

Cumberland Valley Trail Committee (CVTC)

2nd Quarter meeting – April 13th 2017

In attendance – Andrea Crouse, Katie Hess, David Maher, Jim Mader, Dawn Rickenbach, Bob Schmidlein, Gail Witwer, Rebecca Yearick, Robert Shaw, Denise Hirn

Rebecca Yearick (Cumberland County Housing Authority)

- Shared that they've applied for a DCNR grant to help fund the new park project in Mt. Holly Springs Mountain Creek Veterans Park, which will be located behind the Sheetz convenience store. May 20th is pick-up day at the Mt. Holly Marsh Preserve. Rebecca is also working with Mechanicsburg downtown street scape.

Dawn Rickenbach (CAEDC)

- Shared how the team is working on product development and highlighted the meetings and conferences coming to our region over the next several months and as partners be on the watch for details in upcoming emails.
- Denise Hirn commented that Hike it Baby has gatherings across the U.S. every year. Dawn to connect with Denise after meeting.

Andrea Crouse (Carlisle Parks & Recreation)

- West End Trail Connection is almost complete. Can't wait until its official, it's been a long project.

Gail Witwer (Partnership for Better Health)

- CORRECTION from January Minutes – Partnership for Better Health has ALWAYS funded trails, however they have a limited area footprint. First round of 2017 grants are now in the reviewing process. 2017 Grant deadlines are 3/1, 8/1 & 12/1.

Jim Mader (Cumberland Valley Rail Trail)

- The CVRT hung two bridges in the past three weeks.
- At Allen Road entrance there's some paving taking place and they're working on adding planters made from railroad ties. Jim is accepting plant donations.
- Borough crews have completed construction of the new parking lot located at the water tower along Allen Road. The parking lot is for users of the West End Trail Connection and Cumberland Valley Rail Trail.

Bob Schmidlein (Cumberland Valley Rail Trail)

- Reminder of the 4/23 Race, Run Ride & Ramble event.

Robert Shaw (Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club) – NEW/First Meeting

Rob spoke about the efforts of the 110 members of the Appalachian Trail Club, Pennsylvania has a total of 8 clubs that maintain the portion of the Appalachian Trail running through the state. 2017 is a maintenance year for the club. Rob also

spoke to the benefits of applying for grants. Pine Grove Furnace State Park was a recent grant recipient for a new foot bridge that will connect the Mountain Creek trail to the parks picnic areas at Fuller & Laurel Lakes. The bridge dedication will take place on 4/22.

Denise Hirn (Hike it Baby Harrisburg) – NEW/First Meeting

- Denise is a local Branch Ambassador for Hike it Baby Harrisburg. The organization started in September 2015.
- The organization targets mothers with children ranging from birth to age 5
- Their Facebook Page has 2000 followers
- Their programming focuses on getting families outside with their children. The group hosts several hikes each day throughout the region. Toddler hikes can be very entertaining. They also have different types of play groups and Park & Plays.

Katie Hess (AT Conservancy & South Mountain Partnership - SMP)

- Mini Grant opened on 4/1 and applications are due by 6/1. SMP submitted for South Mountain funding for 2018 & South Mountain Trolley Greenway.
- SMP officially received word that they were awarded funding from the Chesapeake Funders to do a study
- SMP Spring Partnership meeting will be held on 4/28 in Greencastle
- South Mountain speaker series will hold its first session on 4/21 at Mt. Alto Campus
- South Mountain Partnership is working with Cumberland Conservation Collaborative on an Education Forum, "Preserving Cumberland County's Rural Landscape and Natural Resources" that will take place on 5/11 at the Penn Township Firehall. Panelists will represent the Planning, Business, Agriculture and Non-Profit, and Municipal interests:
 - Planning: Jonathan Pinkerton, Vice President of Susquehanna Heritage
 - Business: Andy Witherford, Vice President of Human Resources for Volvo Construction Equipment Operations Americas
 - Agriculture and Non-Profit: Bill Chain, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, former FFA educator, and former Vice President of Central Pennsylvania Conservancy
 - Municipal: Troy Truax, Michael Baker International, Inc. & South Middleton Township

Current News for Cumberland County Planning Department

- Cumberland County Land Partnerships Grants due June 1, Schedule a pre-application meeting soon to discuss your project!
<https://www.ccpa.net/3796/Land-Partnerships-Grant-Program>
- Bike Friendly Camp Hill: Bike Day planned for May 17 including Bike Rodeo and activities and exhibits at Borough Hall from 3-5PM – more details to come at the meeting

- Tri-County Regional Planning Commission: Spring bike and pedestrian counts will take place May 14-20. Please consider volunteering, learn more at <http://www.tcrpc-pa.org/bikeped/>
- Bike Share Program to launch in Hershey area: Launch event delayed to May 11, 2-3pm <http://bike.zagster.com/hersheybikes/>
- Bike Harrisburg: Check out schedule of events for Bike Month (May) & Bike Weekend (June 3-4) <http://www.bikeharrisburg.org/>

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 2:00pm. Meeting location is 53 W. South Street, Carlisle PA at the offices of CAEDC & Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau.