

FCRT Special Planning Meeting December 12, 2023, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending: Dick Eglinton, Ed Easley, Jerry Boyle, Marci Finton, Sherry Mason, Calvin Ernst, Keith Knighton, Dave Hotchkiss, Peter Oven, Susan Miller, Chris Adsit, Erik Kulasa.

Jerry Boyle supplied a Long-Range Comprehensive Plan and a Financial Plan Summary for review

Jerry suggested we may want to take the quarterly distributions from CHCF to replace the McNally Match funds for maintenance in 2024. A vote will be taken at a regular board meeting.

Brian Bean has allowed trail users to park on his property without a written easement. Discussion about possible development of land on The Home Depot property to the right of the Trail Sign or flattening the hill where the shed sits to create parking and access to the Shryock-Bailey Connector. Peter will contact Beran for permitting.

Inspection of bridge supports should take place. Dick and Peter will inspect. Chris Adsit reported the bridge after the covered bridge feels springy and this is a new issue.

Erik Kulasa can cut the roots causing asphalt heaving at the edges of the trail and grind the asphalt to make it safer. He will investigate need and give a quote.

Ed reported the Strategic Planning Meeting is not having success talking to HydroBlox. The group is still working on the best route into Bicentennial Park.

Ed will look into Federal Funding for future paving costs.

Dick reported Post will give an easement to get to Shippen St. He will re-ask about a parking lot at the end of Shippen St

Calvin reported ADM is in the process of building the bridge to span S Watson Run.

Signs are still needed to direct users through the trailer park until we can get funding for a tunnel under Rt 19.

Ed reported of a presentation at Allegheny College about the ByPass Trail. It was agreed the name should be Ernst Trail. The presenters identified pollinator plants and have funds for signage. They suggested possible solar lighting because of the lack of power source.

Peter will contact Zach Norwood to talk about connections to the trail from Oak St, Echnoz St, and/or Dick St to see how to get it planned for future development.

Morris Rd is not all the way through to Saegertown yet. When it is completed, users won't need to stop at the end of the ByPass.