



# Woodland Design Associates, Inc.

Landscape Architects □ Site Planners □ Wetlands Specialists

Key Person Interview  
(Not part of Study Committee)  
Business leader

Interviewed: October 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Tom Myles, Train Operator  
Delaware, Lackawaxen, & Strourbridge Railroad Company  
46 Brown Street  
Honesdale PA, 18431

Background: informal interview taken while conducting an on-site review of the railroad right of way from 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Honesdale, to White Mills Road on morning of October 2, 2018; then from White Mills Road to Main Avenue on the morning of October 9, 2018.

Those in attendance:

October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tom Myles, Bruce Carrick (GM for railroad), Emily Wood, Nate Ruckinger, and Mike Wood.

October 9<sup>th</sup> – Tom Myles, Bruce Carrick, Jayson Wood, Emily Wood, Nate Ruckinger, Mike Wood and Christine Dettore, PA DCNR.

As the interview was very informal, the answers provided in writing are “paraphrased”.

***“I feel that the value of the trail is most significant for the community and will enable all to enjoy the beauty of the Lackawaxen river valley”*** –Tom Myles (taken from an email dated 5/15/18 providing ROW mapping for the rail line between Honesdale and Hawley).

You will be interviewed as part of the Key Person Interview, do you agree? **Yes.**

What design criteria do you have for the co-existence of an 8-foot-wide hiking trail?

- ***Minimum of 8 feet from closest rail.***
- ***River side of the tracks preferred***
- ***Minimum number of track crossings utilizing with directional fencing***
- ***Maintain the drainage facilities (do not eliminate them)***
- ***Elevation of trail should be at same elevation as railroad bed***

Any other design criteria? ***All other requirements of the PUC. I have an offer of free stone from the Linde’s from their property located at the intersection of the Beach***

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***Lake Highway and the Texas Palmyra Highway. I need to transport it to the rail line at which it can be used for the trail base. I am looking to move quickly at this and am seeking financial support to do this.***

Mr. Myles asked if it is possible for grant funds through PA DCNR to pay for that cost and his question was directed to the DCNR staff on site the second day. Christine's (DCNR) response was an explanation to Mr. Myles of the grant program and how construction projects are funded.

Mr. Myles stated that he would like to coordinate between the trail project and adjacent land owners to create rail crossings that could be used by both. He also shortly discussed the possibility of future studies of the rail line right of way to Lackawaxen, PA.

During the second day of site review Mr. Myles informed those in attendance that he needed to present the idea of a rail and trail to the actual owner of the right of way, Mr. Paul Brancato. He stated to date Mr. Brancato is not aware of this project. Mike Wood explained to Mr. Myles that since the project was centered on the ability to utilize the railroad right of way, the owner should be informed as soon as possible seeking written confirmation of agreement to pursue the feasibility study. Christine Dettore agreed and stated that she would forward to Tom a sample trail easement agreement for the landowner to review. Tom stated that we would be reviewing the project with the landowner the week of October 14, 2018.

Throughout the walkdown Tom Myles described a variety of additional projects including train stops and train rides throughout the year which would benefit financially and otherwise from an adjacent multi-use trail. He also noted an adjacent approximate 19 acre parcel owned by the Stourbridge Railroad Company where amenities may be possible. He is very hopefully that a multi-use trail can be placed to strengthen this corridor and connect Honesdale and Hawley. He also spoke briefly about his connection to other local businesses, such as Dan Corrigan's outdoor recreation shop which he provides transportation for on a kayak, bike, and rail retreat. Many of the items Tom noted show the multi-use trail as very beneficial for the communities in the region both commercially and culturally.

**From:** [Paul Brancato](#)  
**To:** [Michael Wood](#)  
**Cc:** [Michael Keefe](#)  
**Subject:** Wayne County Trail Feasibility Study.  
**Date:** Monday, January 7, 2019 8:33:11 AM

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Mike,

In line with our conversations over the Holidays, I wanted to just confirm by email as follows:

1. The Myles Group and I do want to allow you access to complete your feasibility study;
2. For safety reasons, we need you to closely coordinate the times you will be on or near the rail line (in advance) with Myles—Mike Keefe (copied in) and/or Bruce Carrick (Mike K. will provide contact information for Bruce);
3. We will also need certificates of liability insurance (addressed to Stourbridge Railroad and Myles Group) from your company or any entity that will be accessing the property;
4. While we do not anticipate any additional issues, for good order's sake, we do reserve the right to set any additional demands or requirements. Also note, none of the arrangements we are making in good faith should be deemed to create any obligation on the part of Myles or Stourbridge. [Mike K. please advise if I missed anything.]
5. Please reach out to Mike K. and Bruce. Feel free to contact me with respect to any concerns that they cannot resolve for you. Please also send the insurance certificates to me, as well as Mike K.

Thanks again.

Paul Brancato  
President, Stourbridge Railroad  
516-784-6770