



Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2024

1. **President Harris called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.**
2. **Pledge**
3. **Members present:** Arendtsville, Bendersville, Biglerville, Butler Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Littlestown, Butler, Conewago, Cumberland, Germany, Mt. Joy, Oxford, Straban, Conewago Valley, Upper Adams, & County of Adams
Others Present: Amy Welsh (Destination Gettysburg), Catherine Wallen (Rep. Ecker), Jason Haines (PSP), Andy Merkel (ACOPD) & AJ Aldrich (Barlow Fire Co.)
4. **June Minutes:** A motion was made by Mauser (Straban) seconded by (Conewago) to approve the June 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.
5. **Treasurers Report:** The Balance is \$13167.19. A motion was made by S.Phiel (Cumberland) seconded by Mauser (Straban) to approve the Treasurers Report as presented
6. **Speaker:** Mirand Wise, Ex Dir and Erica Duffy, Development Dir of the Adams County Library System
 - Miranda and Erica presented an overview of library services and programs.
 - Miranda highlighted the library system's impact, noting that it welcomed over 182,000 visits in 2023.
 - emphasized the library's role in supporting broadband expansion, human services funding, and workforce development.
 - explained that the library system serves at least one out of every three Adams County residents.
 - highlighted the return on investment for local communities, stating that for every \$1 invested, residents saved \$8.11 in book borrowing alone.
 - Erica discussed new and expanding library services, including:
 - Book clubs
 - Collaboration with the Seminary Ridge Museum
 - Meeting room and computer access
 - Support for non-profit organizations, including hosting Fun Fest at Rec Park
 - Partnership with Kenny's Markets to generate donations
 - Outreach programs on topics like Alzheimer's awareness and healthcare
 - encouraged attendees to visit their local branches and sign up for library cards.
 - Miranda and Erica provided an update on the new Gettysburg Library project.
 - The library board has been exploring options for a new Gettysburg Library for 12 years.

- Miranda detailed the process of evaluating renovation versus new construction, ultimately leading to the decision to pursue a new, purpose-built facility.
 - The library system is in the process of finalizing a purchase agreement with the seminary for land to house the new library.
 - The project is awaiting final subdivision approval from both Gettysburg Borough and the County.
 - The next steps include community engagement to gather input on the needs and wants for the new library.
 - There has been interest from various parties, including Main Street Gettysburg, regarding potential uses for the existing building.
 - There is a need for a dedicated teen space in the new library, similar to the successful teen center at the Biglerville Library.
 - Erica and Miranda emphasized the importance of engaging teenagers and providing them with a welcoming and stimulating library environment.
- A discussion arose regarding the national movement to ban books from public libraries.
 - Miranda acknowledged that while the Adams County Library System has not experienced the same level of challenges as some school districts, they have policies in place to address community concerns about the collection.

7. New Business

- The council revisited the topic of the fire services study, last conducted 10 years prior.
 - Is a new study needed?
 - It was suggested that rather than simply updating the previous study, a more comprehensive assessment of future needs and an ideal fire service structure should be conducted.
 - The council agreed that the emergency committee should develop an approach for collecting information and potentially conducting a new fire services study.
 - It was mentioned how important it is to reach out to your fire departments and get copies of their budgets.
 - This topic will be on the agenda for the next meeting for continued discussion.

8. Regular Business:

a. ACC:

- Commissioner Phiel encourages support for the new Library plans.
 - Comm. Phiel provided an update on a recent meeting with Senator Casey, highlighting the challenges facing the Adams County apple industry. Explained that the market for apples has diminished due to factors such as reduced demand from processors and increased competition from imported apples. Shared that Senator Casey witnessed firsthand the impact of these challenges, observing both thriving orchards and acres of bulldozed trees.
 - Announced that Adams County will assist the Littlestown School District with tax collection due to the district's difficulty in finding a tax collector.

- Reminded attendees about the upcoming South Mountain Fair and encouraged their support.
 - Commission Martin announced a fundraiser for the South Mountain Fair, featuring an auction of baked goods. raised concerns about abandoned orchards, noting that they can become breeding grounds for pests and diseases that threaten the apple industry.
- b. Legislative Representatives:
 - Catherine provided a budget update, reporting that the state budget passed with a \$47.6 billion increase, representing a 6% increase over the previous year. Representative Ecker will attend the next meeting to answer questions about the budget. announced upcoming events in the district, including a family fun night at Cross Keys Park, a Cumberland County Veterans Cookout, and a Senior Expo.
 - Rep. Moul expressed concerns about the state budget, stating that it draws \$3 billion from the rainy-day fund and represents a significant increase in spending. highlighted specific aspects of the budget, including increased funding for agriculture, higher education, and K-12 education. discussed the non-preferred appropriations for state-related universities, explaining that he voted yes despite concerns about the amount of funding allocated. explained that his vote was necessary to ensure continued funding for Penn State Extension and to support efforts to address the shortage of veterinarians in Pennsylvania. Shared his experience touring a small butcher shop and expressed concern about overly restrictive township ordinances that hinder business growth. urged townships and boroughs to review their ordinances and ensure they are business-friendly, particularly when it comes to signage and permitting.
- c. ACOPD:
 - provided an update on the planning commission's work, mentioning that they are exploring options for addressing the issue of abandoned orchards. reminded attendees about the upcoming deadline for Community Development Block Grant applications. requested that municipalities submitting subdivision plans include email addresses for both the applicant and the engineer to expedite communication and reduce mailing costs.
- d. Township Association: Reminder the Secretary Luncheon is on Tuesday July 30 and rsvp's are due by July 23.
- e. Boroughs Association: No report
- f. PSP: announced an upcoming National Night Out event on August 6th, encouraging community members to come out and support their local police department. provided an update on the Pennsylvania State Police, stating that the anticipated influx of 400 new troopers is intended to replace retiring officers rather than representing a net increase in force size.
- g. Destination Gettysburg: provided an update on their activities, highlighting the success of the 161st anniversary commemoration events and the Gettysburg 4th of July celebration. announced that the planned fall 2024 opening of the Patriot Rail tourism trail experience has been moved to spring/early summer 2025. encouraged local businesses and organizations to utilize Destination Gettysburg's website and social media platforms to promote their events and activities. Little Round Top is now open.
- h. ACTCC: No report
- i. School Districts: Mentioned the challenges finding teachers to fill vacancies. New Teacher introduction program for all teachers and administrators in the County will be at Upper

Adams High School Monday August 5. New Oxford has made significant changes to traffic patterns with in the district. They will hold a Military Night during a football game.

- j. AEA: No report
- k. @homeadamscounty: July 12, next coalition meeting. Working with Commute Pa, more details to come.

9. **Committee Reports:**

- a. AC Collaboration: Cyber Survey info to come
- b. Legislative: No report
- c. Emergency Services: No Report
- d. PA COG: No Report
- e. Broadband Task Force: No report

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Helwig

Adams County Cog Secretary

Butler Township