

York Town Board Meeting
January 11th, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Gerald Deming, Council Members: Frank Rose Jr., Norman Gates, Amos Smith and Jason Swede

Absent: None

Others: George Worden Jr. (Highway Supt), Carl Peter (Zoning/Code Officer), Heather & Davies Nagel, Kirk Richenberg and Alan Brightman.

Supervisor Deming opened the Town Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. and invited Councilman Rose to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Gates to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2021 Regular Town Board Meeting and the January 1, 2022 Organizational Meeting. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

BILLS:

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Smith to approve all claims brought before the Board. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

- General Fund # 1-22 \$ 12,542.60
- Consolidated Water/Sewer # 1-15 \$ 4,864.62
- Highway Fund # 1-15 \$ 33,657.04
- Y-L Youth Fund # 1 \$ 100.00

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR:

1)Davies Nagel:

Mr. Nagel began by saying he is here on behalf of the Town of York Trail Town Committee consisting of Becky Lewis, Ryan Conway, Brian Shares and himself, requesting that the Town Board officially recognize this committee in order to obtain grant funding, so it should be designated by the board. Mr. Nagel commented that trails have an economic and community benefit, trails have a way of bringing people together with nature.

Mr. Nagel stated that he has confirmed 16 people for a hike this Friday and another 12 on Saturday. This committee would obtain information and report their work to the

Board. Mr. Nagel stated that there are \$5,000 and \$10,000 grants available that we wish to pursue. Mr. Nagel added that the Town of York is very lucky to have trails right here; Genesee Valley Greenway has 10 miles, Groveland Secondary Trail- 7 miles and Little Italy-2/3 miles. The most important factor is to connect these trails. Mr. Nagel commented that we are one of the ten Trail Town Committees working to support the Genesee Valley Trail Town Initiative and the Letchworth Gateway Villages groups.

Supervisor Deming asked who owns the Groveland Secondary Trail, which Mr. Nagel responded that NYS DEC is the owner. He added that unfortunately this area is not a smooth trail for bikes but it is walkable and is used primarily for snowmobiles.

Councilman Rose asked if DEC stops at Craig Road or Dow Road. Mr. Nagel replied Dow Road.

Mr. Nagel discussed at length additional possibilities for this area.

Supervisor Deming inquired how this will work with Little Italy as it is privately owned?

Mr. Nagel stated that mark Occhioni owns 55 acres and the Nagel's own 20 acres and ultimately decided to work with the Genesee Valley Conservancy on how to connect the trails in order for it not to be privately owned going forward.

Mr. Nagel added that the trails have been and hope to continue to be a great resource for the York Central School students.

Councilman Smith asked, if grant funding is approved and kiosk signage is erected, who will be responsible to maintain it?

Mr. Nagel answered if the kiosk is on the Greenway, then the Greenway will be responsible for the kiosk.

Mr. Nagel added that ten different towns came up with their own Trail Town Committee and if the Town of York was willing to sponsor us it would give us legitimacy.

Councilman Rose inquired if other towns have specific wording regarding this?

Mr. Nagel stated he is not sure what others have in place but wanted to make sure we are able to adhere to the February deadline for grant funding application.

Mr. Nagel commented he will inquire with other Trail Town committees to verify what they may have in place but would also like to update the map on the Town's website to include the trails in our township.

In Appreciation of Good Research

The latest Great Allegheny Passage economic impact report is a gift to the trails world. Amy Camp of Cycle Forward



There's been a buzz about the trails community since the Great Allegheny Passage Conservancy released its latest economic impact report. It's the first economic impact study on the GAP since the trail was completed in 2013.

The economic growth is impressive: the GAP Conservancy attributes \$74 million in direct spending (2019) to GAP trail use, and \$121 million overall when accounting for indirect and induced spending. In 2002, the direct annual impact of the GAP was measured at \$7.26 million. In 17 years' time, the impact has increased by 10 times!

In the years between these two studies, I managed some GAP research. (I oversaw both economic research and trail counts when I worked for the Trail Town Program®). The GAP economic impact study I managed in 2008-09 measured direct economic

impact at \$40 million. I'm pretty sure that figure has been shared all across the U.S. and Canada over the past 10+ years, but now it's time to share some new and more convincing data.

The economic impact just keeps expanding. The growing trail economy has even crossed an interesting threshold with the latest research. The GAP Conservancy estimates the lifetime hard cost of building the trail at \$80 million. That amount (and then some) is returned to the regional economy each season.

This research is a gift to the trails community. Trail and community advocates are hungry for good research. The data I shared above just scratches the surface of what's included in the new report. Look further, and you'll find that:

- The GAP supports living wage jobs (\$38,000 is the average annual wage among GAP-supported jobs).
- 44% of businesses surveyed were founded primarily to serve GAP users. Some of those businesses are looking to retire (read: opportunity for new entrepreneurs).
- Town residents and representatives have overwhelmingly positive outlooks toward the GAP.
- 70% of businesses surveyed saw significantly decreased activity during the 2020 season. (This tracks with research I did for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council on the [pandemic's impact on PA trails](#): 2020 was a challenging year for trail businesses.)

If you're someone who is working to make the case for trails, do yourself a favor and spend some time with the [Great Allegheny Passage Economic Impact Report](#). There are a lot of nuances in trail research. Not every trail will produce \$121 million in annual economic impact. But knowing this level of impact is possible and understanding the investments behind this growth as well as the challenges and opportunities that continue to exist for trail communities can only deepen your ability to advocate for your trail.

Tourism on GAP Drives \$121 Million in Annual Economic Impact, Estimates Fourth Economy

By Bryan Perry | November 29, 2021

Tourism along the 150-mile Great Allegheny Passage drove over \$121 million in economic impact in 2019, [according to a year-long analysis](#) by Pittsburgh-based consulting firm [Fourth Economy](#) released on November 30, 2021.

Fourth Economy conducted 64 interviews with local stakeholders between [Cumberland](#) and [Downtown Pittsburgh](#) and surveyed 125 owners of trail-facing businesses, 784 GAP users, and 163 residents of trail towns – typically, small communities once dependent on coal, coke, paper, lumber, and manufacturing. Its team estimated that GAP tourism generated over \$74 million in direct spending, nearly \$22 in indirect spending, and almost \$25 million in induced spending during 2019. This spending yielded an estimated \$19 million in tax revenue in 2019, with \$8.7 million in tax revenue going to back to state, county, and local governments, and it supported nearly 1,400 jobs.

Fourth Economy also looked at the broader economic context in the region. Its analysis revealed that, despite population loss and industrial decline, employment in key sectors associated with trail activity has grown faster in the area near the GAP than it has in the wider region or in the two-state area of Pennsylvania and Maryland at large. In addition, they found that the median property value of properties near the Great Allegheny Passage increased by 13 percent between 2015 and 2019, nearly twice the rate of median property values across Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The report concludes with a discussion of key opportunities and challenges facing both trail-facing businesses and trail towns along the GAP. [Click here for a PDF of the entire report.](#)

The Great Allegheny Passage® offers 150 miles of spectacular biking and hiking from Cumberland, Md. to Pittsburgh, through Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands.

Contact Us

Great Allegheny Passage Conservancy

P.O. Box 228

Homestead, PA 15120

admin@gaptrail.org

Copyright 2021

2) Kirk Richenberg

Mr. Richenberg addressed the Board regarding Covid relief funding.

Q- Have we received funds yet?

Supervisor Deming responded that we have not received any money thus far. We did calculate that the town did incur \$10,000 for Covid expenses, but we will know more

after tomorrow's County meeting as to how we can spend it.

Q- Is it channeled through the County?

Supervisor Deming replied that it is not through the County, it is actually Federal money but is processed through the State.

Q- Who is setting the rules?

Supervisor Deming replied that the Federal Government originally outlined how Covid relief money was to be used; for water/sewer infrastructure and/or broad band, but now the State is coming out with a more liberal criteria for use of the money.

Q- Do you have a list of what was paid?

Supervisor Deming stated that court salaries were paid, even though they did not conduct any court related business for 3 months, but we can get reimbursed for that.

Q- After the Governor's Executive Order was given for virtual meetings, can you get money for that; Zoom expenses?

Supervisor Deming commented we will certainly try.

Comment: Mr. Richenberg stated he feels that if there is something specific we paid for, it should get reimbursed to that. What about cleaning of the facility?

Q- With the Judge's salaries, does their pension and health insurance get paid from this?

Supervisor Deming answered that their pension does, but they do not get insurance from the town. Mr. Worden added that we also had one week for Highway employees.

Q- Last month the Board talked about left over money from Anderson Road project, don't we have to bid?

Mr. Worden replied we do not have to bid. The items to be purchased are from different companies and complies with the Procurement Policy.

Supervisor Deming added that Rural Development has already given approval of the list. Mr. Worden stated we are staying with the existing brand (Sensus equipment), within the same parameters.

Comment: In the Organizational meeting minutes, the mileage figure needs to be corrected.

Clerk Harris stated she will make the correction to reflect \$.585 per mile.

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Worden reported the following for the Highway Department:

- We have been salting and sanding as needed
- We have been servicing equipment
- We replaced posts/signage on numerous roads
- Short St/Chestnut St. speed limits signs are installed
- We have a stake-out for Piffard Circle (ditching)

WATER/SEWER REPORT:

Mr. Worden reported the following for the Water & Sewer Department:

- We received the recent test results for THM's, the numbers are in the 50's and we are very happy with that.
- Even with the cold weather, water has been staying in the pipes with no issues to speak of.
- The crew has been doing a lot of painting on the Gen Sets

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1)RFP'S Draft Proposals:

Supervisor Deming stated that we received from CPL two (2) draft "Request for Proposal". The first is in regard to General Construction and Electrical work and the second is for HVAC work in the main hall.

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Swede authorizing CPL permission to proceed with both projects. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

2) Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreement:

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Rose authorizing the York Fire Department to sign the Mutual Aid Agreement with Livingston County. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

3) Justice Audit:

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Gates to approve the audit of court records and docket material provided by Court Clerk, Kimberly Reitz for Justices Thomas Porter and Daniel Koch, for the 2021 fiscal year. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

4) Petty Cash audit:

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Swede to approve the audit of the Water and Town Clerk Petty cash bins conducted earlier this evening by Supervisor Deming. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

OTHER

Supervisor Deming reported that we received correspondence pertaining to this year's Livingston County Youth Recognition award. If any board member or community member wishes to submit a recommendation, nominations must be received by the Youth Bureau by Friday, February 4th.

Clerk Harris distributed copies of form information to each board member and to Mr. Richenberg.

ADJOURNMENT:

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Rose to adjourn the Town Board Meeting until February 8th. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

Town Board Meeting closed at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Harris
Christine M. Harris, Clerk