



Memorandum:

To: PA Delaware River Scenic Byway Advisory Committee
From: Jim Klein
Date: August 9, 2010
Subject: Advisory Committee Meeting #2 Meeting Notes [DRAFT]

Attendees: Jackie Koons-Felion, Judith Henckel, John Mauser, Howard Klein, Sherry Acevedo, Mike Sterchic, Victor Rodite, Regina Marinelli, Sidney Deutsch, Patrick Rissmiller, John Koshinski, Katherine Difebo, Sandra Newman

Jim Klein, Elizabeth Watson, Tom Scofield

The second meeting of the Pennsylvania Delaware River Scenic Byway Advisory Committee was held on July 29, 2010 at the Welcome Center in Lower Mt. Bethel Township.

The purpose of the meeting was to identify potential preservation and conservation strategies for inclusion in the corridor management plan. Jim Klein and Tom Scofield (John Milner Associates) presented information regarding the status of the intrinsic qualities inventory and evaluation of significance. Elizabeth Watson provided information on potential preservation and conservation strategies. Their presentation can be viewed on the project web site (at http://www.lardnerklein.com/drvsb_index.html).

Handouts were provided on the project website and distributed at the meeting with a draft vision and goals for the corridor plan. Two suggestions were made regarding the vision statement:

- Include farms, forests, *streams* and historic villages in the first sentence
- Refer to “nature tourism” or nature-based tourism, rather than “eco-tourism”

The following summarizes the discussion potential preservation and conservation strategies:

- Consider alternatives for CREP, or a CREP-like program (Northampton County not currently eligible)
- Consider and provide more information on the potential for conservation easements for riparian areas
 - who holds and monitors the easement
 - is there public access
 - Wildlands Conservancy may be a good source of information
- Consider incentives to keep farmers farming (such as Plainfield Township’s effort that allows maximum 5000 sf structure on a farm for economic activity
 - suggestion made to consider that as a conditional use
- Consider Best Management Practices on Agriculture Land beyond what USDA can offer
 - sod waterways mentioned as an example
 - BMP’s between farm and byway – would that be eligible for Byway funds
 - some farmers cultivating right up to roadway and displacing ditches -
 - could cash be given to farmers for BMP practices along Byway?
- Consider including examples of best maintenance practices along the byway

- Consider community participation in beautification – such as “adopt a spot” type of program – Sandra Newman mentioned an area near Lake Michigan that had plots where volunteers created interesting gardens sequentially along a road

In response to a question about historic preservation priorities:

- Consider providing information on how the future development of Martins Creek (as per the Comprehensive Plan) could be accommodated while retaining its historic character
- Riverton has strong historic resources that should be preserved
- Three Church Hill
- In general, Elizabeth Watson suggested that the preservation strategies should focus on providing more information to the community about the value of their historic resources through the development of local walking tours and other methods of community dialog.

In advance of the next meeting, Jim Klein asked about where to focus enhancement and roadway related actions. The following were suggested:

- Traffic calming approach to Martins Creek, Three Church Hill, and Riverton
- Interest in finding ways to encourage people to park and get out of their cars using walking tours and pedestrian pathways to connect to points of interest
- Also opportunities for access to the river from towns without getting in your car
- Truck traffic was identified as a significant challenge as they travel at a high rate of speed and sometimes uncovered with little or no enforcement.
- Route 611 traffic in general was also raised as a challenge

Process

- Jim Klein will be coming to Lower Mt. Bethel Township on August 23rd and 24th and would like to meet with those specifically interested in Martins Creek, Three Church Hill and Riverton.
- Jackie Koons-Felion suggested meeting with PennDOT District 5 in advance of the next meeting as well to get their ideas and suggestions for addressing traffic speed, best management practices, trucks, etc.
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Judy Henckel, Supervisor of Upper Mt. Bethel Township, requested a presentation, [scheduled for August 23rd], to provide information to their Board about the byway planning effort and benefits of designation (*August 23rd date is confirmed*).

The next Advisory Committee meeting will take place on October 7th at the Welcome Center from 7-9 PM to discuss byway related enhancement projects.