

MORRIS CANAL WORKING GROUP

Data & Information Collection Committee Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2013

2:15pm-4:15pm

NJTPA

1 Newark Center, 17th Floor Newark

Committee Attendees:

1. Bob Barth, Canal Society of NJ
2. Tom Edmonds, Morris County Park Commission
3. Megan Kelly, NJTPA
4. Jennifer Leynes, Richard Grubb & Associates
5. Virginia Overberger, Richard Grubb & Associates
6. Gerald Rohsler, Morris County Planning
8. Rich Rockwell, Historical Society of Bloomfield
9. Gerry Scharfenberger, Department of State, Office of Planning Advocacy
10. Jason Simmons, Passaic County Planning

1. Presentation of the Berkeley Avenue Bridge Project by Richard Grubb & Associates

Jennifer Leynes (Berkeley Avenue Bridge Project Manager) and Virginia Overberger (GIS) of Richard Grubb & Associates made a presentation to the Data & Information Collection committee on the Berkeley Avenue Bridge mitigation requirements to GIS map and inventory cultural resources and condition of the full length of the Morris Canal in Essex County. The project also included geo-referencing historic maps of the canal route.

The Morris Canal extends through Bloomfield, Belleville and Newark in Essex County.

The consultants presented a map of the Morris Canal route as defined by DEP/New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJHPO). The field investigations revealed that actual route of the Morris Canal differed in areas by as much as 50 feet from the DEP/NJHPO Morris Canal Historic District canal route. As a result of the study, a recommended revised boundary of the Morris Canal Historic District will be provided as a GIS shapefile to the NJHPO. The revised boundary was drawn using a 50-foot buffer from the centerline of the Morris Canal prism. The boundary was extended to include a few resources that fell outside of the 50-foot boundary.

One of the project's challenges was the incomplete parcel data available in Essex County. A data agreement is being worked out with the DEP/NJHPO to house this revised Morris Canal layer. The project will be completed and a report will be available by the end of February or beginning of March.

Committee members asked if the consultant would be able to provide ownership data for the mapped route and easement data and to have the municipal boundaries added to the map.

2. Discussion of Data Needs for the Morris Canal Corridor

The committee discussed creating an inventory by county of the municipal master plans which reference preservation of the Morris Canal or conversion to a greenway. Also, committee members suggested creating a resource of model ordinances for municipal use and to add in mention to the regional Morris Canal Greenway as well.

3. Review of GIS Solicitation

As part of the conference, this committee will work on creating a GIS map (in large scale format) of the Morris Canal with cultural resources identified, open space, municipal boundaries, and roads. The basis of this inventory will help with scoping out the Morris Canal Greenway corridor study and gap analysis.

4. Inventorying Active/Inactive Canal Communities

An inventory will be developed by each county cataloguing the towns which have been active or inactive in preservation of the Morris Canal.

5. Next Steps

The next Data & Information Collection committee meeting will occur in mid-February where a GIS walk-through of member projects will be presented.

Committee Action Items:

1. Receive ownership and ownership data for mapped Morris Canal in Essex County
2. Inventory municipal master plans which reference Morris Canal preservation or conversion to a greenway
3. Create large-scale Morris Canal route map with cultural resources, open space, regional trails, municipal boundaries and major roads identified for the spring conference
4. Select Date/Venue to hold next committee meeting in mid-February to feature GIS walk-through presentations of stakeholder projects.