

March 7, 2017

Rory Murphy
2590 Sidewinder Drive
Park City, UT 84060



Board of Trustees

Karen Keating
President

Paige Anderson
Vice President

Gil Williams
Treasurer

Monique Abbott
Ron Butkovich
Hal Compton
Greg Cropper
Marcie Davis
Lynn Fey
Julie Hopkins
Barbara Jones
Noah Levine
Ken Martz
Cindy Matsumoto
Linda McReynolds
Sydney Reed
Randy Scott
Zibby Tozer

Dear Rory,

Thank you for contacting the Park City Historical Society & Museum regarding cultural or historical assets on your property on Lowell Avenue.

In reviewing the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps from 1907, 1929 and 1949, I did not find any structures on Block 42. The other blocks 35, 38, 39, 43, 44, 45 and 48 do not show on any of these maps

Further exploration of our extensive historic photo collection revealed that the historic Crescent Tramway lies on this property. The railroad grade is shown on the Alt/NSPS Land Title Survey (created by Evergreen Engineering dated January 17, 2017) that you provided, and is described as "pedestrian access easement for Nastar LLC". The railroad grade is also called out in the Easement Detail on this survey.

The Crescent Tramway was a narrow gauge railway constructed in 1883 to haul ore from the Crescent mine, located near the head of Thaynes Canyon, to the Mackintosh or Crescent Sampler (near Heber Ave). The tramway used two steam Shay engines, the Prospector and the Maude Withey to haul the ore cars. Plagued by derailment and winter avalanche conditions, the rail line wasn't very successful. The Crescent mine closed in 1900. In 1901, the Silver King replaced the tramway with a more reliable aerial bucket system.

Park City residents petitioned City Council to purchase the tramway bed and keep it open to the public. In 1916 the city constructed a cement walkway from Park Ave to Empire. Parts of this have since disappeared under development or roads. A section of the tramway grade above Empire Ave has become North Star Drive.

The Park City Historical Society & Museum has periodically led tours from Main Street along the Crescent Tramway railroad grade. From the intersection of the tramway with Treasure Hollow ski run and extending almost all the way to the site of the Crescent mine, the grade has become a popular hiking and mountain bike trail called Crescent Mine Grade (CMG). We would urge you to keep this easement available for pedestrian access so future generations can marvel at the tenacity of past residents and business owners and their extraordinary efforts in building a narrow gauge railroad so far into the mountain wilderness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Morrison".

Sandra Morrison,
Executive Director