



# Woodland Design Associates, Inc.

Landscape Architects □ Site Planners □ Wetlands Specialists

Key Person Interview  
(Not part of Study Committee)  
Business leader

Interviewed: October 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Tom Myles, Train Operator  
Delaware, Lackawaxen, & Strourbridge Railroad Company  
46 Brown Street  
Honesdale PA, 18431

Background: informal interview taken while conducting an on-site review of the railroad right of way from 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Honesdale, to White Mills Road on morning of October 2, 2018; then from White Mills Road to Main Avenue on the morning of October 9, 2018.

Those in attendance:

October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tom Myles, Bruce Carrick (GM for railroad), Emily Wood, Nate Ruckinger, and Mike Wood.

October 9<sup>th</sup> – Tom Myles, Bruce Carrick, Jayson Wood, Emily Wood, Nate Ruckinger, Mike Wood and Christine Dettore, PA DCNR.

As the interview was very informal, the answers provided in writing are “paraphrased”.

***“I feel that the value of the trail is most significant for the community and will enable all to enjoy the beauty of the Lackawaxen river valley”*** –Tom Myles (taken from an email dated 5/15/18 providing ROW mapping for the rail line between Honesdale and Hawley).

You will be interviewed as part of the Key Person Interview, do you agree? **Yes.**

What design criteria do you have for the co-existence of an 8-foot-wide hiking trail?

- ***Minimum of 8 feet from closest rail.***
- ***River side of the tracks preferred***
- ***Minimum number of track crossings utilizing with directional fencing***
- ***Maintain the drainage facilities (do not eliminate them)***
- ***Elevation of trail should be at same elevation as railroad bed***

Any other design criteria? ***All other requirements of the PUC. I have an offer of free stone from the Linde’s from their property located at the intersection of the Beach***

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***Lake Highway and the Texas Palmyra Highway. I need to transport it to the rail line at which it can be used for the trail base. I am looking to move quickly at this and am seeking financial support to do this.***

Mr. Myles asked if it is possible for grant funds through PA DCNR to pay for that cost and his question was directed to the DCNR staff on site the second day. Christine's (DCNR) response was an explanation to Mr. Myles of the grant program and how construction projects are funded.

Mr. Myles stated that he would like to coordinate between the trail project and adjacent land owners to create rail crossings that could be used by both. He also shortly discussed the possibility of future studies of the rail line right of way to Lackawaxen, PA.

During the second day of site review Mr. Myles informed those in attendance that he needed to present the idea of a rail and trail to the actual owner of the right of way, Mr. Paul Brancato. He stated to date Mr. Brancato is not aware of this project. Mike Wood explained to Mr. Myles that since the project was centered on the ability to utilize the railroad right of way, the owner should be informed as soon as possible seeking written confirmation of agreement to pursue the feasibility study. Christine Dettore agreed and stated that she would forward to Tom a sample trail easement agreement for the landowner to review. Tom stated that we would be reviewing the project with the landowner the week of October 14, 2018.

Throughout the walkdown Tom Myles described a variety of additional projects including train stops and train rides throughout the year which would benefit financially and otherwise from an adjacent multi-use trail. He also noted an adjacent approximate 19 acre parcel owned by the Stourbridge Railroad Company where amenities may be possible. He is very hopefully that a multi-use trail can be placed to strengthen this corridor and connect Honesdale and Hawley. He also spoke briefly about his connection to other local businesses, such as Dan Corrigan's outdoor recreation shop which he provides transportation for on a kayak, bike, and rail retreat. Many of the items Tom noted show the multi-use trail as very beneficial for the communities in the region both commercially and culturally.

**From:** [Paul Brancato](#)  
**To:** [Michael Wood](#)  
**Cc:** [Michael Keefe](#)  
**Subject:** Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study.  
**Date:** Monday, January 7, 2019 8:33:11 AM

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Mike,

In line with our conversations over the Holidays, I wanted to just confirm by email as follows:

1. The Myles Group and I do want to allow you access to complete your feasibility study;
2. For safety reasons, we need you to closely coordinate the times you will be on or near the rail line (in advance) with Myles—Mike Keefe (copied in) and/or Bruce Carrick (Mike K. will provide contact information for Bruce);
3. We will also need certificates of liability insurance (addressed to Stourbridge Railroad and Myles Group) from your company or any entity that will be accessing the property;
4. While we do not anticipate any additional issues, for good order's sake, we do reserve the right to set any additional demands or requirements. Also note, none of the arrangements we are making in good faith should be deemed to create any obligation on the part of Myles or Stourbridge. [Mike K. please advise if I missed anything.]
5. Please reach out to Mike K. and Bruce. Feel free to contact me with respect to any concerns that they cannot resolve for you. Please also send the insurance certificates to me, as well as Mike K.

Thanks again.

Paul Brancato  
President, Stourbridge Railroad  
516-784-6770



# Woodland Design Associates, Inc.

Landscape Architects □ Site Planners □ Wetlands Specialists

Key Person Interview  
(Not part of Study Committee)  
Business leader

November 5, 2018

Daniel Corrigan, Owner  
NEWE Northeast Wilderness Experience  
833 Main Street  
Honesdale PA, 18431

Summary of your business:

***NEWE is an NEPA based business that has been in operation just over 10 years. In the beginning years of our business we primarily worked with several local schools and regional Summer Sleepover Camps providing guided outdoor adventure experiences. As we continue to work with summer camps and schools, we have turned our attention to public offerings by partnering with local business, inhouse seasonal programs, and fully customized adventures to attract visitors to our area. We hold a Commercial Use License with the National Park Service for programming on the Delaware River and have a private riverside campsite in upper Wayne County. We also hold a Commercial Use Permit with DCNR, primarily for use at Prompton State Park. We have been fortunate enough to have grown our business during these years of operation; On the river we can accommodate groups of over 140 attendants. We have over 60 rentals bicycles, and 60 pairs of snowshoes just to name a few equipment offerings. We will also rent interested people and groups the equipment to go out and do it on their own. It is our mission to connect people of all ages and abilities with our local outdoor treasures in a safe, educational, and fun outdoor adventure experience.***

Do you provide trail use opportunities?

***Yes! We develop seasonal programs that utilize both land and water trails. For example, every Wednesday throughout the paddle season, we offer The Rail and River Program which starts in Honesdale and ends in Hawley. This program partners with the Stourbridge Line and each client gets a ride on the train and either lunch from Trackside Grill or a food and drink voucher from Settlers Inn. We also put together public kayak programs on the Delaware, hiking trips on local trails, snowshoeing during the winter and even use of the Snowmobile Trails with Fat Tire Bikes during the winter season. Although Wayne County's trail opportunities are somewhat limited, we use what we have. We also travel***

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**outside of the area for more established trail systems. To name a few we run programs at Ricketts Glenn, LVHT trail system, O&W Rail Trail, L&D Trail System out of Jim Thorpe, Jensen Ledge (N.Y), and Tusten Mountain (NY). Our travel to these other trail systems results in an average spending of over \$250 per trip. It would be nice to keep some of that money spent local and to be able to offer these opportunities to others looking for new experiences.**

What type?

**Kayak, canoeing, and paddle boarding on water trails. Hiking, backpacking, biking, and snowshoeing over the land.**

Seasonal or year-round?

**We are a year-round operation.**

How would you describe the demographics of your client?

**We provide services to clients from all over the world. Most of our international exposure is due to the Summer Camp Industry, but we have seen repeat business from people that were on these trips and came back to visit. Most of our clients are from out of the area, not local. The New York and Philadelphia Metropolitan areas and their suburbs account for the highest visitation rates. Other clients from out of town are east coast based (Florida, Virginia, Carolinas, Vermont, and Maine to name a few). I am encouraged to see people come to visit the area and have found us as a result of either searching for outdoor things to do while here or by recommendations from other businesses we work with. It never ceases to amaze me how intrigued and in-love people are with our area. It is often hard to see the allure when you have lived in an area your whole life, then you realize just how truly special it is.**

Do you provide those opportunities within the Honesdale to Hawley River Corridor?

**Yes, we utilize as many local outdoor assets as possible. Currently, we make use of the Delaware River, secondary and tertiary roads, The Dyberry Creek and Lackawaxen River, Prompton State Park and Prompton Lake, Gibbons Park, Apple Grove Park, Lake Wallenpaupack, Lock 31, Fairview Lake, Promised Land State Park, Wallenpaupack Trail, Schuman Point, and a few other public assets as well as private properties.**

What points of interest do you emphasize?

**We focus a lot on local history (Canal and Industry, local historic points of interest and events, Native Americans, Early Settlers). We talk about other activities or places to visit while here. We talk about local plant and animal life and stewardship of the natural assets we are using. We also focus on personal development specific to the activities our clients are participating in.**

Are those opportunities on private and or public lands? **Both.**

What is your business relationship with the landowner?

***In some instances, we lease or pay for access to the property and in others they are simply solid local relationships looking to help each other out.***

**3 Examples:**

- 1. We lease our campsite on the Delaware River. We have access from April to October. Equipment is stored there, a summer camp site is in place, and is our primary site for summer operations.***
- 2. White Mills Lackawaxen River Take out: Rudy Schemitz and Steve Pinto allow us access to the Lackawaxen River for our weekly Rail and River Program where we partner with The Stourbridge Line and Trackside Grill. We are not charged for this access. We do periodically go down and clean and clear the access and use these trips as an opportunity to pick up garbage along the way down the river.***
- 3. Hawley Take Out: Grant Genzlinger allows us access to pull kayaks out behind his Settlers Inn Property at no charge. We do offer food and drink vouchers for the Settlers as a way to pay it forward but is not required for access to land there.***

Through your personal observations, how could trail use within the Corridor be improved?

***Development, Accessibility, Exposure, and Support!! In my over 22 years of outdoor programming I have realized what a gem we are sitting on. The topography, natural elements, pristine environmental quality, and ease of accessibility make this area a truly unique and valuable asset. Development of these types of assets have proven in many other areas to have positive long-term economic impact. Why are we not doing more to make this happen??***

As a business owner, are you willing to contribute financially or volunteer time for that effort?

***Yes and I already am and will continue to. I am currently on the board of Friends of Prompton State Park and have committed many hours to trail development locally.***

Would a new trail bring your business new opportunities?

***Yes. Being an accidental entrepreneur; I have found that every door opened leads to new opportunity, you just have to be willing to see it. I would hope development of this trail system would attract new and successful business that can capitalize on its existence and future development.***

Additional Details:

***I feel that not putting serious thought into the development of this local cooperative trail concept and possibly expansive multi municipality and county trail system would be an injustice to current residents, visitors, and future residents and visitors. This is a legacy project that will pay in dividends over the years; monetarily, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Thank you.***



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### Meeting on site with Rudy Schemitz on May 15, 2019

On Site in white Mills on the ballfield side of the bridge.

All three commissioners as well as Mike Wood attended.

The proposal for the trail location and a trail head with parking, toilet facilities and river access were discussed.

The leasing of the property for both the trail and auxiliary facilities as well as the entire two parcels

Rudy was going to have his attorney review the law regarding liability and stated that the property is financed with a local bank. The bank did not think it was a good idea only due to reasoning that it would decrease property values. The commissioners offered to speak with Bank reps about it when the time comes.

Rudy stated that he would agree to the trial and support on his property, working any issues out.



# Woodland Design Associates, Inc.

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## Key Person Interview (Not part of Study Committee) Local Chapter of a Conservation Group

Interviewed: April 9th, 2019

Tony Vapitano, President  
Paul Kurinec, Vice President  
Bill Dunn, Grants Chair  
Cora's Bistro  
Hawley PA, 18428

Background: Woodland Design Associates Inc. was requested to attend the monthly meeting of the local chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) to explain the feasibility study and why it may be of interest to TU.

Those in attendance:

April 9th –Mike Wood and Nate Ruckinger (Woodland Design). Trout Unlimited Board Members & general members.

As the interview was very informal, the notes provided in writing are a short summary of the meeting conversation.

Mike Wood detailed the project thus far, how it has progressed, where it was going, and some of the next steps in the process to begin conversation.

**Mike Wood:** We will be adding this meeting to our list of “key person interviews” as we hope to tie our projects goals with those of Trout Unlimited, in some way. Do you folks agree with this meeting being added to our report as being conducted as part of the project? **Yes.**

**Tony Capitano (Pres) “What can TU do for this project, or how can we be of assistance?”** There are several ways TU can lend support for this project, from as little as a letter of support to the project from the local chapter, to donating time (volunteer) or funds in support of a particular project (I.E. river access, benches, fish habitat).

It was suggested that Woodland Design explore the idea of collaborating with the Veterans Support Program (VSP) to create an access along the river to facilitate river access for disabled veterans (I.E. along a deep pool within the river or at a dock)

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**TU member “Is creating bridges for extended access across the river possible in locations?”** Yes, bridges are being proposed at specific junctures along the trail corridor to facilitate further access and use along sections of the proposed trail.

**TU member “What is the timeframe of the study to be completed”** As we have done a fair amount of work up to this point between our office, our study committee, and the public meeting, we are projecting to have the study and report complete sometime this summer.

Woodland Design left a copy of the current set of “Proposed Trail Routes to be evaluated” with the group. They were going to map desirable locations for river access based on their knowledge of the river for fishing purposes and return those notes to Woodland for inclusion into the study.

There was a great deal of support from the group for the study, for wanting to know a timeframe of when the study may be completed and interest in the next steps. “When might the trail system construction begin?” was asked noting that there is a current trail system nearby (D&H) that has been quite successful and is a great benefit to the community. The economic benefit of what the trail may bring was also a point of discussion as it would bring in people to the area and promote ecotourism.



## Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study PennDOT Pre-Application Walkdown Meeting Minutes

*Honesdale Borough, Texas Township, Palmyra Township, Hawley Borough, Wayne County, PA*

### **Attendees:**

Mike Wood, Woodland Design RLA  
Nate Ruckinger, Woodland Design RLA  
Jayson Wood, Woodland Design RLA

Jessie Degori, Woodland Design Intern  
April Hannon, PennDOT Project Manager  
Kristi Cucura, PennDOT Intern

### **Meeting Description:**

A meeting took place between the individuals listed, at Woodland Design Associates Inc. (WDA), 119 Lincoln Street, Honesdale PA on July 31, 2019 at 11:00am. The purpose of this meeting was to gather information regarding PennDOT requirements the Wayne County Trail may be subject, should it be designed and constructed in the corridor currently identified. A review of the overall project and conceptual design process to date was reviewed to begin the meeting. A review of the PA Bike Route along SR 191 and SR 6 from Honesdale to Hawley and how it might be upgraded both aesthetically and in safety took place. Areas where the pedestrian trail crosses or overlaps the PennDOT ROW were pointed out and a field visit ensued. The following notes were taken during the discussion and field visits.

### **PennDOT Review:**

- In Office Discussion:
  - This project may qualify for multimodal and TAP grants through PennDOT.
  - Additional wayfinding signage at existing sidewalks and crosswalks may need to be provided and, if it will be provided, please refer to the PennDOT signage requirements.
  - The Bike Route along SR 6 from Honesdale to Hawley is a designated “PA Bike Route”—meaning it is bikeable and vehicles must safely share the road with those who would like to bike along it; however, a PA Bike Route is not designated or provided by PennDOT.
    - If a bike lane is desired from the one that exists on SR 191 near North Main to Hawley, PennDOT bike lane requirements should be followed and must be approved by PennDOT.
      - The AASHTO Bike regulations PennDOT refers to, as well as the PennDOT PUB 13M (Bicycle Facilities) suggest 5’ paved bicycle lane widths, minimum; going in both directions. Shared bike lanes and other options are provided.
      - Woodland Design will review the feasibility of the desired bike lane(s) along the routes identified against these requirements.
  - If a Bike Lane is desired, PennDOT must review its placement and design, however the installation and maintenance is relegated to the municipality. PennDOT will not repaint or maintain bike lanes. In this case, Wayne County (or the given municipality) would need to sign on as the maintainer of the shared use bike lane to meet this requirement.

- Regarding the trail and crossings or other work within State Route ROWs, subject to PennDOT review, a “Shared Use Path Agreement” needs to be approved showing the items approved by PennDOT with any crossings added as supplements. This document assures that these items are maintained by the municipality and the landowner and PennDOT are absolved of any maintenance, construction, or liable responsibilities for the items.
- Field Visit at potential trail crossing of Brown Street (SR 0488):
  - Many limitations were identified at this location. As discussed, the committee, railroad owner, and design team hope to limit the amount of times the trail crosses the railroad. Slopes near the river and otherwise, as well as the narrow railway corridor make it very difficult to fit a pedestrian path with any clearance from the train.
  - A tentative location to safely cross Brown Street (SR 0488) was identified, though the construction design will need to be reviewed by PennDOT; site distance and the removal/adjustment of some guiderail may be required.
- Field Visit at potential trail crossing(s) near the Sports Factory Facility (White Mills Rd. SR 2006)
  - The construction of a potential trail crossing adjacent to the existing railroad crossing across White Mills Rd. SR 2006 was reviewed and appears to be feasible and acceptable if PennDOT requirements and technical approval are attained.
  - The construction of a potential trail crossing from the White Mills Rd. (SR 2006) entrance of the Sports Factory Facility over to the Sports Factory Field/Park. A crossing at this location appears to be feasible and acceptable if PennDOT requirements and technical approval are attained.
  - The White Mills Rd. Bridge from the Sports Factory Facility over to State Route 6 was reviewed for potential pedestrian crossing solutions. The bridge appears to be wide enough and safe enough for an acceptable pedestrian walkway to exist on either side; minimizing construction costs. Technical approval and requirements must be met through PennDOT.
  - Lastly, a pedestrian trail connection from the White Mills Rd. Bridge across State Route 6 in front of the Dorflinger Museum to an existing trail near the fire station. A pathway appears to be feasible if crosswalks are placed at the end of the bridge and across Route 6 on the Hawley side. ADA requirements would need to be met, including audible and visual cues as well as ramps and proper surfacing.
    - It was noted that this should not be considered a mid-block crossing and be subject to those PennDOT requirements.
    - A fully functioning traffic light may need to be replace the existing blinking light at the intersection location to accommodate safe pedestrian crossings as a requirement of the PennDOT technical review.

**Conclusion:**

The meeting concluded at approximately 12:30 pm. A copy of these meeting minutes will be sent to PennDOT representative April Hannon for review, additions and changes, then later added to the Feasibility Study Report.



# Woodland Design Associates, Inc.

Landscape Architects □ Site Planners □ Wetlands Specialists

Pre-Application Meeting Agenda  
August 1, 2019

## Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study PUC Pre-Application Meeting Minutes

*Honesdale Borough, Texas Township, Palmyra Township, Hawley Borough, Wayne County, PA*

### **Attendees:**

Jayson Wood, Woodland Design RLA  
Rodney Bender, PUC Rail-Safety Engineering Manager

### **Meeting Description:**

On August 1, 2019 Woodland Design Associates, Inc. (WDA) reached out to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to review jurisdictional requirements and the feasibility of constructing a trail placed adjacent to and crossing the active Delaware-Lackawanna Railway Spur (US Rail Line 1238), between Honesdale and Hawley. Please note that this railway is owned by a private entity and is active for tourism and excursions. As a result, it travels at low speeds and at planned times. It is not a commercial railway, does not move commercial freight, and does not travel at high speeds between destinations.

This interview took place over the phone and started at approximately 11:15 a.m.

### **PUC Review Discussion:**

The Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study was briefly described; with both parties reviewing how the trail system may be conceptually placed between Hawley and Honesdale; and how the railroad ROW is an integral part of this project—as it provides a major opportunity to create a large portion of the trail, while working with one landowner that agrees to the trails construction.

At this time the trail committee and County prefer that the pedestrian portion of the trail system run adjacent to the railway spur, connecting different parks, historic landmarks, and the two downtowns, previously mentioned.

- The York County Heritage Rail Trail, which provides dinner excursions and has an adjacent “rail-trail” was immediately identified as a very successful project with very similar elements. This project can be used as an example of how the trail would be implemented, constructed, and maintained.
  - The PUC’s role is to facilitate negotiations, review solutions, and mediate discussions between the Train Owner/Operator and the outside entity requesting crossings and work within the ROW. In this instance, with a privately owned, excursion and tourism train, the PUC’s role tends to be more relaxed, as both parties get along and are open about solutions.
- The PUC’s jurisdiction regarding rails with trails, like this, would include the following:
  - Any public crossings of the tracks, pedestrian or otherwise, need to be drawn up and submitted for review and negotiations with the PUC.

- Any public crossings across roads, pedestrian or otherwise, that are adjacent and parallel to the railroad tracks, need to be drawn up and submitted for review and negotiations with the PUC.
- Although the PUC does not have standards for the construction of crossings and trail items, they do have requirements for horizontal and vertical clearances.
  - 12' horizontal clearance from the center of the tracks for vertical items.
  - Vertical clearance of 22' within the Rail Right-of-Way.
- Any separations and fencing will be up to the Train Owner and Operator.
- When all work is finalized for construction, specific maintenance agreements are arranged between the PUC, the train owner, and the entity providing the crossings. The PUC maintains jurisdiction to order future maintenance. The maintenance agreement can be written as the responsibility of a variety of Municipalities and groups; in this case it is preferred to be the County for the entire line.
- The PUC offers formal applications for crossings and work online, however, third parties are encouraged to schedule a pre-application meeting to review the work and negotiations with the railroad with the PUC before applying.

**Conclusion:**

The meeting concluded at approximately 12:00 pm. A copy of these meeting minutes will be sent to PUC representative Rodney Bender for review, additions and changes, then later added to the Feasibility Study Report.



# Woodland Design Associates, Inc.

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August 8, 2019

## Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study Wayne Conservation District Meeting Agenda

*Honesdale Borough, Texas Township, Palmyra Township, Hawley Borough, Wayne County, PA*

### **Attendees:**

Jayson Wood, Woodland Design RLA  
Nate Ruckinger, Woodland Design RLA  
Jessie DeGori, Woodland Design Intern

Colleen Campion, Watershed Specialist, Wayne CD  
Keith Pierson, Resource Conservationist, Wayne CD  
Jamie Knecht, Director, Wayne CD

### **Meeting Description:**

A meeting took place between the individuals listed, at the Wayne Conservation District, at the Park Street Complex Office on August 8, 2019 at 9:00am. The purpose of this meeting was to gather information regarding the Conservation District and DEP's roles, requirements, and requests regarding a tentative County Trail network being constructed between the boroughs of Honesdale and Hawley. The following will be reviewed.

The overall project was discussed with Jamie Knecht, Conservation District Director providing an overall conceptual approach for the project; mentioning that fees are waived for work on municipally owned land. The Conservation District is glad to work with the County to attain the proper permits, NPDES, general crossings, or otherwise, at the minimum fee to assist in getting this publicly beneficial project constructed properly in respect to safety and the environment.

The following items regarding permitting requirements and the environmental permitting process were reviewed:

- The Conservation District is aware that this project will take place in stages or phases, based on grant monies and portions of the trail legally and physically ready for construction.
- Any portions of the project which will exceed 5000 square feet of earth disturbance require an E and S plan by present on site. These plans need to be submitted to the Conservation District for review and approval prior to any work beginning.
- When earth disturbance shall exceed an acre a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) with a Post Construction Storm Water Management Plan will need to be submitted. Based on several factors, this may also need to be reviewed and approved by PA DEP.
- The Conservation District and/or DEP take jurisdiction over an crossings over water that would be constructed (bridge, pipe and stone, etc). These need to be drawn up and submitted with the proper documents, in the property owner's name, to the Conservation District. There are a variety of permits and permit thresholds which require additional documents and a variety of submission approaches—i.e. submit only to the District, submit to DEP and the District, Submit to both and notify the Army Corp., etc. These requirements will be realized individually at each location, during the construction documentation phase of construction.

- The Conservation District recognizes and encourages an approach where only a portion of the trail which can be excavated and stabilized with compacted stone be opened up everyday. This results in the site being stable at the end of each day. If the BMP Sequence includes this measure, it functions as a BMP itself. This may reduce the need for silt sock and other measures.
- Most of the crossings noted will require the attainment of a GP-7 permit. These are allowable in wetland as long as they do not exceed 100' in length. Refer to the BMP manual for the proper construction; which includes, 12" pipes on center covered with stone. An elevated platform bridge or "cat-walk" would also be acceptable with the same parameters.
- Streams which have a drainage area over 1 -square mile would require a Joint Permit through PA DEP.

#### Bridges and Ramps within and across Lackawaxen River

- A concrete boat access ramp requires a GP-2 permit, approved by the Conservation District; however, the Lackawaxen River may require additional permits, requirements, or another approach. The Conservation District will reach out to PA DEP to discuss and provide additional information for the feasibility report.
- DEP issues new pedestrian bridge permits. The Conservation District will reach out to PA DEP to discuss and provide additional information for the feasibility report; specifically, information regarding required permits and approach are key to the feasibility of the trail project.

\*The project team is encouraged to look into the Penn State Extension Dirt and Gravel Program. This program may provide monies, in grant form, for bike and pathways along or on low volume, dirt or gravel roads in Pennsylvania.

#### **Conclusion:**

The meeting concluded at approximately 10:15 am. A copy of these meeting minutes will be sent to Wayne Conservation District representatives Colleen Campion, Keith Pierson, and Jamie Knecht for review. Any additions and changes are welcome and will be added to the Feasibility Study Report.



# Woodland Design Associates, Inc.

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August 12, 2019

Attn: Chairman James Jennings  
Honesdale Borough Council  
958 Main Street  
Honesdale, PA 18431

## **RE: Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study**

Officials:

As you may be aware, we are working on behalf of Wayne County, to determine the feasibility of a trail system connecting the Boroughs of Honesdale and Hawley. Over the last year we have met with committee members appointed by the County Commissioners to gather information and evaluate the physical and legal limitations of such a trail. Through these meetings we have determined a study area for this trail system; beginning in Apple Grove Picnic Area and heading south to Bingham Park, along the Lackawaxen River and State Route 6 corridor. This conceptual trail network meanders through Honesdale Borough, Texas Township, Palmyra Township, and Hawley Borough, and is becoming viable as it follows existing walkways, a railroad right-of-way, local road right-of-ways, and spurs off onto private properties whose owners support the project.

As proposed, the network includes three (3) different key trail types: a pedestrian trail, a paddle trail, and a bike route. All three of these elements are proposed to go through the Borough:

- (1) The pedestrian trail would take place mostly on existing sidewalks; however, proposed enhancements include signage, additional bridges, trail heads, and access points with updated ADA parking in areas where it appears to be safe and possible.
- (2) The paddle trail along the Lackawaxen River would allow for and promote kayaking, fishing, and canoeing through the Borough. Proposed paddle trail elements include river access points with signage, non-motorized boat launches, and parking; all where physically and legally possible.
- (3) Lastly, the bike route portion of the trail system is focusing on upgrades to the existing recognized PA bike route along State Route 6/State Route 191/Main Street. This includes looking into shared bike lanes, signage, possible shoulder paving to accommodate bike lanes for longer distances, and local campaigns to notify drivers and bikers to share the road and elevate their awareness and safety.

We are writing to you today, on behalf of the County and Committee, for the following:

- (1) A letter of support from Honesdale Borough for the Wayne County Trail, noting that the Borough agrees with and would be open to allowing the trail system in the future.
- (2) Any requirements, requests, or conceptual notes Honesdale Borough has for the trail within its Jurisdiction.

This past Friday we had the opportunity to discuss the project with James Jennings, Rich Henry, James Brennan, and Judy Poltanis. They directed us to request a letter of support from you. They also provided the following requests, should the trail move forward within the Borough: all construction work would be subject to the Borough's planning, zoning, and building permitting; including wayfinding signage. We also discussed the trails future maintenance, operations, and budget. We have noted that these are negotiable and can be handled totally or in part by groups such as the Wayne and Pike County Trails Alliance, the Boy Scouts, and the Wayne County Parks and Recreation Division, to reduce or eliminate any costs to the Borough.

Please note that we are hoping to include a letter of support and/or any requests in the Wayne County Feasibility Report we are preparing. This report will be published and issued to the County and PA DCNR.

We greatly appreciate your support for this trail and look forward to hearing from you. As you know, James Jennings is on the County's Study Committee and can answer questions and provide information regarding public support behind the project.

*Jayson M. Wood*, RLA\*, CPRP, LEED AP

Woodland Design Associates, Inc.

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\*Licensed in Pennsylvania & California



# BOROUGH OF HONESDALE

958 Main Street  
Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431  
Telephone (570) 253-0731 • Fax (570) 253-4624

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

Picked Up

August 28, 2019

Woodland Design Associates, Inc.  
Jayson M. Wood

The Honesdale Borough Council at their August 12, 2019, meeting voted to offer their support in favor of determining the feasibility of a trail system connecting the Boroughs of Honesdale and Hawley.

The trail, we understand, would begin at the Apple Grove picnic area and continue on the bike route portion along State Route 191 / Main Street and State Route 6 .

The Borough of Honesdale agrees with and would be open to allowing the trail system within the Borough. However, as discussed in the meeting with you, the Borough and County would need to negotiate any requirements that expend monies toward the project.

Sincerely,

Judith Poltanis  
Borough Secretary



# Woodland Design Associates, Inc.

Landscape Architects □ Site Planners □ Wetlands Specialists

August 12, 2019

Attn: Hawley Borough President, Ann Monaghan  
Hawley Borough Council  
PO Box 197  
94 Main Ave.  
Hawley, PA 18428

## **RE: Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study**

Officials:

As you may be aware, we are working on behalf of Wayne County, to determine the feasibility of a trail system connecting the Boroughs of Honesdale and Hawley. Over the last year we have met with committee members appointed by the County Commissioners to gather information and evaluate the physical and legal limitations of such a trail. Through these meetings we have determined a study area for the trail system; beginning in Apple Grove Picnic Area west of Honesdale and heading east to Bingham Park, along the Lackawaxen River and State Route 6 corridor. This conceptual trail network meanders through Honesdale Borough, Texas Township, Palmyra Township, and Hawley Borough, and is becoming viable as it follows existing walkways, a railroad right-of-way, local road right-of-ways, and spurs off onto private properties whose owners support the project.

As proposed, the network includes three (3) different key trail types: a pedestrian trail, a paddle trail, and a bike route.:

- (1) The pedestrian trail will connect to existing sidewalks in Hawley Borough; however, proposed enhancements include signage, additional bridges, trail heads, and access points with updated ADA parking in areas where it appears to be safe and possible.
- (2) The paddle trail along the Lackawaxen River would allow for and promote kayaking, fishing, and canoeing. Proposed paddle trail elements include river access points with signage, non-motorized boat launches, and parking; all where physically and legally possible.
- (3) Lastly, the bike route portion of the trail system is focusing on upgrades to the existing recognized PA bike route along State Route 6. This includes looking into shared bike lanes, signage, possible shoulder paving to accommodate bike lanes for longer distances, and local campaigns to notify drivers and bikers to share the road and elevate their awareness and safety.

Only a small section of the Pedestrian trail is proposed within Hawley Borough on private property on the railway right of way next the tracks at the old rail station straight east to the existing sidewalk at Main Street. A possible bridge connecting Bingham Park and the County's property over to the Riverwalk has also been suggested.

We are writing to you today, on behalf of the County and Committee, for the following:

- (1) A letter of support from Hawley Borough for the Wayne County Trail, noting that the Borough agrees with and would be open to allowing the trail system in the future.
- (2) Any requirements, requests, or conceptual notes Hawley Borough has for the trail within its Jurisdiction.

Please note that we are hoping to include a letter of support and/or any requests in the Wayne County Feasibility Report we are preparing. This report will be published and issued to the County and PA DCNR.

Attached is the portion of the preliminary conceptual plan with the areas within the Hawley Borough circles in black, for your ease.

We greatly appreciate your support for this trail and look forward to hearing from you.

*Jayson M. Wood*, RLA\*, CPRP, LEED AP

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Hawley Borough  
PO Box 197  
94 Main Avenue  
Hawley, PA 18428  
August 15, 2019

Jayson M. Wood  
Woodland Design Associates, Inc.  
Via email [jaysonwood@woodlanddesign.com](mailto:jaysonwood@woodlanddesign.com)

Re: Wayne County Trail Feasibility Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Wood:

It is my pleasure as a member of both Hawley Borough Council and the Hawley Parks & Recreation Committee to advise that at our August 14, 2019 regular Borough Council Meeting the support of the Wayne County Feasibility Study was unanimously approved.

We are excited about the various components the proposed trail includes – pedestrian, paddle, and biking opportunities. Our region is well known for recreation and the trail can only serve to enhance those. The Borough would be open to dovetailing the trail system into our own trail efforts.

As of this writing we cannot name any particular requests or requirements until such time as more particulars are known, but do not contemplate any concerns which would preclude the trail opening in the Borough. Again, this is seen as augmenting our own significant recreational efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the Wayne County Trail feasibility study.

Sincerely,

*Elaine L. Herzog*

Elaine L. Herzog  
Vice-President, Hawley Borough Council  
& Parks & Recreation Committee

cc: file – hawtreas@ptd.net/Council file  
PJ Dougherty – Parks & Rec Chairperson  
G. Genzlinger, Wayne County Trail liaison (Hawley Borough/Downtown Hawley Partnership)



# Woodland Design Associates, Inc.

Landscape Architects □ Site Planners □ Wetlands Specialists

August 7, 2019

Attn: Supervisor Donald Doney  
Texas Township Supervisors  
506 Old Willow Ave  
Honesdale PA 18431

## **RE: The Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study**

Supervisors,

We recently met with Jeff Deyoung, Texas Township Code Enforcement Officer at the Texas Township Municipal Building, to discuss the feasibility of the following project, taking place within your jurisdiction. This letter summarizes our discussion.

As you are aware, Jeff Deyoung, is representing Texas Township on the Wayne County Commissioner's Trail Feasibility Study Committee—investigating the feasibility (legally and otherwise) of placing a trail connecting the towns of Honesdale and Hawley. Based on the feedback and tentative locations chosen for the trail, the Committee is proposing the trail along property owned and operated directly by Texas Township.

As a result, we are writing to you today, to make you aware of these areas. As part of the feasibility study, we are required to ask if you would be conceptually open to a trail being constructed at these locations and to gather any requirements/ requests you have, should you be open to it.

### **Tentative Areas within Texas Township Jurisdiction:**

1. We would like to place signage and a trailhead (with ADA parking) at the Texas Township Building and construct an at-grade public walking trail from the Township Building Parking lot along the Lackawaxen River, on Texas Township Property.
2. We would like to provide signage to allow and encourage pedestrian and bicycle use of Bucks Cove Road as part of the trail system.
3. We would also like to provide signage to allow and encourage pedestrian and bicycle use of River Road in White Mills as part of the trail system.

Jeff Deyoung has suggested that signage should include a statement against littering; mentioning fines and surveillance taking place. It was also noted that Texas Township can negotiate maintenance and cleanup assistance, in writing, from the County and/or the Wayne County Trails Alliance, if desired.

Lastly, for your information, attached is an "Overview of Pennsylvania's Recreational Use of Land and Water Act". This law, adopted in 1966, but updated in 2007, 2011, and 2018, now includes immunity defense for claims of negligence and injury for landowners providing trails and facilities open for public use. The law also allows for landowners to receive money or request money for maintenance and operations of the trails. In layman's terms, this law makes the property owner/provider of the trail immune to getting sued by those who use the trail and gives them the ability to receive money for upkeep of the trail, as long as the fee does not provide a profit.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your time,

*Jayson M. Wood*, RLA, CPRP, LEED AP

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# Woodland Design Associates, Inc.

Landscape Architects □ Site Planners □ Wetlands Specialists

August 7, 2019

Attn: Road Master Joseph Kmetz  
Palmyra Township Planning Commission and Supervisors  
219 Oak St.  
Hawley PA 18428

## **RE: The Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study**

Dear Officials,

Mike Wood, from our office, recently spoke with Joseph Kmetz, Palmyra Planning Commission Chairman, over the phone, regarding the feasibility of the following project, taking place within your jurisdiction. This letter summarizes their discussion.

As you are aware, Paul Natale, Palmyra Township Zoning Officer, is representing Palmyra Township on the Wayne County Commissioner's Trail Feasibility Study Committee—investigating the feasibility (legally and otherwise) of placing a trail connecting the Borough's of Honesdale and Hawley. Based on the feedback and tentative locations chosen for the trail, the Committee is proposing the trail along property owned and operated directly by Palmyra Township.

As a result, we are writing to you today, to make you aware of these areas. As part of the feasibility study, we are required to ask if you would be conceptually open to a trail being constructed at these locations and to gather any requirements/ requests you have, should you be open to it.

### **Tentative Areas within Palmyra Township Jurisdiction:**

1. We would like to provide signage to allow and encourage pedestrian and bicycle use of River Road in White Mills as part of the trail system.

The suggestion that signage should include a statement against littering; mentioning fines and surveillance taking place has been received. Please note that Palmyra Township can negotiate maintenance and cleanup assistance, in writing, from the County and/or the Wayne County Trails Alliance, if desired.

Lastly, for your information, attached is an "Overview of Pennsylvania's Recreational Use of Land and Water Act". This law, adopted in 1966, but updated in 2007, 2011, and 2018, now includes immunity defense for claims of negligence and injury for landowners providing trails and facilities open for public use. The law also allows for landowners to receive money or request money for maintenance and operations of the trails. In layman's terms, this law makes the property owner/provider of the trail immune to getting sued by those who use the trail and gives them the ability to receive money for upkeep of the trail, as long as the fee does not provide a profit.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your time,

*Jayson M. Wood*, RLA, CPRP, LEED AP

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**From:** [Palmyra Township](#)  
**To:** [Michael Wood](#)  
**Subject:** Trail  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 11, 2019 12:11:10 PM

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Dear Mr. Wood,

At the Palmyra Township-Wayne County Supervisors meeting held on November 4, 2019, it was decided that the Board would allow pedestrian and bicycle use of Riverside Drive, in White Mills, Palmyra Township.

Sincerely,

Joseph Kmetz