



Memorandum:

To: PA Delaware River Valley Scenic Byway
From: Jim Klein
Date: 10 February 2011
Subject: Advisory Committee Meeting #5 – DRAFT Meeting Notes

Attendees: Judith Henckel, Howard Klein, Patrick McInerney, Sandra Newman, John Mauser, Victor Rodite

Jim Klein, Elizabeth Watson

The fifth meeting of the Pennsylvania Delaware River Scenic Byway Advisory Committee was held on February 3, 2011 at the Welcome Center in Lower Mt. Bethel Township.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss implementation strategies for the byway. Jim Klein reviewed the draft table outlining the strategies under consideration for the Corridor Management Plan and Elizabeth Watson of Heritage Strategies facilitated a discussion of approaches to consider for organizing the activities associated with managing the Byway.

Handouts were provided on the project website in advance of the meeting and distributed at the meeting. The following comments and suggestions were provided.

1. Jim Klein presented the composite list of strategies from the previous meetings organized according to five goals for the byway: extend the Byway, conserve rural character, preserve historic resources, maintain the character defining features of the roadway, and use the byway as tool for economic development.
2. Committee members stressed the need to work with what they had:
 - Martins Jacoby Watershed Association
 - Township EAC, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors
 - Active Partners (Slate Belt COG, Lehigh Valley Greenways, Discover Lehigh, Delaware River Wild and Scenic, etc.)
3. Meetings related to the Byway could be held as needed, not having meetings for meetings sake (the same people are all involved with the active organizations and most do not have any more meeting times available!)
4. It was agreed that the Martins Jacoby Watershed Association could be the umbrella through which byway management activities could be organized by participating parties [or representatives of organizations that have participated in the corridor management plan]. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the association also has the capacity to accept and manage outside funding. This would cover the regional byway as well relative to Northampton County municipalities along the Delaware River.
5. Different partners could take the lead on different projects while using the MJWA as the “home room” for linking the various related efforts (byway, watershed management, Wild and Scenic River, greenway development, etc.) – a role that they are doing now with a successful track record.

6. Using the MJWA as the “home room” for the Byway offers the advantage of bringing together these related interests – for example, bringing those interested in the Byway together with those interested in the Watershed.
7. It was suggested that there be an annual meeting focused on the Byway, or possibly a “byway summit” (similar to the “trail summit”) that brings together the various byway interests from the region to discuss the previous and upcoming years events, programs, activities, grant applications, and marketing recommendations (using the CMP as the guide). Participants would include the D&L Heritage Corridor, NJ’s Delaware River Scenic Byway, National Park Service, Wild and Scenic River, Upper Delaware River Scenic Byway, Warren County (Route 57) and others with an interest in promoting heritage-related byways along the Delaware River.
8. A key to success is paying attention to each activity – making sure that it is fun to do, provides opportunities to meet people, gives positive feedback, is an overall positive experience – all building from the strengths of the community.
9. Not many people outside the committee know much about the Byway – initial priorities for the Byway include reaching out to the public (e.g., Slate Belt Chamber publishes an advertising place mat yearly – could the byway be featured on the next place mat?). Bigger byway signs (the 24x30 inch varieties) would help. A suggestion was also made to develop community entrance signs that would incorporate the byway name to reinforce the traffic calming concepts for Riverton and Martins Creek.
10. Jim Klein presented updated traffic calming and enhancement measures including ideas for Riverton and Martins Creek. Jim indicated that copies of the drawings would be made available after revisions are made following the meeting.
11. With regard to the “green highway” concept presented, John Mauser indicated that there already was some interest from USDA/NRCS in the Fox Farm relative to managing runoff and other water quality issues. A suggestion was made to include some kind of pull-off to help interpret water quality measures that would be implemented as part of a project like this along the Byway.
12. With regard to speed issues Victor Rodite suggested that multiple towns could go in together for the speed activated radar signs to share since they needed to be moved around anyway to maintain effectiveness, making it more affordable.
13. Victor Rodite asked if the footpath system could be the subject of a C2P2 grant application for the development of more detailed plans for the system. Jim indicated that he would forward the drawing to Victor and provide information as needed to support such a grant application (April 20 deadline).
14. The Committee discussed the review of the plan with the target of either the EAC or Planning Commission meeting in April for a public meeting. A draft will be available for the Committee after incorporating the suggestions from this meeting.

Follow-up

- Jim Klein will follow-up with the Committee on his request for another interpretation by PennDOT on the Delaware River Scenic Drive’s eligibility for applying for FHWA Scenic Byway Program Grants (Jackie Koons-Felion replied back

- reconfirming their earlier decision that the billboard issue had to be resolved either by amending the state legislation designating the Delaware Scenic Byway in order to restrict billboards, or getting the remaining communities to enact PennDOT approved billboard legislation).
- Jim Klein will send a place mat idea to Slate Belt Chamber – Laura Maclain followed up with a suggestion regarding including a page on the Byway in the Slate Belt Community and Information Guide. Jim will circulate the place mat idea through Sandra Newman for Township review.
 - Jim Klein will follow up with Victor Rodite regarding the C2P2 Grant application for the pedestrian footpath system.
 - Sandra Newman will follow up with more specific dates and coordinating the plan review with the open space plan.
 - John Mauser indicated a desire to advance both the Open Space and Byway plan approval in time to submit for a byway grant application for an agricultural easement.