



Countywide Trails Initiative

Notes

Wednesday, August 26, 2015

**follow-up items in green*

Attendees:

Katie Petronis – Chair, Saratoga PLAN
Ed Kinowski – Supervisor, Town of Stillwater
Ken Blom – Town of Greenfield
Bill Lasher – Town of Galway
Aaron Dyer – County Snowmobile Association
Larry Woolbright – Town of Milton
Mary Ann Morgan – Town of Milton
Libby Smith-Holmes – Saratoga PLAN
Jason Kemper – Saratoga County Planning
Henny O’Grady – Town of Halfmoon
John Mitchell – Town of Halfmoon
Linda Butchino – Town of Milton
Jim Ruhl – Town of Clifton Park

I. Issues Discussion

1. McGregor Prison Closing
 - i. Transfer of lake - Alane says execs seem to believe it is nothing more than a paperwork exercise
 1. Ed Kinowski – prison itself will likely end up with OGS, have we thought about a position on that? J Kemper – our group hasn’t focused on the structures outside of the historic cottage. K Petronis – might be worth looking into a position that at least supports a use that’s compatible with being surrounded by conservation lands; western boundary is the Palmertown ridge
 2. *K Petronis will engage the state to find out what the process will be to determine the end use for the prison and find out when there may be a chance to weigh in*
 3. *J Kemper will map it and send it to the group*
 4. B Lasher – we should have some input in the Park’s process in trails development, so we should be sure to keep in touch with OPRHP on the issue so we’re not overlooked; *K Petronis is working on getting an OPRHP*

staff person to begin coming to meetings

5. E Kinowski – we should make sure that someone from OPRHP is getting these meeting notes
2. Back County Horseman of American- (*B Lasher/J Kemper*)
 - i. Efforts to get County acreage perimeter cleaned up and in use
 1. National Grid bottleneck update – J Kemper sent emails and is waiting to hear back
 2. J Kemper update on June 17 mtg with BOCES and TO Moreau – we are working on an arrangement with BOCES, Saratoga County and the Town of Moreau to get the equine trail work completed in the Town of Moreau, those involved will meet on site to discuss locations once a work schedule is determined
3. Funding opportunities – (*J Kemper*)
 - i. County Trails Funding – applications are due September 14th, there is lots of interest and many towns are working on applications; applications are online, it is a 100k program with a 10k project limit, requiring a 50/50 match so there is potential to fund a lot of important municipal projects
 1. J Ruhl – thanks to the supervisors for pushing this through
 - ii. B Lasher – Backcountry Horsemen funding opportunities – max grant is 1k, Saratoga backcountry has identified Moreau (one idea is a well water source)

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*) – County is having bi-weekly meetings with engineers, Halfmoon, Mechanicville; still working on final layout; by next meeting we should have design complete; goal is 2016 CFA application
2. Champlain Canalway Projects
 - i. Move forward on the Waterford section of the Canalway with the Scenic Byway funding – J Mitchell hears they are still progressing on the engineering design; Henny O’Grady heard that they are definitely going to build the bridge and are hiring an engineer
 - ii. Support towns in trail efforts – Halfmoon, Stillwater, Saratoga, Mechanicville
 1. Northern boundary of SNHP to TO Saratoga – OSI is working to donate the trail to Stillwater; E Kinowski – once the town gets that the trail route will be complete from Saratoga all the way to Mechanicville, Ed thanks PLAN for their work in making this happen
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* – is on vacation, but emailed K Petronis with the following recommendations:
 1. See if there is any opportunity to complete portions of the Wilton trail plan concept from Jones Road up to the Wilton Wildlife preserve, or create connectors trails between protected parcels
 2. Power express line is too close to the railroad to be useful in Clifton Park. However, there is a NG gas line that runs parallel to the RR and adequately far away for a trail, and has a road over it that he thinks will be used by the power express people for access and construction. They will probably have to do some hardening of the surface – perfect for a trail base. He thinks our top priority for Power express is to get them to upgrade the NG gas line ROW so that it can accommodate a trail and intervene on our behalf with NG (or at least side with us).
 - a. *K Petronis will ask S Miller to bring mapping for the next meeting*
 - b. J Mitchell – should we re-engage Power Express folks, particularly now that we have some recommendations, may be a good opportunity to check in with them? *Maybe we should ask Julie to check in with them*
 5. Develop rules and regulations for the new County Trail Grants program – Checked off the list
 6. Support of county-wide trail computer system – it’s up to this group to feed them data if there’s missing data; J Mitchell says that it may be that people have trouble using it, is there a way to include a link to teach people how to use it? J Kemper says it’s tricky because people use different programs and apps to access it
 - i. E Kinowski – maybe put up buttons that lead people to trails mapping on websites (ie. “tourism” button leading to trails map)

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 – hasn't heard of this yet, but thinks it's a good idea though he's not sure how the connection can be made; J Mitchell says it's the former trolley tracks; J Ruhl will bring it to the next trails meeting

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

1. E Kinowski – town is going to buy two cameras that link to the town's website that can be used to gather usage data

V. Department of Transportation Project Radar List *S. Miller to present finished map* – not at meeting, but made some minor changes to the map and one addition; sent the CP part to Jen Viggianni for review. The most important thing that the committee can do is populate the spreadsheet with information on contacts (people, committees, phone numbers, e-mails) and official documents (date, names, authors, sponsors, adopted, draft...etc.). I reduced the size of the map and saved it a low quality – it is still good enough to discuss at 8.5x 11 size and it is reasonable to view on a computer screen.

1. *K Petronis will send to J Kemper first because he may be able to fill in a lot; K Petronis will then send as attachment to group prior to meeting*

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!
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* – trails subcommittee and planning board meet regularly; southern end of town towpath, maybe connection from Halfmoon to CP under the northway, Visher Ferry preserve is the real focus because they received a \$1 mil grant; that is not connected to northern part of town, he would like to pursue vision to connect that parcel to ZS trail
2. **Corinth** – *B. Clarke*
3. **Milton** – L Woolbright – 11 ac along Kaydeross Creek including DE and Hudson RR bed, have developed 4 mi of trail there (Boyce Park); trying to contact adjoining property owners to extend trail, property owners are now in touch and the town is appraising 3 parcels of property that total 50 ac; talking about Kaydeross Creek Greenway with adjacent property owners, planning board approved sub-d on Middle Line rd that includes a trail easement; he thinks that town will ensure trail easements are included in all future sub-d projects
4. **Saratoga Springs** – *K. Maynard/W. Elton/others* Pitney Farm update – K Petronis provides an update
5. **Wilton** – *J. Klepetar*
6. **Stillwater** – *E. Kinowski/ K. Petronis*
 - i. Cocozzo easement acquisition and trail transfer to connect PLAN trail to Battlefield trail system;
 - ii. OSI donation to connect Champlain Canalway Trail from TO Saratoga to Northern end of the Battlefield
7. **Halfmoon** – *J Mitchell*
8. **Greenfield** – Ken Blom - town has acquired Brookhaven Golf Course and town has been asking for a plan for a portion of the property; J Kemper offers to provide mapping if it would be helpful
9. **Ballston Lake** – A Dyer notes that there was a property on Route 50, the town is purchasing it as a town park; snowmobile assc is working with the town and going to help them maintain

VII. Other

1. Bog Meadow Trail – *K. Petronis* plans to build up RR ties? None, the ties provide context and history to the site and PLAN and the city think it would be a better use of resources to work on projects elsewhere
2. Champlain Canalway Trail working group goes into WA Cty – they need a replicate PLAN in WA Cty – *J Kemper will give us a name of a WA Cty contact who may be able to come to meetings*

*****Set Next Meeting – October 22, 5:30 pm**