



TRAIL- LETTER

A bi-monthly publication of the Montour Trail Council
VOLUME 1***SUMMER-FALL*****ISSUE #4**

LEGISLATIVE MONEY GRANTED TO MTC

Several local Pennsylvania legislators have given portions of their 1990 legislative initiative grant money to the project. They include:

- Senator D. Michael Fisher of Upper St. Clair; \$10,000**
- Representatives Ron Gamble of Oakdale and Tom Murphy of Pittsburgh \$5000 each**
- Representative Alice Langtry of Bethel Park \$3000**

The MTC is appreciative of the grants, which will be applied to the right-of-way acquisition. These grants are indicative of the strong support we have received from these and other elected officials.

APPRAISAL COMPLETED

The appraisal of the Montour right-of-way has been recently completed by Dan McCown and Associates. This appraisal was funded jointly by Allegheny County, Duquesne Light and the Montour Trail Council. The results of the appraisal show that the total value of the right-of-way to be in the neighborhood of \$500,000. There is a substantial variation in the values of land ranging from the most valuable land in commercial areas to the least desirable land such as flood plains, marshes and deep cuts and fills. With this information now in hand, negotiations can now begin with the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad to arrive at a purchase price for the available right-of-way.

TAX EXEMPT STATUS IS GRANTED

The Montour Trail Council has received notice from the Internal Revenue Service that our application for 501 (c)(3) status has been approved. **This means that all contributions to the MTC retroactive to November 27, 1989 are tax deductible.** Through the diligent work of Richard Wilson, Fund Development Chairman, all the data and information was compiled and then filed with the IRS. Special thanks go to U.S. Representative Doug Walgren who helped to expedite the approval process. With the 501 (c)(3) approved, there is greater incentive for donations by individuals, corporations, and foundations.

A directory of the committee chairmen is on page 4, save for reference!!

ARE THERE ANYMORE ANGELS OUT THERE??

You may have seen in the July-September, 1990 copy of the TRAILBLAZER, the quarterly newsletter of the national Rails to Trails Conservancy, an article entitled "Missouri Broker Gives \$2 Million for Katy Trail". It describes how a certain Edward Jones first gave \$200,000 to acquire the right-of-way, and then gave the \$2 million to pay for development and surfacing of the trail. The article also told of a Washington D.C.-area developer named Kingdon Gould who committed \$11 million to acquire and temporarily hold the Capitol Crescent Trail. He will get his money back if and when Congress appropriates funds to buy the line. Meanwhile, he has leased it to the National Park Service for trail use.

Closer to home, and on a smaller scale, one interested individual stepped forward six months ago and paid \$8000 out of his own money to prevent some property vitally important to the trail from falling into the wrong hands. This is an area where the railroad line has already sold off a portion of the right-of-way, and the area had then been subdivided into lots. Again, this individual will get his money back when the Montour Trail Council has the resources to do it. (Meanwhile, he gets letters from local churches welcoming him to the area!)

Many things remain to be done. Some are time-critical, like the above. Even though legislative and foundation funding is being developed as quickly as possible, more angels (of any size or type) would be greatly appreciated by all. If you have an idea how you can help contact Stan Sattinger at 561-5056.

Peter Kohnke

ANNUAL MEETING PLANS ANNOUNCED

Dino Angelici, Program Chairman, has announced plans for the annual membership meeting. The meeting will be held on Sunday, November 18, 1990 at the Airport Howard Johnsons (formerly the Airport Holiday Inn) from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The meeting will be a luncheon with a featured speaker (to be announced), elections, and a "State of the Trail" address. The Steelers do not play until 8:00 pm that evening, so the Black and Gold should not pose a distraction.

STRUCTURE INSPECTIONS

Under the leadership of Dave Wright, several engineers have been conducting cursory inspections of the bridges and tunnels on the right-of-way. The purpose of these inspections is to estimate the costs involved to rehabilitate each structure and to convert it to trail use. Converting a bridge to trail use includes the addition of safety fences and decking. The Trail Council would like to thank Dave and the following individuals for volunteering their time to conduct these inspections:

**Phil Hodge
Joe Beck
Bill Amhrein
Harry Smeltzer
Frank Groll**

**Frank Holst
Mike Probst
Glen Stickel
Jack Peth**

Thanks also goes to Paul Spence for environmental consulting work in helping to deal with the problem of old railroad ties still lying along the right-of-way. Old ties may be considered hazardous materials by the Environmental Protection Agency and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

AUGUST 30 MARKED FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE MTC ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Although our charter meeting did not take place until November 27, 1989, the MTC is now, in a very real sense, fully a year old. It was on August 30, 1989, that Dino Angelici and I convened a group of 15 individuals at the Pittsburgh Garden Center, near the American Youth Hostels' headquarters to discuss whether to form an organization that would be dedicated to the creation of the Montour Trail. The vote was carried unanimously.

A lot had to be accomplished between August 30 and November 27, including the building of membership, securing articles of incorporation, and writing of by-laws. We held meetings at a number of locations near the Montour Railroad right-of-way and found each meeting to be well attended by people from the immediate areas. At these meetings we acquired many of the members who were to play leading roles in shaping MTC's future.

Looking back at the objectives that we adopted for our fledgling organization, we are on track and very much involved in seeking those goals at the present time. As we prepare to negotiate with the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad for purchase of the available right-of-way, we are focused on our most important single action, which is to preserve the Montour right-of-way intact for use as a trail.

Happy first birthday, MTC!!

Stan Sattinger

TRAIL COUNCIL SAYS THANKS

The Montour Trail Council wishes to say thanks the following individuals for time spent in manning the booth:

At the South Hills Village Volunteer Recruitment Fair:

Tim Killmeyer	Dave Lutes
Dennis Sims	Stan Sattinger
Paul Mitsdarfer	Dick Wilson

At the National Model Railroad Association Train Show:

Dick Wilson	Dave Wright
Tim Killmeyer	Phil Abromats
Paul and Dottie Mitsdarfer	

The petition gained 370 signatures at this event.

At the Washington County Fair:

Andy Poole
Harry (Skip) Koehler
Dave Wright

The petition gained another 320 signatures at the fair. **With these events, there are now 2729 signatures on the petition!!!!**

THE CONCEPT PLAN IS OUT FOR COMMENT

The long-awaited Montour Trail Concept Plan is out for review and comment by county and local officials. The Concept Plan, in draft form, contains over 50 pages of maps, tables, and text describing the construction, development, funding, and maintenance of trail project.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Montour Trail Council needs people to help out with a variety of tasks, handing out literature, preparing mailings, monitoring and surveying the trail, and assisting in the upcoming Pennsylvania Chapter of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's workshop.

Our greatest need at present is a pool of excited, concerned individuals who can be called upon when the need arises. Please call Jerry Agin, our volunteer coordinator, if you would like to be part of the pool. No specific

commitment in joining the pool. You will be notified when the opportunity arises.

Jerry can be reached at 343-1425 during the evening and 642-6900 during the day.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Septemeber 24: General membership meeting, Moose Hall, Elizabeth PA, 7:30pm

October 12-14: Pennsylvania Chapter of Rails-to Trails Conservancy Workshop at Linden Hall.

November 18: Annual Meeting of Membership (details elsewhere).

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Stan Sattinger	561 - 5056
VICE PRESIDENT	Dino Angelici	931 - 1403
SECRETARY	Peter Kohnke	854 - 1835
TREASURER	Jack Swisher	221 - 7708

COMMITTEES/CHAIRPERSONS

COMMUNICATIONS*	Dennis Sims	257 - 2553
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	Marshall Fausold	531 - 8628
CORPORATE CONTACTS	Paul Mitsdarfer/ Tom Dougherty	941 - 8178 571 - 0613
FUND DEVELOPMENT	Richard Wilson.	471 - 1800
GOVERNMENT LIASON	Larry Ridenour	355 - 7782
GROUP CONTACTS	Tim Killmeyer	787 - 1472
LEGAL AFFAIRS	Richard Wilson	471 - 1800
MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM	Jerry Agin	343 - 1425
RIGHT-OF-WAY	Dino Angelici	931 - 1403
SPEAKER'S BUREAU	Dave Wright	746 - 2517
WESTERN PA WHEELMEN LIASON	Bill Metzger	341 - 9387
*includes public relations and newsletter	George Schmidt	521 - 1538

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