



Countywide Trails Initiative

NOTES

Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 5:30pm

Saratoga County Planning Office

West High Street, Ballston Spa

**follow up items listed in green*

Katie Petronis – Saratoga PLAN
Jim Ruhl – Clifton Park
John Mitchell – Halfmoon
Joe Grasso – CHA
Aaron Dyer – Snowmobile Association
Barbara Kerr – Milton
Maryanne Morgan – Milton
Larry Woolbright – Milton
Bill Lasher – Backcountry Horsemen
Maria Trabka – Saratoga PLAN
Linda Butchino – Equine community
Jason Kemper – Saratoga County
Joann Klepetar – Wilton

I. Waterford and Halfmoon trail planning/design presentation – Joe Grasso

1. CHA is lead consultant on Hudson River Greenway's trail planning/design project within the Towns of Waterford and Halfmoon – Joe gave a presentation on the process:
 - i. Segment 1 – Waterford to Halfmoon – in design stage; they are getting it shovel ready, being done by Elan
 - ii. Segment 2 – northern portion of Halfmoon up to Mechanicville – in design stage; they are preparing a basic concept design, being done by CLA Site
 - iii. Saratoga County has rights of way covering both segments

II. Issues Discussion

1. McGregor Prison Transfer – complete? Katie P asks if we should consider removing this from issues discussion and adding Palmertown as a Trails priority? We will add Palmertown as a standing agenda item in our meetings and consider adding it to the Supervisor's lists for 2017
2. Funding opportunities
 - i. County Trails Funding (*J Kemper and T Richardson*) Trails is out

for application, projects can be for feasibility, design, development

1. M Trabka – could it be used for GIS data development for countywide trails? Jason Kemper says it may qualify and recommends applying and letting the question be vetted by the committee
2. Jason is hoping to see a number of applications this year; he will email the committee the application packet
- ii. Open Space Funding – almost out for application
- iii. Backcountry Horsemen funding application for Moreau project (*B Lasher*)
 1. Skidmore grant for Hennig – Bill L tells us that a retired Skidmore professor submitted an application to Skidmore for interpretive signage throughout the Preserve and was awarded funding

III. 2016 Goals for the County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee

1. Zim Smith
 - i. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail
 - ii. Extend northern terminus, including the Saratoga Amtrak Station
 - iii. Complete the ROW acquisition and Design to connect the Zim Smith Trail from Coons Crossing to the City of Mechanicville - Huge recent developments!
 1. County Board of Supervisors voted to purchase 9.05 acres and accept a donation of 4.08 acres from Pan Am Southern RR for the extension of the Zim Smith in Halfmoon
 2. County Board of Supervisors authorized an agreement with Canadian Pacific RR to contribute to the costs of construction of pedestrian improvements at Coons Crossing that are needed for the trail extension
 3. J Kemper met with Halfmoon Town Board to discuss plans to connect Coons Crossing to Mechanicville – estimated \$3 million project, town pledged to support these efforts; County has a grant for \$2 million to contribute to this effort (for at grade crossing and for Pan Am purchase)
2. Champlain Canalway Projects
 - i. Focus on Waterford section of the Canalway – design update
 - ii. Support towns in trail efforts
 1. OSI towpath section in Stillwater transferred to town
 2. WA County updates – WA County planner is going to join our meetings in the future
 - a. There is a lot activity going on through Ft Edward and Ft Ann
3. 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; VOTEC and County work on parking lot (*J Kemper*) - materials for parking area have been brought in; there are a number of trails in the property and the Equine Assc will meet Sat to identify priorities for which trails should be the focus
 - ii. Back County Horseman of America report – see above
 - 4. Hudson Power Express
 - i. Trail Opportunities
 - 1. Glenville; Clifton Park – National Grid gas line from Ballston to Alphaus Road; Ballston Bike Path
 - 2. Saratoga Springs into Milton and Village of Ballston Spa
 - ii. Rick Chase meeting report – *S Miller, W Elton*
 - 1. A meeting with Rick Chase regarding trail opportunities related to the CHPE is set for 4 pm on June 1 at 112 Spring Street to talk about SS Greenbelt Trail. Not sure who will be there beside Douglas Meyer?
 - a. *Larry Woolbright would like to join*
 - 2. S Miller’s notes on meeting - very encouraging meeting. I gave them (Power Express) copies of the maps that we prepared with the help of Troy Hilts and a “request” summary we prepared that quickly describes the two greatest priorities and opportunities we see (see attached “Power Express and Trails Opportunities”).
 - a. Next step: convene with Milton to consider how to manage this from the Ballston Spa Village side. Power Express was more than happy to provide ROW down to the Kaydeross, but there may be concern from the Village about trails near the RR because of potential liability – *Larry agrees and will send an email to Scott to coordinate*
5. Support of county-wide trail computer system

IV. 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*)
- 2. Linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland to expand the trail system. Use of Champlain Hudson Power Express Project in RR corridor.
- 3. Extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road; Power Express connection – *S Miller*
- 4. Local Zim Smith Goals:
 - i. City trail near Woods Hollow to connect Milton, B Spa, and Saratoga Springs/future Zim Smith trail

1. Larry W says that the town Open Space committee is working to revise their trails map to show these options, he's trying to meet with Troy and having trouble scheduling. *Katie will try to help coordinate*
- ii. Easement between Village of B Spa snow dump and Cty sewer ROW in Malta
5. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system – *D Meyer*
 - i. Maria says meeting was held to discuss Crescent Ave section near Casino
6. Kayadeross Creek Blueway – Friends of Kayadeross are working to come up with a to-do list

V. Snowmobile *A. Dyer*

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

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 – we can remove this from our list as completed
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 (around Saratoga Lake)
 - a. Maria asks if we can add...and crossing near Lake Lonely
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
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 – we can remove this from the list as a completed project
17. Crescent Ave Greenbelt Trail section

VII. Information from Towns/Cities

1. *Clifton Park* – *J. Ruhl*
 - i. Towpath trail working with Halfmoon is the biggest current project, should be finished by summer's end
2. *Corinth* – *B. Clarke* *Bill can map the old jeep trail connecting Spruce Mtn to the reservoir*

3. *Milton* – L Woolbright
4. *Saratoga Springs* – K. Maynard/W. Elton/others
5. *Malta* – S Miller
6. *Wilton* – Joann, Ryan, and Kate are meeting next week to discuss extending the new exit 15 trail along route 50 over northway; just received the updated Open Space plan for the town
7. *Stillwater* – E. Kinowski
8. *Halfmoon* – J Mitchell
9. *Greenfield* – Ken Blom
10. *Ballston Lake* – A Dyer
11. *Ballston Spa*
12. *Mechanicville* – T Richardson
13. *Saratoga*

VIII. Other

*****Next Meeting July 28 at 5:30**

For next meeting, let's discuss whether folks would be interested in switching to daytime meetings