PORTAGE WATER TRAIL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Location: Port Clinton City Hall | 1868 E Perry St., Port Clinton, OH 43452
Date: Monday, July 15, 2019
Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Discussion Topics

1. Welcome to Port Clinton/meeting called to order – Port Clinton Mayor Mike Snider called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees to the city of Port Clinton.

2. ODNR Water Trail designation program – Tom Arbour, ODNR, gave an overview of the Water Trails program and the assistance that ODNR can provide to communities seeking a Water Trail designation.

3. Work completed towards a Portage Water Trail designation – Sara Guiher provided an update on the work completed by the Portage River Basin Council and the timeline for the remaining requirements of a designation. The council has a goal of official designation during summer 2020.

4. Group Discussion – Benefits to communities/organizations and concerns about a Portage Water Trail were discussed by attendees.
   a. An attendee recognized the opportunity to connect the water trail with nearby land trails.
   b. Kayaking and canoeing are low-cost (after initial investment) family activities that promote wellness and the outdoors.
   c. In Port Clinton, paddlers could take out and visit local restaurants/businesses.
   d. No major infrastructure is needed for a water trail. Signage is included with the program, and future investment could be made in kayak lockers or other storage for trail users.
   e. There are not currently real-time updates on river conditions/safety through the program. Safety issues are discussed in the brochures and signage, and known potential hazards are marked on these materials as well. Users can be encouraged to use the USGS gauge information to make a choice based on water levels, and materials could include an ideal range for general use.
   f. Virginia Park voiced concern with paddlers navigating the mouth of the Portage due to potentially high water flow and power boat traffic.

5. Mayor Snider thanked attendees for coming, and the meeting was adjourned.