



P.O. Box 496

Nicholson, PA 18446

Nicholson Tourism Center at the Historic Delaware, Lackawanna & Western (DL&W) Railroad Station Update & Discussion

August 14, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Nicholson Fire Company Hall, Main & Walnut Streets, Nicholson, PA 18446

Summary

The purpose of this second public meeting on the railroad station effort was to thank those who have helped with the historic preservation and economic revitalization initiative and to provide an update on the effort. Light refreshments were served, thanks to the Inn the Beginning, a local bed & breakfast. Thanks also to the Nicholson Fire Company for allowing us to hold our meeting in their Hall.

There were about 35 attendees, including elected state government officials, Endless Mountains Heritage Region and Steamtown). The meeting began at about 2:05 p.m. with introductions and background of the project by Marion Sweet, chair of the Nicholson Heritage Association. At about 2:15 p.m., Alex Belavitz with Facility Design & Development presented on Facility Design and Development, the feasibility study, existing conditions of the station, and designs, which were recently finalized. Alex turned the presentation back over to Marion Sweet at about 2:35 p.m., where Ms. Sweet provided the update that the Association, with Wyoming County as the sponsor, is awaiting to hear if our project's renovations are the recipient of a Transportation Alternatives Program grant. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will announce recipients of the competitive grant by the end of September 2014.

The presentation was finished about 2:35 p.m. with the remaining time left for questions and answers. After the Q&A session ended about 2:45 p.m., attendees were invited to walk to the station to see the inside.

The Nicholson Tourism Center at the Historic DL&W Railroad Station is moving forward. With an Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) grant through the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Association earlier this year completed a feasibility study to evaluate the rehabilitation of the station into a community and visitor's center. The Association worked with Facility Design & Development and The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, both of Scranton, on this portion of the overall project. The Nicholson Tourism Center at the Historic DL&W Railroad Station will promote tourism and attract visitors to the region by being a visitor's center linking to the Viaduct Valley Way Scenic Byway, the Starrucca Viaduct, the Martin's Creek Viaduct, and the Steamtown National Historic Site, as well as a provide a place for community events.

The Association already purchased the station in June 2012 with donations from individuals, businesses, and a \$25,000 Pepsi Refresh Project grant. Now that the feasibility study has been completed and the designs are finalized, it's time for actual renovations. Donations continue to be needed for the renovation phase and can be mailed to the historical group at P.O. Box 496, Nicholson, PA 18446. In addition, donations are accepted through PayPal, available at www.nicholsonstation.org.

Updates on the project can be found at www.nicholsonstation.org.

www.nicholsonheritage.org