**Countywide Trails Initiative**

**AGENDA**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 5:30 pm**

**Saratoga County Planning Office (Large Conference Room)**

**50 West High Street, Ballston Spa**

1. **Administrative**
   1. Scheduling & Format
      1. Aim for every 2-months again **Net meeting Thursday, January 21 @ 5:30 PM**
      2. In-person vs. virtual format **Agreed to try a virtual format for the next meeting**
   2. Agenda Changes **None**
   3. Funding Updates **Saratoga County awarded $98,000 of trails grants in 2020 (Project rundown includes 11 municipalities); looks as though $75,000 will be budgeted for trails grants in 2021**
   4. Other nonregional news? **None**
2. **Education:** Nonetonight **(**If any topics are desired please submit them)
3. **2021 Goals for the Board of Supervisors Trails Committee:** *the purpose of these goals is to provide the Board of Supervisors Trails Committee with a list of county-wide priorities and identify where County assistance may be important to advance the effort.*
   1. **2020 Goals**
      1. Zim Smith Trail ***9/23 opening of Coons Crossing to Mechanicville was a great event; Jason made a point of thanking Bruce Tansky and the Floud Family, without their accomodations and generosity the project would not have happened. Next priority is looking at feasibility study in the North, Oak Street to Saratoga Springs. Regarding increased use, Jason stated that in 2016 CDTC did a study at Round Lake and determined ~80,000 users per year; now there are over 200,000 users per year. Some discussion of ebikes and how they may or may not fit on trails. This is a growing concern. Road bikes going fast has also led to some conflicts.***
      2. Champlain Canalway Trail ***Good progress in Saratoga and Stillwater (and on into Washington County). Signs up in Mechanicville. In Halfmoon a section has been cancelled due to a significant funding shortfall.***
      3. Palmertown Regional Trail System ***Consultants have been hired to develop a trail plan; anyone interested in participating should reach out to PLAN and ask to get involved in the Recreation Committee.***
      4. Saratoga Greenbelt Trail ***Tina not present – no update given***
      5. Equine Trails ***At the Homestead property, trails are cleared and people are using it. Parking lot is being utilized. Beavers flooded the trail crossing on Cadman Creek, looking for 2nd crossing on Eastern end. In Moreau, the County Forest has a lot of promis along with the OSI Smith Farm property (good roads, nice scenery). Lincoln Mountain State Forest trails are not great, some improvements could be made.***
      6. Blueway Trails
   2. **2021 Goals discussion** (also consider localized goals, if warranted) **Group was in favor of rolling forward the 2020 goals into 2021.**
4. **Updates from Communities**
   1. ***Corinth-*** *William Clarke*
      1. *Local - Corinth trail system - linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland* ***Improvements on Route 9N resulted in a wide shoulder that could accommodate biking; Town Supervisor is advocating for trail development and use of Brookhaven; Spruce Mountain has had tremendous amount of use, some road improvements made but parking lot not improved; PTNY info on the FJ&G “Gateway to the Adirondacks” rail trail project a great example of what could be done with the old Corinth rail road, perhaps an economic development angle.***
   2. ***Milton*** **–** *Barbara Kerr*
      1. *Local - Boyhaven - development of trails and connections to Middle Grove State Forest*
      2. *County – Blueway Trails*
   3. ***Saratoga Springs –*** *Tina Carton*
      1. *County – Greenbelt*
   4. ***Halfmoon*** *– John Mitchell* 
      1. *County – Champlain Canalway Projects*
      2. ***Trails infrastructure and parking may become a concern when the EST opens. It certainly won’t get easier. Jason Kemper points out that the Zim Smith trail just got 3 new parking lots.***
   5. ***Mechanicville –*** *T. Richardson*
      1. *County – Zim Smith*
   6. ***Saratoga Backcountry Horsemen*** *– Bill Lasher*
      1. *County – Equine Trails*
   7. ***Saratoga PLAN*** *– Various*
      1. *Palmertown: Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trails Master Plan and property specific plans*
      2. *New trail alert: Barkersville Trails in Galway/Providence (11/28)*
      3. *New trail alert: Glowegee Creek Trail in Galway (coming soon!)*
   8. ***Malta –*** *Alyssa Benway*
   9. ***Wilton*** *– M.Olson*
   10. ***Stillwater*** *– E. Kinowski*
   11. ***Greenfield*** – *Charlie Dake*
   12. ***Ballston Lake*** – *Andy Dyer*
   13. ***Open Space Institute*** *–*
   14. ***Clifton Park*** *– J. Ruhl*
   15. ***Town of Saratoga*** *- T. Wood*
   16. ***Ballston Spa*** *- Liz*
   17. ***Northumberland –*** *Possibly Amy Peck. Waiting to hear back from Denise Murphy*
   18. ***Edinburg*** *– Possibly Chris, recommended by Jean Raymond. Snowmobiler, fmr Thruway*
   19. ***Waterford*** *– Possibly Dave Woodin, waiting on response*
   20. ***Moreau*** *– Jackie on the hunt! Meredithe Mathias was approached last check*
   21. ***Charlton –*** *Someone said Joe Grasso but I neglected to note who*
   22. ***Day, Hadley, and Providence – Still looking!***