



# Countywide Trails Initiative

## MEETING SUMMARY - DRAFT

Monday, September 17, 2018, 4:30 pm

Saratoga County Planning Office  
West High Street, Ballston Spa

**Attendees:** Jaclyn Hakes, Allison Hargrave, Barbara Kerr, Mary Ann Morgan, Bill Lasher, Linda Butchino, John Mitchell, Aaron Dyer, Mike Horn, Libby Smith-Holmes

### I. Issues Discussion

1. Recognition of the passing of Larry Gordon, committee representative from the Town of Wilton. Larry was a tireless advocate, great source of institutional knowledge and will be missed.
2. Funding Opportunities
  - i. County Board of Supervisors Trails Committee met and evaluated all grant applications. A total of 8 applications received requesting \$69,000. \$50,000 budgeted this year. The County anticipates getting \$12,500 of other funding back from projects that did not advance and plan to shift into a reserve account. Instead of going forward with funding \$50,000, the Committee agreed to utilize the \$12,500 of reserve funding to fund all projects to 92%. This will be voted on at the October 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting.
  - ii. \$50,000 grant for Milton is still budgeted. (originally for Boy Haven)
  - iii. For any reserve funds, official notification from supervisor is required before funds can be shifted
3. Draft Capital District Trails Plan (<http://regionaltrailperspectives.weebly.com/>)
  - i. Submit comments to [trails@cdtcmpo.org](mailto:trails@cdtcmpo.org) by Monday, October 15th by 5:00pm
  - ii. John, Allison and Mike all attend the public workshop. They were impressed with extent – 200 additional miles; the plan is thorough in nature; 20-year build-out scope; 10 miles per year; amazingly good wiki map; good over all plan
  - iii. There are some suggested edits for Saratoga county – Palmertown area trails (not an alternative transportation route so maybe why not included?); long-path not there; Champlain Canalway trail – Hudson River Crossing Park?
  - iv. Committee members are encouraged to provide feedback
4. 2019 Goals – Preliminary Discussion – to be further discussed and finalized at November meeting
  - i. Progress with Zim Smith – keep but focus emphasis to north given all the progress with southern portion of
  - ii. Champlain Canalway projects - ask Jason if we include even if projects are in progress (to show support)
  - iii. Equine trails – keep Providence projects; Moreau potential with OSI transfer of lands – committee being formed to have input into trail system in former Finch Pruyn land; Moreau bike plan status – need to determine if this is active and should remain
  - iv. Keep Palmertown for 2019 goals

- v. Blueway trails is a big unknown – should we include in 2019 goals? Hudson Valley Greenway seems to be taking lead on this. Committee members suggested we reach out to Larry Woolbright and Jenn Viggiani. Jackie reach out to Jenn and Larry and other river towns to get a sense of an activity (Saratoga, Waterford, Stillwater, etc)
  - vi. Route 50 corridor a new goal? – Glenville trails making a gateway for Schenectady/Freemans bridge – we should look at what is happening in Saratoga County to extend these efforts.
    - 1. Route 50 north to Saratoga County - veterans’ trail (NY power express)?
  - vii. Long-path – crossing at lock 9 through Charlton?
  - viii. Ask Town supervisors and town board members - do they have a priority on trails? Jackie, Allison and Mike will look into getting feedback
    - 1. Groups not represented to also reach out to: mountain biking community
5. Upper Hudson Rail Trail
- i. Snowmobile Club update – schedule is slower now; goal is a multi-use trail. Warren County approved snowmobile side use of rails north of Corinth. State Snowmobile Assoc also involved. Trying to get use from Greenfield north to Corinth (need permission from Town of Corinth); obstacle is the river east of the bow bridge – bridge is a safety issue and they are coming up with alternative ideas. The snowmobile association and state working together. Warren County likely to push to pull the rails.

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

1. **Zim Smith** – Plan to start 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
  - iii. Oak street to Spa State Park connection - still on hold
  - 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
  - vii. Bids open for last 3 miles – breaking ground late October with anticipation completion fall 2019.
  - viii. Update on the Zim Smith extension via Minnerly Road in Malta – Per Alysa Benway (Town of Malta), the paper street is no longer town-owned and was deeded over to private owners. No further detail is 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 moving forward with their portion with funding from Empire State trail. This will be completed by 2020. Concern raised over South Main Street in Mechanicville – will anything happen behind Jack Bryne? Check with Tracey Clothier on status – she is working on trail efforts in that area.
  - ii. Stone dust on the trail in the Town of Saratoga from near the sword surrender site south to near Garnsey Lane – Working on that as part of the Empire State Trail
  - iii. What work is being done in Washington County?
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.

- a. Anticipating a public opening in spring as there is still work to complete; County and Saratoga PLAN can assist
  - b. Working on installing signage now; invited people to bring horse to cover 9 miles and install signage this week
  - c. Much more potential!
- 2. Moreau – complete parking lot; connect to County Forest Land
  - 3. Town of Moreau bike path plan – need to find out status

4. ***Palmertown regional trail system***

- i. Participate in Master Planning Process – draft report being reviewed by PLAN and OSI
- ii. 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
  - i. Status: no purchase has been made
  - ii. Hopefully a good portion of that may be purchased by state and connect to Middle Grove State Forest. Milton has a stream buffer requirement and other regs that do limit the property for residential development. There are possibilities and the town is interested in helping to shape what happens there even if they don't own it.
  - iii. Is Middle Grove State Forest open to snowmobile trails?
- 2. Corinth trail system linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland
  - i. No update
- 3. Extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road
  - i. No update
- 4. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system – Downtown connector
  - i. No update

**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 – Stewarts before planning board and want to move across the street – town requiring turning lane
- 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
  - i. John Mitchell – US Route 9 bike trail – pushing for markings on road. Jim Ruhl and

John talking to DOT to get credible markings on US Route 9.

15. Rowland Street and Route 29 - Geyser Rd.?

**V. Updates from Communities**

1. *Clifton Park* – J. Ruhl
2. *Corinth*- W. Clarke
3. *Milton* – L. Woolbright
4. *Saratoga Springs* – T. Carton
5. *Malta* – A. Benway
6. *Wilton* – M Olson/L. Gordon
7. *Stillwater* – E. Kinowski
8. *Halfmoon* – J Mitchell
9. *Greenfield* – K. Blom
10. *Ballston Lake* – A Dyer
11. *Ballston Spa*
12. *Mechanicville* – T Richardson
13. *Saratoga*
14. *Open Space Institute* - K. Petronis
15. *County Snowmobile Assoc* – A. Dyer - Working on Great Sacandaga loop; 2 county connections (Fulton and Saratoga); multiple clubs actively working together on this trail (Sacandaga, Mulleyville, Galway and Charlton); want to advertise with State to bring economic opps to the County as a first step. Second step is to connect trail to east end of county – likely part of Corinth/Palmertown project; Village of Corinth mayor wants this to happen and actively pressing club to make connection east side of Village to Moreau area, which would ultimately connect to Zim Smith at Coons Crossing and Dix Bridge. Goal: entire loop around county. Ballston Lake bike path – started conversation about making a legal snowmobile trail (since people are already using it for snowmobiling) – goal is to go south with power express corridor, trying to negotiate land by Outlet Road on east side of tracks by industrial park and connect to Zim Smith.

**VI. Other**

1. NY Bike Summit in Saratoga Springs – September 27-29, 2018
  - i. For more info: <https://nybc.net/get-involved/bike-summit>
2. 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
3. Bicycles Bring Business workshop
4. Saratoga PLAN Feast of the Fields, September 20, 2018  
<https://www.saratogaplan.org/events/feast-fields-2018/>

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

Monday, November 19, 2018 at 4:30 pm