



# Countywide Trails Initiative

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Monday, July 16, 2018, 4:30 pm**  
**Saratoga County Planning Office**  
**West High Street, Ballston Spa**

**Attendees:** Jaclyn Hakes, Allison Hargrave, Mary Ann Morgan, Barbara Kerr, Alyssa Benway, Larry Gordon, John Mitchell, Scott Miller, Bill Lasher, Linda Butchino, Brendan Dailey, Jason Kemper, Maria Trabka

### I. Issues Discussion

#### 1. Funding opportunities

- i. County trail application period closed. 8 grants submitted. Majority asked for full \$10,000 (maximum grant request). Over \$600,000 in grant funding requested this year, which demonstrates a need within the County. A variety of projects were submitted ranging from accessibility to bridge repair. Next steps for grant review: Applications will be reviewed by the County Open Space Committee, then the Law and Finance and forwarded to Board of Supervisors.
- ii. County allocated \$100,000 for farmland protection this year, which can be used in conjunction with NYS farmland funds. County funded projects: 2-clifton park; 1-Galway; 1-Town of Saratoga. The County contributing funding for these applications which are also applying for state funding through NYS Department of Ag and Markets. The County shifted \$87,000 of previously unallocated farmland/open space funds so a total of \$187,000 of funding used. These funds are specifically dedicated for those purposes.
- iii. The need for this funding has been demonstrated. Need to make Supervisors and elected officials aware of this need to make the case for increased funding in the 2019 County budget. PLAN will coordinate efforts to assign responsibility to Countywide Trail Committee members to reach out to the supervisors. Jason to send list of County Supervisors Trails Committee members.

#### 2. Coordination with NYSDOT RE: Bicycle facilities

- i. Sub-committee to better frame the issue and identify what specific coordination is needed with DOT as well as Saratoga County (such as the annual paving schedule, etc) – John Mitchell and Jackie Hakes to initiate. If any mapping is needed, the County will assist.
- ii. Mapping – county would help with this

### II. 2018 Goals for the County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee

1. **Zim Smith** – Overall: Closed on property last week and making way through 10 + properties soon. Hopeful to get started with construction this fall. Project includes: Redo Round Lake Parking, pave Round Lake to Coons Crossing, install small park at Coons Crossing and add parking. End on Elizabeth Street, near ballfields. A 2-year construction cycle is anticipated.
  - i. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail (CCT)
    1. Planning for connection from Mechanicville to CCT
  - ii. Coons Crossing to Mechanicville – Included in the plans described above.
  - iii. Oak street to Spa State Park connection – This connection will need to be on hold until the County knows what is available of the remaining funding. The County has received federal funding and state parks funding to help complete Zim Smith.

- iv. Mechanicville to CCT - signage/ street markings – The County met with Tom Richardson, Mechanicville Supervisor, and is submitting grant to for signage and culvert with an in-kind match.
- v. City trail near Woods Hollow to connect Milton, Ballston Spa, and Saratoga Springs/future Zim Smith trail - no update
- vi. Segment between Village of Ballston Spa snow dump and County sewer ROW in Malta – Moving forward depending on funds available.

## 2. *Champlain Canalway Projects*

- i. Complete the trail through Waterford and Halfmoon to Rt 4 near the treatment plant just south of Mechanicville: Halfmoon is moving forward with their piece and has received ESD funding. County administering the Waterford piece over dump and hope to be out to bid this fall. Empire State Trail funding for this.
- ii. Stone dust on the trail in the Town of Saratoga from near the sword surrender site south to near Garnsey Lane. –Town did received grant from County. Town applied for County grant for parking lot.
- iii. Road crossing of Route 4 – Request an update from Joe Grasso at next meeting. Jason to coordinate with Joe. Trail along main street is not being addressed at all right now.

## 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. – This effort is moving along. Another work session scheduled this week. All trails are marked. Next step is the kiosk and sign on Barkersville Road to help direct people to the trail head. Jason/Allison and Bill Lasher to coordinate on kiosk and signage. Public opening event if possible once this is completed. People are already using this system. One place to cross Cadman creek – looking at options for another crossing.
  - 2. Moreau – complete parking lot; connect to County Forest Land - Debbie Balliet, Chair of Saratoga Back Country Horsemen Association, and Ann Thompson are more involved and would have more information. Working with state park ranger. Open Space Institute (OSI) looking to purchase land which would possibly be connected to county and state land. Open to multi-use. Might be good to work out a trail plan for the area to use as development occurs. Saratoga Back Country Horsemen Association been very hard at work and have had 6-7 trail work days already this year.
  - 3. Town of Moreau bike path plan – status is unknown as the town board member most supportive was not re-elected.

## 4. *Palmertown regional trail system*

- i. Participate in Master Planning Process – Last week of June, DEC had meeting at Saratoga Springs Library to discuss the Southern Boreal State Forest tracks. Daniels Rd and Lincoln State forest are within the Palmertown area. It was a scoping session – Rich McDermit, State Forester to discuss what’s allowed now in forest units, what problems (dumping a major issue), what is proposed for management of these places moving forward. PLAN submitted trail plans for Lincoln Mtn State forest: 4 parking/access pieces that illustrates existing snowmobile trails and volunteer-scouted future trails. Creating loop option for casual walkers was intent. DEC looking to revise UMPs this year. There were many projects identified in current plans that haven’t been implemented yet mostly due to funding and capacity shortage. Over \$35m of work to be done within the Adirondack Park overall. Once example of a successful partnership options is the volunteer steward agreement with DEC and mountain bike club

maintaining Daniels Road. Other users may need to form volunteer steward group representatives from other users. Backcountry Horseman's doing something similar in Warren County. Must be a recognizable group – Saratoga PLAN could be umbrella organization.

- ii. John Witt property in Wilton (PUD) – status: It is believed that Mr. Witt may be revising PUD proposal to resubmit to the town. All open space in current PUD legislation is intended to be dedicated to the town. Witt wants to sell the property to OSI. However, that same property would be dedicated to town regardless. Town needs to be kept informed. Town would like the trail to be built before any development. OSI and Town need to coordinate as they both have the same end goals. All want trail there, but how, who and when.
- iii. Lincoln State Forest - equine use allowed but trails not developed. Mtn biking, snowmobile corridor, what communities want to be connected: Corinth or Wilton access? How to expand recreational opportunities.

5. **Blueway Trails – no updates**

- 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 – The project is still in limbo.
2. Corinth trail system linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland – no updates.
3. Extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road - Waiting on Hudson power express. Scott focusing on Clifton Park side of things. It appears that Glenville not as interested and crossing country lines a challenge.
4. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system – Downtown connector – confirm status with Tina.

**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 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

**V. Information from Communities**

1. **Clifton Park** – J. Ruhl -no updates.
2. **Corinth** - no updates
3. **Milton** – L. Woolbright/Barbara Kerr – Larry presented the Town open space map to Planning Board and it is getting advanced to the town board.
4. **Saratoga Springs** – T. Carton(not present) – Maria shared that improvements to the Bog Meadow Trail ends finished – still need to do improvements to middle section. Very flooded by

- beavers and have obtained a DEC permit to address. Be cautious of where the water will go.
5. **Malta** – *Alyssa* – no updates. Minerly road corridor status – ownership and ROW through to Malta Ave in flux. Is it truly abandoned road? Oak street and County ROW – private parcel too expensive but Minerly Rd may be another option. Alyssa to follow-up on this.
  6. **Wilton** – *M Olson/Larry Gordon*: Working with developers on Forest Grove on Jones Road – 2 public meetings and no opposition so far. Town Board accepted approximately 300 acres of dedicated open space as part of this conservation subdivision. 3 miles of paved trails to be constructed by developer.
  7. **Stillwater** – *E. Kinowski* -no updates
  8. **Halfmoon** – *J Mitchell* – Focusing now on nature preserves: Swaddling Falls (connections to Champlain Trail) and Fosberg Road trails - low key projects right now.
  9. **Greenfield** – *K. Blom* - no updates
  10. **Ballston Lake** – *A Dyer* – no updates
  11. **Ballston Spa** – no updates
  12. **Mechanicville** – *T Richardson* - no updates
  13. **Saratoga** - no updates
  14. **Open Space Institute** - *K. Petronis* – OSI has closed on the 4,000-acre purchase of Amsterdam waterworks – long range public rec trails that should be on future radar.

## VI. 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 – September meeting?)
  - iii. DOT map- Scott Miller (invite Audrey from DOT)
  - iv. Palmertown Master Planning Process - Jeff Olson/ Maria Trabka/Katie Petronis
2. Schedule meetings with newly elected officials in various towns that may have new representatives.

### **Upcoming Meeting Schedule:** (subject to change)

Monday, September 17, 2018 at 4:30 pm

Monday, November 19, 2018 at 4:30 pm