



SARATOGA
P·L·A·N
PRESERVING LAND AND NATURE

Countywide Trails Initiative

NOTES

Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 5:30pm

Saratoga County Planning Office

Follow up items in green

Attendees:

Katie Petronis – Saratoga PLAN
Wally Elton – Champlain Canal Trail Working Group
Chip Ellms – Saratoga PLAN
Jim Ruhl – City of Clifton Park
Amy Marshall – Saratoga PLAN
Libby Smith-Holmes – Saratoga PLAN
Bill Lasher – Saratoga Horsemen’s Association
Margot Olson – Town of Wilton
Barbara Kerr – Town of Milton
Scott Miller – Clifton Park
John Mitchell – Town of Halfmoon
Julie Stokes – Saratoga
Larry Woolbright – Town of Milton; Leaves at 7 pm
Mary Ann Morgan – Town of Milton

I. Issues Discussion

1. McGregor Prison Closing
 - i. Transfer update – Saratoga PLAN sent a letter of support letter for expedited transfer to the state
 - ii. Consideration of committee letter of support in favor of prison use compatibility with surrounding lands – let’s wait until there’s movement
 - iii. OPRHP staff attendance – Alane is going to identify someone from her staff to join meetings, possibly her. In the meantime, we have added her to the distribution list so she will receive notes and agendas.
 - iv. J Stokes – at some point we’ll want to look at a trail that will connect OPRHP lands south
2. Back County Horseman of American- (*B Lasher/J Kemper*)
 - i. Efforts to get County acreage perimeter cleaned up and in use
 1. Update on proposed arrangement between BOCES, Saratoga County and the Town of Moreau to get the

- equine trail work completed in the Town of Moreau – B Lasher reports that VOTEC students will begin working at parking lot in two weeks; County has dumped gravel in and opened up the road there and are ready to go
- ii. Saratoga Backcountry group is ready to take on trail extension to Providence as their second initiative
- 3. Funding opportunities
 - i. County Trails Funding – awards notification went out last week (*J Kemper*) – 8 projects funded at \$12,500 each, many of which are identified on this agenda
 - ii. Backcountry Horsemen funding application for Moreau project (*B Lasher*)
 - 1. Next round of funding due in August 2016

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

- 1. Zim Smith
 - i. Complete the ROW acquisition and Design to connect the Zim Smith Trail from Coons Crossing to the City of Mechanicville – CFA application prep update (*J Kemper*) – *design may be complete, K Petronis will check with J Kemper for confirmation*
- 2. Champlain Canalway Projects
 - i. Move forward on the Waterford section of the Canalway with the Scenic Byway funding – W. Elton says there is a signed contract; goal for Waterford section is to develop a shovel ready plan by the next CFA round, would have to be the County or the town of Waterford; the second part of the grant is for the section from the northern end of the trail in Halfmoon to Mechanicville, probably won't be enough funding to get that shovel ready but they'll take it as far as they can
 - 1. *K Petronis will get a large ZS map for next meeting to keep posted in room; will ask Jason if he has a projector we can tee up*
 - ii. Town of Halfmoon – *J. Mitchell* along Waterford line, southern end of Champlain Canalway Trail down to Schoolhouse Rd; bridge was collapsed; Town is now fixing the bridge
 - iii. Support towns in trail efforts – Halfmoon, Stillwater, Saratoga, Mechanicville
 - 1. Northern boundary of SNHP to TO Saratoga
 - 2. Southern boundary of SNHP to Saratoga PLAN land to the South through former Cocozzo land now donated to the Town
 - 3. Schuylerville - Effort to run trail from Schuyler House south to Garnsey road – old dump site in OGS ownership is a challenge, clean-up will be costly
- 3. Equine trails
 - i. Complete a phased equine trail on the Moreau County Forest and

- continue efforts on equine trails in Providence
4. Hudson Power Express – consider locations along the power line that provide trails opportunities
 - i. *S. Miller* – mapping presentation:
 1. Opportunities in Wilton per trail plan concept from Jones Road up to the Wilton Wildlife preserve – M Olson points out that the section of corridor through that area probably won't provide good opportunities
 2. Clifton Park - NG gas line that runs from Ballston to Alphaus Rd, he thinks they'll use that road as access for construction
 - ii. S Miller recommends having a Power Express representative come to a meeting; *John Mitchell and/or Julie will get in touch with him and invite to next meeting*
 - iii. *S Miller will bring maps showing connector opportunities to next meeting*
 - iv. S Miller thinks that the best thing they can do is help with the Ballston Bike Path
 5. Develop rules and regulations for the new County Trail Grants program – Checked off the list
 6. Support of county-wide trail computer system –
 - i. M Trabka reports that Amy Marshall has volunteered to update the countywide trails data that Chris Ferraro created a few years ago and include information about accessibility. Our goal is to not only publicize the data electronically this time but also to produce a printed map. Someone has offered to fund the printing. Amy will need help checking data, making introductions to locals with trails knowledge, and partners to accompany her to GPS missing trails, etc.
 1. M Olson - May be a good idea for Amy and/or Maria to get in touch with Jason and/or Troy to make sure we're not duplicating efforts and are working cooperatively
 - a. J Mitchell points out that we might want to add our trails to Google Earth and Google Maps
 - b. W Elton updated Champlain Canal Trail map a year ago; *W Elton will email to Katie*

III. Localized Goals of Trails Committee for 2015

1. 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. We also talked about lands N and W of there, DEC has been doing a lot up there
2. Linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland to expand the trail system. Use of Champlain Hudson Power Express Project in the RR corridor.
3. Work with Clifton Park and Ballston to extend the Ballston Bike Path to

Blue Barnes Road – S Miller thinks there needs to be a joint meeting with Schenectady/Glenville to discuss the entire Rexford/Alplaus/Freemans Bridge trail connection needs/opportunities. He will attend the CP trail meetings regularly to help progress this.

- i. J Ruhl – had a trails meeting last night; subcommittee formed to look into this; straight line from Ballston Bike Trail down trolley line; now look at ways to extend that South; *S Miller will join and assist*, but he says that we also need a planner in Glenville or Schenectady to get involved; Chip Ellms recommends Tom Bodden, *Chip Ellms will reach out to him and connect him to S Miller*
4. W Elton brings up a proposal in Saratoga Springs to create a trail on City owned land near Woods Hollow, has been trying to get something going ever since GPS'ing trail years ago. City and County are working on it now, County will build the trail, City will provide parking area, Matt Vietch is working on it

IV. Snowmobile *A. Dyer* – association is in the process of reorganizing, working with Lincoln Mtn Snowmobile club which is Dix Bridge area, working on figuring out a way to expand trail for increased usage based on increased usage last winter

V. Department of Transportation Project Radar List *S. Miller to present finished map*

- i. Group task – populate contact list; *K Petronis and J Kemper will work on it and send out to larger group*
- ii. S Miller sent Clifton Park a list to populate, he will send it again
- iii. S Miller suggests PLAN/Amy create a GIS map
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
6. Rt. 50 crossing at Northline Road
7. 9p shared access upgrades!
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.
11. Rt 29 between SS and Schuylerville – need bike lanes for entire length!
 - a. *Julie reach out to Rob Cherry to see if the recently repaved section will have a bike lane*
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.

VI. Information from Towns/Cities

1. *Clifton Park – J. Ruhl*

- i. Mohawk Towpath Connector – estimate is 3.5 mill for work along side of Northway and two bridges; Jim thinks it’s an incredibly important connector but will be hugely expensive; *Jim will bring a map to the next meeting*

2. *Corinth – B. Clarke*

- i. Spruce Mountain Fire Tower opening – Opening event held at tower on 10/10, and there were a lot of attendees and press; PLAN led a hike up the mountain. There were over 350 sign-ins over the long weekend.
 1. DEC is marking the property for hunting season. The trail will be closed starting October 24 and will run through the open season. DEC is also working on posting the top of the access road with signage indicating that it is closed to foot traffic, and that all hikers should respect neighboring landowners property boundaries. Finally, they will be adding a hand railing from the top of the stairs into the cab on the tower, and that should complete their work.
 - a. M Olson recommends that somebody post on the Adk Firetower Challenge site accurate information to help those groups use the property

3. *Milton – L Woolbright*

- i. Engineers has looked at Foot Pond, and so far has concluded that it would be problematic

4. *Saratoga Springs – K. Maynard/W. Elton/others*

- i. Pitney Farm
- ii. Bog Meadow - connection between parking lot and trailhead on Meadowbrook Road needed. Next steps? Who to contact who? Part of City’s 2016 budget? County trail funding application in 2016?
 1. Yes, we should submit a County application for 2016, J Stokes had County clear out parking area because kids were partying; there is enough County right of way that if you just did a simple trail it could work, so *we should ask City to submit an application in 2016*
- iii. *W Elton* - Safer School Project has begun on Geyser Road, so there is a signal crossing to get people to school and Geyser Road Trail will be built next year; it’s finally happening

5. *Malta – S Miller* should revisit parcel on Malta Ave that would connect sewer pump station to TO Malta along Kaydeross; Cunningham property;

Katie will bring it to Maria and email Audrey Ball

6. **Wilton** – *M Olson*
 - i. Trail that was closed along Ruggles Rd has been re-opened
 - ii. Plan in place that Town got funding from County from Bullard Lane to new parcel purchased by Town at County auction to connect to Jones Rd and Gavin Park; County funding is for a feasibility study
 - iii. Town is working on updating the Trails, Open Space, and Rec Plan, Tracey Clothier is working on it
7. **Stillwater** – *E. Kinowski/ K. Petronis*
 - i. Cocozzo easement acquisition and trail transfer - Stillwater has completed acquisition of a corridor of the Champlain Canalway Trail connecting the Battlefield south to land that PLAN owns. The town has asked for help in coordinating volunteers and town highway crew to establish the trail. Are there any volunteers on the Trails Committee who wish to do some recon in the field and help evaluate, plan and implement this project with PLAN over the next 6-12 months?
 1. W Elton will volunteer and can get others from Champlain Canalway Trails group (John Dimura and others)
 - ii. OSI donation to connect Champlain Canalway Trail from TO Saratoga to Northern end of the Battlefield
8. **Halfmoon** – *J Mitchell*
 - i. Continuing to push ahead with McDonald Creek Trail to connect town park to Champlain Canalway Trail; Swaddling Falls is being paved this week, Glen Meadow is next
9. **Greenfield** – *Ken Blom*
10. **Ballston Lake** – *A Dyer*
11. **Ballston Spa** – *S Miller* they are working with National Grid to work on connections
12. **Other?**
 - i. **Seige Trail opening, Town of Saratoga, Village of Victory** – Saratoga PLAN formally opened the Siege Trail off Route 4 along Fish Creek in the Village of Victory
 1. J Stokes would like to put an American flag at the Siege Trail and a British flag to Victory Woods and clear land in between owned by Brookfield Power and then connect to Surrender Site

VII. Other

1. **Washington County representative** – K Petronis spoke with Chris Debolt. He agrees it would be great to have someone from WA County attend committee meetings. They are currently hiring a new planner and when they do, he'll recommend that person. We have added him to the distribution list.

***Next Meeting January 7th at 5:30 pm

