural separation from Easton to Bristol.

**5. How can we think about using the Canal in new ways?**

½ marathons, water source

**1. Why is the Canal important to you?**

Key part of the iconic New Hope town! Historic aspect is priceless and adds much to the beauty of our area.

**2. How do you currently use the Canal?**

Hiking, walking and eventually barge rides

**3. Who uses the Canal and who doesn't?**

The community as well as visitors, biking, hiking, walking.

**4. What are the obstacles to using the Canal?**

Ongoing repair and barge redevelopment as well as lock and sustainable water without using electric pumps

**5. How can we think about using the Canal in new ways?**

All known locks and problems should be repaired so sustainable water and achieved. New ways for use kayak, barge rides, community water sources.

**6. In what ways can we ensure the survival of the Canal as an important community, economic, social and environmental asset into the future?**

Proper and ongoing repairs and people maintenance must be provided to insure the canal survival! Get Bucks Co. Water and Sewer involved.

## **Questionnaire Responses**

### **July 16<sup>th</sup>, Morrisville**

#### **1. Why is the Canal important to you?**

Grew up near Canal using it fishing, swimming, ice skating, etc. would like to see my grandkids able to enjoy it.

#### **2. How do you currently use the Canal?**

Walking

#### **3. Who uses the Canal and who doesn't?**

Mostly walking and cycling. No fishing or boating. (no water at lower end give or take 10 years)

#### **4. What are the obstacles to using the Canal?**

Fallen trees, etc.

#### **5. How can we think about using the Canal in new ways?**

At Bristol Area. 2 Bristol Borough Teaches made presentation at an Advisory meeting approximately 1 years ago for students to use as learning area. Including gardens/flowers nature etc.

#### **6. In what ways can we ensure the survival of the Canal as an important community, economic, social and environmental asset into the future?**

Get all involved, clear all canal so all can enjoy. Water it and keep it flowing.

#### **1. Why is the Canal important to you?**

My property borders it. Great for wildlife and very scenic.

#### **2. How do you currently use the Canal?**

Frequently jog and bike ride on the towpath. Also walk the dog.

#### **4. What are the obstacles to using the Canal?**

None I know of

#### **6. In what ways can we ensure the survival of the Canal as an important community, economic, social and environmental asset into the future?**

Reducing fertilizer runoff into the canal from adjacent yards would improve water quality and reduce the amount of duck weed.

**1. Why is the Canal important to you?**

I love escaping into nature right near urban areas.

**2. How do you currently use the Canal?**

Bike/hike

**3. Who uses the Canal and who doesn't?**

Active people, history buffs, dog walkers, families, people who don't know how easy it is to use

**4. What are the obstacles to using the Canal?**

Where to park, major obstacles between Morrisville and Bristol, where to find bathrooms and places to eat

**5. How can we think about using the Canal in new ways?**

Economic development building stronger connection from canal towpath to walkable commercial areas. Need more signage to guide people into town.

**6. In what ways can we ensure the survival of the Canal as an important community, economic, social and environmental asset into the future?**

Regular programming to bring different audiences and build regular users.

**1. Why is the Canal important to you?**

It cuts through the heart of the town I love. I cross it every time I go to the park or the River or Borough Hall.

**2. How do you currently use the Canal?**

For walking. I've boated it twice this summer and loved it.

**3. Who uses the Canal and who doesn't?**

Standers, bikers, walkers, use it. Boaters do not.

**4. What are the obstacles to using the Canal?**

Nowhere to put boats in. Bridge street obstruction, low bridges.

**5. How can we think about using the Canal in new ways?**

Put in boat ramps! Get a picnic designation on the D&L Guide.

**6. In what ways can we ensure the survival of the Canal as an important community, economic, social and environmental asset into the future?**

It's healthy in Morrisville. Always full, always fished. It needs more boats. It needs less knotweed, but it is healthy as heck. If I can help let me know.

**1. Why is the Canal important to you?**

My property borders it on the 'bermside' in Morrisville. I am on the Morrisville EAC and Treasure the open space.

**2. How do you currently use the Canal?**

I enjoy the view and the benefit it brings to wildlife, also my wife and I occasionally canoe and kayak on the canal.

**3. Who uses the Canal and who doesn't?**

People who enjoy open space enjoy the canal as a state park.

**4. What are the obstacles to using the Canal?**

Maybe a few more restrooms would be appreciated.

**5. How can we think about using the Canal in new ways?**

Less mowing, more riparian buffer with flowing native plants