



Project Committee Meeting #2

October 15, 2015

9AM -10:30AM

Venue: **Washington Crossing Historic Park**, 1112 River Road, Washington Crossing, PA

Attendees:

1. Allen Sachse, D&L
2. Elissa Garofalo, D&L
3. Larry Comisso, NPS-Delaware Water Gap
4. Susan Taylor, FODC
5. Cory Kegerise, PHMC
6. Nick Forte, CAC
7. Patrick Starr, PEC, The Circuit
8. George Calaba, DCNR
9. Jason Zimmerman, DCNR
10. Bethany Hare, DCNR
11. Rick Dalton, DCNR
12. Joseph Franlin, New Hope Revitalization Committee
13. Judith Franlin, FODC
14. Pam Coleman, D&L
15. Steve Heitzer, Delaware Canal
16. Ralph Ratcliffe, LBCCCC

Discussion Points:

- Heritage and Cultural
 - How to treat each individual project's dealing with effects on historic infrastructure
 - Julie Bell (NPS) notes stone walls have historic integrity. Is there anything that prohibits them from being ripped out?
 - PennDOT has obligation to do review process
 - What type of intervention relating to historic infrastructure are they comfortable with?
 - Shift in staff to be more sensitive to projects
 - River walls being mapped now by ACOE and DCNR
 - Program in place that could give River Road a Scenic Byway Designation
 - D&L tried to get this in place for River Road previously
 - 2-3 municipalities didn't want it back then

- Jersey side (Route 29) has Scenic designation
 - Only thing River Road has is a PA “Scenic Highway” designation
 - Stone from River Road walls disappeared when repairs were done below Point Pleasant
 - What about a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between PennDOT and DCNR to retain historic material
 - Current MOA in place deals with bridges
 - If a bridge has a stone abutment, it has to be based with cut stone
 - Emergency repairs-PennDOT needs convincing from jurisdictional entities
 - Survey of historic features
 - PennDOT District 6-currently in process
 - This survey was asked for at the bureau level-topic that affects agency
 - Purpose was to look at the NRHP designation and attempt to inventory the infrastructure to determine if its historic
 - Would be valuable for D&L to comment on this Survey
 - Private enterprise is also affected
 - This survey is being done because of questions about the period of significance as there were looser regulations in the 1970s when NRHP designation was established
 - Final result of outcome-official document or study
 - Ask Marguerite Quinn to get us in touch
 - How does public participate in this process? Could be recommendation
 - Rick Dalton can forward it to D&L
 - Canal section under the PA Turnpike bridge
 - Not part of NHL status
 - Can abutments be moved?
 - Turnpike precedes landmark status-how does it get treated?
 - Ralph Ratcliffe has been in touch with Emma Diehl (PHMC)-has to be another way than using Landmark status to treat this Canal section
 - Drill rig at proposed pipeline location on towpath in Durham-core boring week of 10/12
 - Canal section underneath Route 1 bridge
 - Suggested it could be moved over and Canal could be there
 - Ditch was put in but Canal can be moved over
 - Columns of Route 1 in middle of Canal put in 1990s
 - Accessory waterway was created which goes right around columns
 - Railroad ROW also present
- Environment
 - Fish stocking-only being stocked in lower end
 - General budget from DCNR
 - Need for public meetings
 - People need to see where money is going
- Business and Tourism
 - Money spent on attractions along corridor
 - Concentration of spending in the north and at Washington Crossing
 - National Heritage Areas report showed overall economic impact of \$250 million along Corridor
 - Part of economic picture in this part of PA
 - Canal as organizing tool

- Scenic Byway on Route 29
 - How to market together
 - Market the segment (at least 50 miles distance) as a tourism destination
 - Walking is great on the PA side
 - Paddling is great on the NJ side
 - How to get Easton to look at the Canal as a resource
- Government, Municipal and Administrative
 - Context of Canal
 - Tinicum has regulations
 - Other regulations along Canal include stormwater regulations
- Recreation
 - AMC uses northern section of Canal
- Principles
 - Many public comments spoke to amenities and services
 - These will be fleshed out under Users or Connections
 - Challenge is integrity of Canal as a whole
 - Water is prime
 - Network of connections
 - Capture the significance of trails
 - Trails are important to groups, Circuit, public
 - Came up strongly in public meetings
 - Identify trail system in the essential words of the principles
 - Trail would not be there were it not for the Canal
 - During the 30s, thousands of people on the Canal
 - Canal can give so much to a community/locality
 - Ralph R said there was always water when he was a kid
 - Allen S notes that some public thinks there will always be a trail but not always water
 - Make sure stakeholder process is brought into principles
 - Integrate Wild & Scenic into public comments
 - Patrick Starr suggested that the word “trails” be considered in the “Network of Connections” principle
 - Susan Taylor said that public comment was being manipulated. No one else at the meeting concurred.
- November Meetings - strategy
 - Breakout sessions by principle?
 - People rotate
 - Kinetic way of using focus groups
- Visual resource inventory
 - Analysis from NPS
 - Looking at visual integrity from/toward a resource
 - Quality of vista
 - Context of Canal in our case
 - Overlaps views and shows what’s important
 - Cultural resources
- Accessibility in Easton
 - Demographic there is underserved
 - Needs to be kept as an issue