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**DESIGN & PLANNING, LLC**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & LAND PLANNING

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320 Fayette Street ♦ Conshohocken ♦ Pennsylvania 19428  
Telephone: 610-828-1206 ♦ Telefax: 610-828-3161 ♦ E-mail: jfries@depallogdesign.com

## Memo

To: John Hackman, Berks County Conservancy  
From: Jim Fries, RLA  
Present: See attached sign-in sheet  
Date: 1-28-09  
Job Name: Angelica Greenway Feasibility Study

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The first meeting of the Steering Committee for the Angelica Greenway Feasibility Study was held on January 21, 2009 at the Environmental Education Center at Nolde Forest. The following are minutes and notes from that meeting.

1. An overview of the project scope, goals and objectives were presented by DDP.
2. The objectives of the study were presented. The four sections of the greenway with desire lines for potential trail connections were illustrated. The study objectives include
  - a. Study the feasibility of a greenway corridor to connect the City of Reading, Angelica Park to Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center.
  - b. To connect the Angelica Creek Corridor to the Governor Mifflin School District Campus and the Borough of Shillington's Memorial Park.
  - c. To connect the Angelica Creek Corridor to the historic Union Canal Lock #54.
  - d. To connect the Angelica Creek Corridor and/or the Union Canal Lock #54 to the Flying Hills PRD and golf course.
3. The second steering committee meeting will tentatively be held during the third or fourth week of February. DDP and ADM will present the findings of the field work. Conceptual corridors and connections will be reviewed.
4. The date and time for the first Community Meeting will be determined at the second Steering Committee meeting.
5. The draft Key Person Interview questionnaire was reviewed and discussed with the Steering Committee. The following items were discussed and/or revisions were recommended:
  - a. Add bikes to resident survey #2 question
  - b. Add phone/ email to resident contact info

c. Should the Key person interview questionnaires also be distributed as surveys and how might they be distributed other than to the steering committee?

- Alvernia can survey campus groups or administration
- Maybe Governor Mifflin can do similar
- Local Government planners can possibly distribute

DDP will discuss the issue of surveys with the Berks County Conservancy, as they are not part of the current proposal.

6. The following issues were raised by members of the steering committee and some local residents that were present:

- a. How does a trail impact property values, businesses?
- b. How does a trail enhance the conservation of an area?
- c. What are impacts of increased number of people along trail?
- d. How will the trail be patrolled?
- e. Who will be responsible to pick up litter?
- f. What is the time frame for trail construction?
- g. It was noted that the existing intersections along Route 724 at Route 625, High Boulevard and Church Road are dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- h. A trail neighbor asked if studies had been done to address safety and crime issues related to trail development near existing homes.
- i. The following general recommendations were made by members of the steering committee:
  - Show desire lines as wide generalized pathways between hub locations.
  - Clarify the project steps with the steering committee, so they understand their role and how their concerns will be incorporated.
  - Define the job of finding the best possible routes between hubs and suggest there may not be a good route between all hubs.
  - Weed out the routes that are impractical due to physical landscape. Steep slopes, etc.
  - For the First Public meeting have possible routes defined for public so we can weed out any other public concerns before we get to writing a final draft.
  - Be cautious in any interview with the newspapers. They make the trails sound like construction is eminent. Much of the meeting was spent trying to convince concerned residents trail construction was not ready to begin and that they were a part of the earliest planning stages. This will be discussed with BCC staff in house as well.
  - More need to find/ focus on positive impacts for township & region of Greenway development:
    - Linkage between city/ suburban schools and proposed Angelica Environmental Education Center
    - State-wide Safe Route to Schools initiative
    - Alvernia University Environmental Group and campus connections to community.