



Countywide Trails Initiative

Meeting Summary - DRAFT

Monday, March 18, 2019, 4:30 pm

Saratoga County Planning Office
West High Street, Ballston Spa

Attendees: Jaclyn Hakes, Matthew Miczek, Jen Ferriss, Margo Olson, Jason Kemper, Maria Trabka, Charlie Dake, Bill Lasher, Jim Ruhl, William Clarke, Alyssa Benway, Aaron Dyer, John Mitchell, Linda Butchino

Note: Confirm Jeff Olson is on email list.

I. **Presentation: *Southern Palmertown Range Conservation & Recreation Strategy***

(Presenters: Maria Trabka, Saratoga PLAN) Maria provided an overview of the Palmertown range, the strategy and the next steps. From Saratoga Springs to Fort Ticonderoga. Southern Hudson River/Corinth to Saratoga Springs (Saratoga county portion) was focus of the study. 62 square miles: Route 9 east/Route 9N west/Hudson river north/Saratoga Springs south. Wilton, Corinth, Moreau and Saratoga Springs included.

Vision: 7,000 acres protected. Establish recreation destination based on forest and water resources, blend of economic development based on recreation – see vision.

Trail towns USA webinar.

II. **Issues Discussion**

1. 2019 Trail Advocacy Day (March 18th) – William attended, and it was a wonderful event – legislatures on board
2. Funding Opportunities - county trail and open space application coming out soon – within the next month
3. Other?

III. **2019 Goals for the County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee**

1. **Zim Smith - moving** full speed ahead. Fairways of halfmoon – working on retaining walls and will be completely done within next couple of months. Entire corridor cleared and grubbed (mostly). Presentation to town of halfmoon next month with drone footage (3-1/2 miles). Presentation will be made available to trails committee after. Paving round lake south to Coons crossing. Expand parking lot with handicapped spaces also. Coons crossing parking lot expansion also with bathroom. Will be done this summer/early fall. Need to do work on sewer line also. Coons crossing to Mechanicville completed by summer. Parking lot at high school-end of Elizabeth street extension. Jason to give presentation at next meeting.
 - i. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail (CCT)
 - ii. Coons Crossing to Mechanicville
 - 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 Projects*** - behind Momentive – Waterford-Mechanicville piece (behind the dump) pre-construction meeting today. Contracts getting signed. Notice to process within one week – completion by August 1. Joe Grasso – update to committee (Schoolhouse Road to upper new town road/4/32). South Main Street to town line may be an orphan.
 - 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 near the sword surrender site south to near Garnsey Lane
- 3. ***Equine trails*** -
 - i. Providence – date for the public opening – working with County. Preparing trails from winter: April 26 – confirmed for opening. Ceremony providence supervisor. Saturday – bring your horse ride
 - ii. Volunteers working this morning on northside of trail that connects with Henning
 - iii. Moreau- parking lot coming along. Gate being installed as soon as snow melts (will be installed by County). Look at May dates
 - iv. Scout Road, Wilton – pull-in/pull out for horse trailers. Part of bicentennial trails. Will connect to trails off Edie Road.
- 4. ***Palmertown regional trail system*** – See presentation notes
 - i. Lincoln State Forest – expanded recreational opportunities (equine trails, mountain biking, snowmobile corridor, connections to communities)
- 5. ***Blueway Trails - Hudson Valley Greenway big on 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
 - iv. Kayakers at the ADK sports expo wanting to know where to go and where they can put-in.

IV. Localized Goals of Trails Committee for 2019

- 1. Boyhaven (Milton) - development of trails and connections to Middle Grove State Forest
 - i. No change in status
- 2. Corinth trail system - linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland
 - i. William attend the state trails advocacy day – REI brochure distributed. Champlain Area Trails brochure. Trials on private land – the success. Moreau lake state forest to town park somehow. Enjoyed meeting with maria. Piggyback on snowmobile trails for fat bikes and mountain bikes during off season. Challenge crossing lime timber land – use Spruce mtn example. Snowmobile clubs a great example/model for trail users – insurance policy that indemnifies trail users. Saratoga to Corinth railroad – not being used: up to Mullerville system. Town of Corinth owns ROW to Warren County. Multi-season trail opportunity
 - ii. Snowmobiles - Moreau State Park wants to bring them in to park. Need to get from Lincoln Mtn – Sam’s (bar on Holmes Road – east side of 9N) to Brookhaven golf course to. Trying to make connection on west side of 9N
 - iii. Challenge with snowmobile club is off season non-authorized users. Over 500 landowners provided permission
- 3. Extend the Ballston Bike Path - to Blue Barnes Road -
- 4. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system – Downtown connector - public meeting earlier this month.

Great interest in connector, have funding to move forward. Well attended. Think about other connections. Greenbelt trail – Snyder property purchased, south of Meadowbrook preserve. Conservation easement.

V. **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. Rt 9P shared access upgrades (Saratoga Lake) and crossing near Lake Lonely
4. Spier Falls Road crossing 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 even if by striping
14. General: Bicycle facilities along state roadways
15. Washington Street Bridge (TIP funded) to incorporate complete streets elements with the bridge is repaved.
16. South Broadway/Crescent Ave, Saratoga Springs – intersection pedestrian/bike improvements

VI. **Updates from Communities**

1. **Clifton Park** – J. Ruhl - sewer authority doing work on trunk lines in CP. Pledged to put gravel roads over sewer ROW for maintenance. Question of public use still not answered. Might be a way to have more trail connections. Major undertaking to reline sewer trunk lines. Policy decisions made by Board of Supervisors – now time to have those discussions. Per Jason – massive project.
2. **Corinth**- W. Clarke - see previous. More awareness of resources
3. **Milton** – L. Woolbright – no updates
4. **Saratoga Springs** – T. Carton
5. **Malta** – A. Benway – working comprehensive plan update. Open space committee working on – plot trails.
6. **Wilton** – M. Olson – TAP grant; equine update – see previous.
7. **Stillwater** – Lindsay Zepko – Champlain canalway trail very active on empire state trail
8. **Halfmoon** – J. Mitchell -
9. **Greenfield** – K. Blom -
10. **Ballston Lake** – A. Dyer - working with other snowmobile clubs to create loop around Sacandaga lake – did preliminary run this winter. Set trail counters out – lots of traffic. Mullyville snowmobile club – guy helpful with marketing and working to bring people into Saratoga county. No major incidents this season with trails. No fatalities on land trails/accidents reported as of today. Video shoot identified weaknesses to improve. Make a Class A trail – gives ability for multi-use trails. Helps with maintenance. Groomer – mullyville club have 2 snowcats. Clubs are a good model – work well together. \$70,000 grants program for trail maintenance. Snowmobile needs for grooming – smoother surface is safer. Equipment designed to flatten out and remove moguls. Same as a ski area. Close to working together as one unit. Would likely be open to multi-use trails. Concern in off-season is that snowmobile trails are on private land and often cropland to a bigger challenge. Cross country skiing and snowshoes are compatible. Leaseholders (hunting clubs – have exclusive use) help to pay taxes on land – lime timber.
11. **Ballston Spa**
12. **Mechanicville** – T. Richardson

13. *Saratoga*
14. *Open Space Institute - K.Petronis*

VII. Other

1. 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- (invite Audrey from DOT & Others from DOT)

Upcoming Meeting Schedule: (subject to change)

Monday, May 20, 2019 – Zim Smith Trail Update by Jason Kemper and Joe Grasso (Jason to coordinate with Joe)

Monday, July 22, 2019

Monday, September 16, 2019

Monday, November 18, 2019