

Supervisors turn down \$30G grant

By Rick Dandes
The Daily Item

NORTHUMBERLAND — Point Township supervisors have turned down a \$30,000 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources matching grant due to the number of residents

opposed to the project.

The grant would have funded a feasibility study for a section of the North Branch Canal Trail.

“We did a survey of 80-100 landowners who would be

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affected by construction of the trail,” said Ann August, who wrote the grant application, “and the overwhelming majority, many were farmers, were against it. Given the push back, I honestly think returning the funding to DCNR was the best move at the moment.”

Instead, Point and Northumberland appointed 17857.org as their advisory committee or “green team” to the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, and the two communities are now in the process of becoming a joint Susquehanna Greenway Rivertown.

Becoming a “Rivertown,” August said, “will increase our capacity to get more people involved in riverside projects. The hope is that in a few years, we can recommit ourselves to a project like the

Canal Trail.”

The SGP also asks prospective rivertowns to hold at least two river-side events to increase public awareness of the river as a destination point.

The first event will be a mini-mudder for kids, a youth obstacle course, June 29, during Pineknottter Days.

August is calling for additional help in getting people or organizations to be responsible for an obstacle or two, she said. The Northumberland Police Department has already committed to overseeing one of the obstacles.

Groups can pick and choose from a large number of obstacles already available — all they have to do is choose one, then on the day of the event, watch over the kids going through their chosen obstacle.

Visit the 17857.org web site for more information.