



Union County Trail Authority  
155 N. 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors  
2115 Strickler Rd.  
Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Dear Chairman Haines,

Thank you for your letter dated April 7, 2025 addressing both Mr. Brubaker's appointment to the Union County Trail Authority (UCTA) Board and the concerns as to the rights and responsibilities of landowners adjacent to the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail. We are pleased to have Mr. Brubaker on the Board and it is good to have the viewpoints of a farmer and Buffalo Township represented.

The Union County Trail Authority has always strived to be a good neighbor to all of the adjoining landowners and we want to continue that practice. One of the best ways to accomplish this is through open and sincere communication by all parties. Your letter is one expression of such communication and we would be grateful if, at your various Township meetings, it could be expressed to your constituents that any concerns or questions about the trail can be directed to our Trail Manager John DelVecchio at 570.524.3878 or by email at [jdelvecchio@unionco.org](mailto:jdelvecchio@unionco.org). John is in the office most days from 8 AM to 4 PM. Alternatively landowners with questions or concerns could attend one of our board meetings which are held the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM at the Union County Government Center. The Trail Authority property varies in width between Lewisburg and Mifflinburg but through Buffalo Township it is sixty (60) feet in width, thirty (30) feet from centerline. As per Pennsylvania statutes adjacent property owners are permitted to trim overhanging vegetation back to the property line. Anything beyond the property boundary would require making a request with the Trail Authority for permission which would be granted on a case-by-case basis.

As you pointed out we have various relationships with landowners adjacent to the trail and primarily have followed what was done previously under the management of the prior trail owner and the railroad. For example, if a farmer had previously/historically had a crop field within the Trail Authority property we have allowed that to continue. Similarly in town neighbors continue mowing grass right up to the edge of the trail. We want to work with our neighbors to do what is best for all parties involved; however, the Trail Authority is constrained in what we can do by a restrictive deed covenant that was imposed by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources when the property was originally acquired by the Lewisburg Area Recreation Authority (aka Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority) with the use of state grant funds. As such we have discouraged new encroachments onto the Authority's property.



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One of the primary goals of the Trail Authority is to keep the trail open and make it as pleasant a recreational and non-motorized transportation experience as possible and also let the farmers along the trail continue to operate normally. If there are issues on the trail itself, or on property owned by the Trail Authority that is negatively affecting either trail users or adjacent owners, the Authority Board would like to know about it. For example, if there are tree limbs interfering with farm operations and need to be cut, we generally do not have an issue with that occurring. We would like some notification and coordination of these activities. If there are questions or concerns that an adjacent property owner has or would like a field view of the issue, they should reach out to us. What we do not want is impacts to our property occurring without our knowledge and input. We also need to be cautious from a liability standpoint in terms of unapproved persons performing work on our property.

Included for your information is our "pocket guide" for adjacent landowners that was sent to all neighboring property owners along the rural sections of the trail. I hope this information is helpful and if you would like to meet to talk further, please let John know and he can arrange a time that works for both of us and perhaps some of the other board members

Again, thank you for reaching out for clarification on this matter and for the assistance Buffalo Township has provided to the Trail Authority over the last year. As you know maintenance on the trail is a challenge and we really appreciate the help!

Sincerely,

Amy Griffith, Chairman