



Countywide Trails Initiative

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 - 5:30pm
Saratoga County Planning Office
West High Street, Ballston Spa

Attendees: James Ruhl, Bill Lasher, Larry Gordon, Larry Woolbright, Barbara Kerr, John Mitchell, Joe Grasso, Jason Kemper, Jackie Hakes

I. Issues Discussion

1. Funding opportunities - confirmation of 2018 budget funding of \$50,000 for trails program. Target date for 2019 budget input is early August 2018.
2. CDTC Regional Trail Project underway. Looking into how this committee can be involved in the planning process. For more information go to:
<http://regionaltrailperspectives.weebly.com/>
3. Add Hudson power express - extend Ballston bike path trail following Champlain Hudson power express. Already rail with trail. Blue barns road 146a to Barns Road. Conceptual plans done by Hudson Express.

II. Confirm Proposed 2018 Goals for the County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee - This list of goals, once consensus is reached by this committee, will be forwarded to the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee for consideration. Jackie and Jason to work on providing context for each and identifying specific need and incorporating into a letter.

1. Zim Smith Trail

- i. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail (CCT)
 1. Planning for connection from Mechanicville to CCT
- ii. Coons Crossing to Mechanicville connection - complete ongoing project ongoing. Ongoing activities include: approaching land owners, out to bid in 2-3 months, construction starting early summer, CP rail crossing discussions, working with school district, and parking lot construction in Round Lake.
- iii. Oak street to Spa State Park connection
- iv. Mechanicville to CCT - signage/ street markings
- v. City trail near Woods Hollow to connect Milton, Ballston Spa, and Saratoga Springs/future Zim Smith trail
- vi. Segment between Village of Ballston Spa snow dump and County sewer ROW in Malta

2. Champlain Canalway Trail Projects

- i. Complete the trail through Waterford and Halfmoon to Rt 4 near the treatment plant just south of Mechanicville;
- ii. Stone dust on the trail in the Town of Saratoga from the sword surrender site south to near Garnsey Lane

3. ***Equine Trails***
 - i. Moreau County Forest and Providence equine trail improvements
 1. Providence –complete the trail systems with signage, trail marking, and a kiosk. This would complete 9 miles of trails including Packer Rd.
 2. Moreau – complete parking lot; connect to County Forest Land
 3. Town of Moreau bike path plan
4. ***Palmertown Regional Trail System Planning***
 - i. Participate in Master Planning Process
5. ***Blueway Trails***
 - i. Support of designation of Kaydeross between Kelley Park and Saratoga Lake as Blueway Trail
 - ii. Erie-Mohawk Historic Water Trail
 - iii. Hudson Blueway Trail along Champlain Canal

III. Localized Goals of Trails Committee for 2018

1. Boyhaven (Milton) - development of trails and connections to Middle Grove State Forest - everything done except bond - board vote on bond next Wednesday to purchased entire parcel. Property includes approx. 300 acres and 1 mile along the Kaydeross. \$550,000 from town and \$500,000 anonymous donor. Total \$1m.
2. Corinth trail system linking the towns of Wilton Northumberland - Witt property? - confirm this Bill Clarke laughing brook.com 788-8644. - check email contact. Map of proposed trail.
3. Champlain Hudson Power Express - Extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road
4. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system – Downtown connector
5. Local Zim Smith Goals: moved to 2018 County-wide Goals

IV. Department of Transportation Project Radar List

1. Route 4 and 32 crossing for Canalway Trail from Halfmoon to Main St in Mechanicville.
2. Rt. 50 crossing at Northline Road
3. 9p shared access upgrades (Saratoga Lake) and x'ing near Lake Lonely
4. Spier Falls Road x'ing for Equine from Moreau County Forest to State Park.
5. Crossing on Route 4 at Sword Surrender Site
6. Upgrades on Rt 32 between Battlefield and Victory – Need bike lanes.
7. Rt 29 between SS and Schuylerville – need bike lanes for entire length
8. Jones Road – wide enough for bike pedestrian use.
9. WWPP needs safe crossing on route 50
10. Tunnel/bridge over/under I87 to connect Spring Run Trail to E side of I87
11. 146a connector to Ballston Lake Trail
12. Crescent Ave Greenbelt Trail section
13. Nelson Ave Ext bridge expansion of bike lanes /markings
14. Reestablish state signage and highway bicycle markings for US Route 9 Saratoga to Wilton northern municipal boundary
15. Wider shoulder, signs and markings on Rt 50 near Exit 15 to Gansevoort for bicycling

16. Replacement of Exit 16 bridge and inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian facilities
17. Halfmoon sharrow markings and signage Saratoga County Bike Route 9.
Questions were raised about responsibility of markings and signage - County or DOT?

V. Information from Communities

1. **Clifton Park** – *J. Ruhl*
 - i. New trail between CP and Halfmoon and tow path under Northway bridge into Halfmoon. Add to trail that ends up at Lock 7 dam.
 - ii. Central Park in CP. Property by school district will be transferred to Town - 37 acres.
 - iii. Trail work continues through the development review process in accordance with Town Plan. This is a breakthrough in process - trails committee makes recommendation to ECC and recommendations go to Planning Board. Good process moving along.
 - iv. 88 acres next to Stony Creek Reservoir will be transferred to Town.
 - v. Moe Road trail and Grisham road trail connecting to preserve - controversial piece, but on the drawing board.
2. **Charlton** - *J. Grasso.*
 - i. Charlton snowmobile trail - Issues with landowner's rights this year causing constant re-routes. Trail is open, continuous through town. Snowmobile trail club does a great job maintaining. Struggle is with land owner permissions and agreements needed every year. Connections to Ballston and Zim Smith to Galway. Important connections. Snowmobiles allowed on 8 miles of Zim Smith from Curtis industrial park to Coons Crossing. Can't go north because of rail road lease.
3. **Corinth** - *no updates.* Jackie to identify contact moving forward.
4. **Milton** – *L. Woolbright* - See Boyhaven update under local goals above
5. **Saratoga Springs** – *T. Carton.* No update
6. **Malta** – *no update*
7. **Wilton** – *M Olson.* Update from Larry Gordon. Route 9 -
 - i. *Larry met with DEC to discuss guidelines to submit horse trail application camp Saratoga to county forest \$8,000.*
 - ii. *Bi-centennial trail approved and signed by DEC - connection of 2 miles.*
 - iii. *Updating open space and pathways plan. Shoulder widening for multi-purposes. Beneficial to hwy and safer for peds. Can't get into front yards in most areas due to property right of way concerns. Town will work toward multi-use trails as much as possible and as feasible. Approach is to try doing improvements it as roads are improved during regular maintenance schedule.*
 - iv. *Ryan Riper (Town Engineer) working with new projects to include connections - former Don Green property and Belmonte is open to connections. Connections to Camp Saratoga to Gavin Park.*
 - v. *Timber harvest - west side of Edie Rd. Timber management plan has been developed by County to properly manage County property for forest health. This is last area to be harvested and will occur sometime during 2018. The County must pay school taxes on county owned property and the timber helps to offset costs.*
8. **Stillwater** – *E. Kinowski* - no update

9. **Halfmoon** – *J Mitchell*
 - i. ECT and Champlain Canalway trail - state funding is lined up. Hudson River Greenway is assisting with administration funding. Town or County being steward and contract holder (yet to be determined). Waterford section anticipated build in 2018 and is ready for construction. If town doesn't take on contract, the county would.
 - ii. Momentive piece - From the Halfmoon town line south behind Momentive to existing Waterford trail. Other segment - New Town Road in Halfmoon extending along CCT through sewer district to Route 4 in Mechanicville. Conceptual design so far is at \$2.5 million.
 - iii. Schuylerville into Town of Saratoga segment - funding announced in Fall at Dix bridge and is included in Empire State Trail connection.
10. **Greenfield** – *K. Blom* - no update
11. **Ballston Lake** – *A Dyer* - no update
12. **Ballston Spa** - no update
13. **Mechanicville** – *T Richardson* - no update
14. **Saratoga** - no update
15. **Open Space Institute** - *K. Petronis*- no update
16. **Moreau** - - no update

VI. Other

1. Ideas for Educational/Information Presentations at future meetings
 - i. Empire State Trail - Jeff Olson
 - ii. CCT design work Update - Joe Grasso (defer for Jason for timing)
 - iii. DOT map- Scott Miller (invite Audrey from DOT)
 - iv. Palmertown Master Planning Process - Jeff Olson/ Maria Trabka/Katie Petronis
 - v. CDTC - Capital Region Trails project
2. Schedule meetings with newly elected officials in various towns that may have new representatives.

VII. Identify a consistent meeting date and time to encourage better participation. Jackie to float days/times to full committee via email (via Saratoga PLAN email)

***Next meeting - TBD**