



Countywide Trails Initiative

NOTES

Thursday, January 7, 2015 at 5:30pm

Saratoga County Planning Office

West High Street, Ballston Spa

**Follow up items in green*

Attendees:

Katie Petronis	Committee Chair, Saratoga PLAN
Wally Elton	Champlain Canal Trail Working Group
Chip Ellms	Saratoga PLAN, Town of Charlton
Scott Miller	Saratoga PLAN
Jim Ruhl	Clifton Park
Linda Butchino	Equine Community
Amy Marshall	Saratoga PLAN
Libby Smith Holmes	Saratoga PLAN
Jason Kemper	Saratoga County
Steven Lashomb	Saratoga PLAN
Tom Richardson	City of Mechanicville
Larry Woolbright	Town of Milton
Aaron Dyer	County Snowmobile Association
Mary Ann Morgan	Town of Milton
Barbara Kerr	Town of Milton
John Mitchell	Town of Halfmoon
Pat Tuz	Town of Wilton

I. Issues Discussion

1. Former McGregor Lands
 - i. Transfer update? Transfer hasn't happened yet, but J Kemper is working with Parks on parking area off Route 10, so he believes they're planning for transfer
2. Funding opportunities
 - i. County Trails Funding (*J Kemper and T Richardson*) County has 57k for planning or design of trails, less than last year's 100k, there may be a call for applications as early as spring
 1. The 2015 program awarded 8 trails grants of \$12,500 each throughout the County
 - ii. Open Space Funding – The 2015 program awarded 7 grants for open space projects located throughout the county
 1. The County has established a trail and open space reserve fund. This will eliminate the issue of funds needing to be

re-allocated if a project does not get completed. Once placed in the reserve fund, these funds can only be used for trails or open space purposes.

- iii. Backcountry Horsemen funding application for Moreau project (*B Lasher*) – Aug, 2016 due date, should we have a project teed up?

II. Proposed 2015 Goals for the County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee

- i. We should review these goals as we develop the 2016 goals, and consider additions. We will propose 2016 goals at our next meeting.
- 2. Zim Smith
 - i. Complete the ROW acquisition and Design to connect the Zim Smith Trail from Coons Crossing to the City of Mechanicville – Design update – J Kemper is hopeful that the design work will be completed in the spring; 3.1 miles of totally undeveloped trail, Cty remains fully committed but it’s a challenge
 - 1. City of Mechanicville will be doing a feasibility trail to look at connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail
- 3. Champlain Canalway Projects
 - i. Move forward on the Waterford section of the Canalway
 - 1. W Elton – 3 years ago, Lakes to Locks received 200k grant to design many portions of the trail, now ready to go and they are going to focus on 1) Waterford section designed by Oct 2016 and 2) design trail in Halfmoon running north to Mechanicville to be done this summer
 - ii. Support towns in trail efforts – Halfmoon, Stillwater, Saratoga, Mechanicville
 - 1. Saratoga – Town is working on a trail that was obtained from OGS last year, design work is being completed by the LA Group
- 4. Equine trails - (*B Lasher/J Kemper*)
 - i. Complete a phased equine trail on the Moreau County Forest and continue efforts on equine trails in Providence
 - 1. Efforts to get County acreage perimeter cleaned up and in use
 - a. VOTEC and County work on parking lot (*J Kemper*) – there have been administration changes in Moreau and so there is a transition that has slowed the process somewhat, though all remain committed
 - ii. Back County Horseman of America report
- 5. Hudson Power Express – consider locations along the power line that provide trails opportunities (*S Miller*)
 - 1. Glenville
 - 2. Clifton Park - NG gas line from Ballston to Alphas Road
 - 3. Ballston Bike Path

4. There may be an opportunity to work with Power Express to develop trail coming south from Saratoga Springs into Milton
 - ii. Question: is this 2016? The goal right now should be to get things ready so that when they start moving we can engage them, they likely won't move forward in 2016
 - iii. W Elton and T Richardson point out that there may be funding available through HPE for community projects related to their project
 - iv. Maybe good idea to set up a meeting with Rick Chase to talk about opportunities – *Katie will talk to S Miller, J Mitchell, W Elton to set it up*
6. Develop rules and regulations for the new County Trail Grants program – Checked off the list
 - i. Can come off the list for 2016
7. Support of county-wide trail computer system – *Amy Marshall* update on PLAN work
 - i. Amy has been filling in trails and resources not currently on the map, speaking with towns and collected GPS points for trails, boat launches, parks; plans to visit Hadley river walk and boat launch
 - ii. S Miller mentions need for better and more consistent markers on the Zim Smith, J Kemper agrees that we could have consistent markers on the Zim Smith but let's wait until we have more of it filled in; A Dyer suggests incorporating funding from snowmobile grant

III. Localized Goals of Trails Committee for 2015

- i. We should review these goals as we develop the 2016 goals, and consider additions. We will propose 2016 goals at our next meeting.
2. Corinth trail system – Needs for public access to state lands; completion of UMP; Lyme Timber easement agreements; and trails from Spruce Mt to the reservoir property – (*B Clarke, B Lasher*)
 - i. They have received county funding for parking area improvements at the reservoir
3. Linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland to expand the trail system. Use of Champlain Hudson Power Express Project in RR corridor.
4. Extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road – *S Miller/J Ruhl* update on CP Trail Committee Subcommittee meeting
5. W Elton suggests adding City trail near Woods Hollow to connect Milton, B Spa, and Saratoga Springs/future Zim Smith trail as a priority (see Larry's description below); this is a planning requirement, make sure the development plan allows a trail through the property; J Kemper suggests Larry get in touch with Matt Veitch to see what the priority is
6. S Miller suggests easement between Village of B Spa snow dump and

Cty sewer ROW in Malta as priority, connects you from Zim Smith to (4 and 5 could be tied together as a local priority – Zim Smith North goals)

- IV. Snowmobile** *A. Dyer* – County Association is working with Parks on “Take a Friend Snowmobiling Day” – Feb 20 at Hudson Crossing Park
1. Rails to Trails out of Saratoga running north to Corinth – clubs in the area would be interested in securing a trail opportunity there
 2. 6 clubs in County have begun to work towards becoming a single organization, working on funding and grant applications together

V. Department of Transportation Project Radar List *S. Miller*

- i. Group task – populate contact list so that we can get it to Rob Cherry at DOT so that he knows who to contact when issues arise
 1. Exit 15 over the Northway – key component of short term solution for Greenbelt Trail.)
 2. Crossing on Route 4 from Schuyler House to Siege trail.
 3. Route 4 and 32 crossing for Canalway Trail from Halfmoon to Main Street in Mechanicville.
 4. Rexford Bridge pedestrian - potential reuse of old bridge.
 5. Rt 29 bridge replacements in Grangerville
 - a. Julie Stokes can be the contact
 6. Rt. 50 crossing at Northline Road
 - a. Who does DOT contact in the town of Milton? – Larry Woolbright says he spoke with DOT about it and they said they need a concrete plan to bring to them first
 - b. Larry will be the contact, *Katie will fill him in on the list*
 7. 9p shared access upgrades (around Saratoga Lake) –
 - a. Town of Malta could be lead on that
 8. Spier Falls Road crossing for Equine from Moreau County Forest to State Park.
 9. Crossing on Route 4 at Sword Surrender Site
 10. Upgrades on Rt 32 between Battlefield and Victory – Need bike lanes.
 - a. Julie can be the contact
 11. Rt 29 between SS and Schuylerville – need bike lanes for entire length! – J Stokes spoke with DOT rep and confirmed recent repaving was a direct overlay, rep says width is sufficient for bikes
 12. Jones Road – wide enough for bike pedestrian use.
 13. WWPP needs safe crossing on route 50
 14. Tunnel or bridge over/under the Northway to connect Spring Run Trail to the east side of the Northway
 15. 146a connector to Ballston Lake Trail – needs trail
 16. Crescent Bridge over the Northway needs to be wide enough to carry trail.
- Once list is fully populated, *K Petronis and S Miller will reach out to Rob Cherry to schedule meeting to show him map and list*

VI. Information from Towns/Cities

1. **Clifton Park – J. Ruhl**
 - i. Mohawk Towpath Connector – connecting Town of CP to Town of Halfmoon underneath the northway, and then connecting to the Champlain Canal; huge priority but bid for construction came in far higher than available funding
 - ii. *S Miller* development of Ballston Bike Path South; follow natural gas line down to Schenectady County Farm; target is to use Power Express line
 1. *J Ruhl and S Miller* are meeting with the town to discuss
2. **Corinth – B. Clarke**
3. **Milton – L Woolbright** Town has an Open Space Committee and it's been active recently with support from the town board; town set aside a reserve fund to fund purchase of Open Space with 100k as initial deposit; also put together town Open Space Map, identified Boyce Family Park as a priority (100 ac along Kayaderos Creek) that is part of a PUD, approximately 4 miles of trail, would like to purchase more land to add to Park
 - i. Trieble Park – no trails yet, but they've been flagged, access issue that requires a bridge build for good access; currently in discussion with landowner to the south for access
 - ii. Woods Hollow Nature Preserve – city of Saratoga Springs owns land next to it, then a 300 ac parcel, then a narrow parcel that connects to sidewalk system. This parcel should be prioritized for access opportunities, on the market
 - iii. Open Space Committee would like to develop town trail map and is meeting with Scott to talk about how to do that
 - iv. May be an opportunity to work with Power Express to develop trail coming south from Saratoga Springs into Milton
4. **Saratoga Springs – K. Maynard/W. Elton/others**
 - i. Pitney Farm – no closing yet, hopefully we're getting close!
 - ii. Zim Smith North
 - iii. Geysers Road project – should be built next year
5. **Malta – S Miller**
6. **Wilton – Pat Tuz**
7. **Stillwater – E. Kinowski/ K. Petronis**
 - i. OSI donation to connect Champlain Canalway Trail from TO Saratoga to Northern end of the Battlefield
8. **Halfmoon – J Mitchell**
9. **Greenfield – Ken Blom**
10. **Ballston Lake – A Dyer**
 - i. PLAN has closed on conservation easement on 250 acres that will have approximately 4 miles of trails on it when developed
11. **Ballston Spa**
12. **Mechanicville – T Richardson** Champlain Canalway trail in Halfmoon – may need to go across city trail and Halfmoon may be willing to clear it, he will speak with Halfmoon to see if this can still be done

VII. Other

*****Next Meeting March 10, 5:30 pm**