



# Countywide Trails Initiative

## MEETING SUMMARY - DRAFT

Monday, November 19, 2018, 4:30 pm

Saratoga County Planning Office  
West High Street, Ballston Spa

**Attendees:** Jaclyn Hakes, Allison Hargrave, Alyssa Benway, Barbara Kerr, Bill Lasher, Kurt Kress  
Jason Kemper, John Mitchell, Mike Horn, Aaron Dyer, Bill Cook, Troy Hilts

### I. Issues Discussion

1. Funding Opportunities – The County trails grant was able to award all projects fully. Board of Supervisors increased funding amount to fund all projects. 2019 Draft budget is holding the status quo for funding with \$50,000 for trails. And \$100,000 for open space.
2. 2019 Goals – Preliminary Discussion –
  - i. Include language to support efforts for the Empire State Trail and connections to it. Also include language to support CDTC efforts for regional trails – connections to Zim Smith, Champlain Canalway Trail, Palmertown.
  - ii. Questions about whether or not to include blueway trails as a regional goal since attendees are not sure of status or the need in 2019. County to reach out to Blue Neils and try to learn more about current status.
  - iii. Jackie will work with Allison, Jason and Mike to reach out to supervisors to ask about their regional goals and report back for the January meeting.
3. Set 2019 meeting schedule
  - i. The group decided to stay with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, every other month at 4:30pm. In future eblast, people will be encouraged to please provide an update of what's happening in their community if they cannot attend the meeting.
4. Upper Hudson Rail Trail –
  - i. Bill cook, Saratoga County Association of Snowmobile Clubs, indicated the process is at a standstill. State looking to gain ownership of rail bed from Warren County to end of rail. Village of Corinth wants to maintain rail for future industrial park growth. Snowmobile club in holding pattern, but the Mayor of Corinth is helping to find a short-term solution for a snowmobile trail. State Snowmobile Association willing to help groom railbed (over tracks). The snowmobilers are very interested with Palmertown to connect with Dix Bridge
  - ii. Long-term: the snowmobile club would like to pull tracks and a make multi-use trail – snow club to maintain in winter. Bridge will be a big project - by north river / river street bridge, west of old Corinth road crossing the Sacandaga.

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

1. **Zim Smith**
  - i. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail (CCT)
    1. Planning for connection from Mechanicville to CCT
    2. Mechanicville submitted trails application and will received \$10,000 from

County – Elizabeth on-street connection to Champlain Canalway trails. This will involve mostly signage with an in-kind match from Mechanicville to cover signage, crosswalks, etc.

- ii. Coons Crossing to Mechanicville - the County awarded the bid to pave approximately 3 miles from Coons Crossing to Round Lake and is ready to blacktop but the weather is stopping work. Site walk happening this week. Connections to school into Halfmoon – parking lot at Elizabeth St can function as bus turnaround and bus exit as needed. It will be up to school district to make pedestrians connections in the future. This has been a big project with \$4.9 million received in federal dollars. The trails traverses the Fairways of Halfmoon and has potential for connections to/from existing subdivisions. Anticipated completion by Sept 2019. It will be up to town to encourage make connections in future development. Project also includes bathrooms, storage shed, parking lot expansion, etc. No snowmobiles allowed from Coons Crossing south.
- iii. Oak street to Spa State Park connection - The County is focused on completing gaps in southern part of Zim Smith right now.
- iv. Mechanicville to CCT - signage/ street markings mostly
- v. City trail near Woods Hollow to connect Milton, Ballston Spa, and Saratoga Springs/future Zim Smith trail. - The County is focused on completing gaps in southern part of Zim Smith right now.
- vi. Segment between Village of Ballston Spa snow dump and County sewer ROW in Malta – The County is focused on completing gaps in southern part of Zim Smith right now.

## 2. *Champlain Canalway Projects*

- i. Complete the trail through Waterford and Halfmoon to Rt 4 near the treatment plant just south of Mechanicville – This is the area behind Momentive (School House Road); - county managing that project with funding provided by Hudson River Valley Greenway (Greenway). Includes a \$408,000 set aside from the Greenway. That budget includes construction, construction inspection only from School House Rd south.
- ii. Stone dust on the trail in the Town of Saratoga from near the sword surrender site south to near Garnsey Lane – Champlain Canalway Working Group updating the entire process with assistance from LA Group – Tracey Clothier. Ask Tracey for presentation/update & maybe also Joe Grasso. Town of Saratoga received \$10,000 for stone dust from the County trails grant. Town of Saratoga continues to do trail work and turns the work around quickly.
- iii. Old dump site – next to sword surrender – easement to facilitate process. Check in with Julie Stokes for status. Currently owned by OGS.

## 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. Progress in good shape. Waiting for sign on Bakersville Rd. Need highway sign on road. The County working to provide and install.
    - b. Public opening – Give supervisors credit and make public aware of the

- trails (although it is already getting good usage)
  - c. Historical interpretive signage – County to assist
2. Moreau – complete parking lot off Redman (is expandable if needed) County is willing to do more if needed – maybe well for water? BOCES-County-Town of Moreau agreement in past, but status unknown at this point. The Smith Farm piece would be good for equine use and connect County Forest to Moreau State Park. Trail exists, but part is thru national grid.
    - a. Finch Pruyn land that OSI is trying to purchase – get update from Katie Petronis on status. Possibility to connect from County Forest to Finch Pruyn? ROW issue may be holding things up.
    - b. Citizens advisory committee has been formed to discuss but no meetings have occurred yet.
  3. Town of Moreau bike path plan – no update
4. ***Palmertown regional trail system***
- i. Master Planning Process – Planning document now available on Saratoga PLAN website. Need further stakeholder input. Looking to raise funding to have part time person to focus on this effort and implementation. Having conversations with landowners. Lincoln state forest management plan – UMP status unknown (Jason to get an update). Snowmobile community is committed to help move this along – key to making loop around the County – snowmobile trail from Sacandaga to Corinth and tie into Dix Bridge and Champlain Canalway corridor. Local snowmobile club working on long-term realignment of corridor and talking with private landowners, need to understand where corridors might be located.
  - 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: Jackie tot talk with Blue & friends of the Kayde. Send email to Jason/Alison***
- 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. Purchased by John Munter. The Town creating a committee to evaluate purchasing 30-50 acres to connect to Middle Grove State Forest. Friends of kaydeross, private citizens willing to volunteer as needed.
2. Corinth trail system linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland - work in progress.
3. Extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road - no updates
4. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system – Downtown connector
  - i. Geysers Rd trail status unknown
  - ii. Saratoga PLAN scouted county waterline for greenbelt trail system. Coordinating with Skidmore for surface easement.
  - iii. Re-opened Bog meadow trail – joint effort to make happen with volunteers, county funding, 3M, Stewarts funding, etc.
  - iv. Saratoga PLAN is functioning as a land agent to make other connections within eh greenbelt trail systems (private subdivision)

#### 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. 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 – John working with DOT as much as possible.  
4/32 Stillwater example of buffer/bike trail as part of the Empire State Trail

#### V. DEC Advisory Committee – Bill Lasher (NYS horse council representative) – look at dividing up grant funding; Tom Benware at DOT on the committee and Bill shared the DOT list, which Tom was aware of.

1. 1/3 to motorized efforts
2. 1/3 non-motorized – hike/bike/equine
3. Rest for multi-use category (branding, unique)

#### VI. Updates from Communities/Stakeholder Groups

1. **Clifton Park** – J. Ruhl - ask Jen V at Clifton Park to email updates for the committee
2. **Corinth**- W. Clarke
3. **Milton** – L. Woolbright
4. **Saratoga Springs** – T. Carton – Status of Geyser Road Trail and Saratoga Spa state park connection? Jason to followup.
5. **Malta** – A. Benway
6. **Wilton** – M Olson
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. **Snowmobile Club** – Looking to connect private lands; find potential trail to connect to Dix Bridge and will have a full loop around the county. Four of the main snowmobile clubs in the county working on Great Sacandaga loop – making it happening. Businesses reaching out and interested in getting involved. In Fulton County, Broadalbin – 60-foot bridge 2, 40-foot I-beams donated. Great cooperation. All infrastructure moving forward will be constructed for the long-term.

#### VII. Other

1. Bog Meadow Trail Grand Re-opening – Nov 3.
2. Educational/Information Presentations at future meetings
  - i. Tracey Clothier – Champlain canal
  - ii. Empire State Trail - Jeff Olson
  - iii. CCT design work Update - Joe Grasso (defer for Jason for timing)

- iv. DOT map- (invite Audrey from DOT & Others from DOT)
- v. Palmertown Master Planning Process - Jeff Olson/ Maria Trabka/Katie Petronis – try to get for January.

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

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 4:30 pm (Note: Meeting is on Tuesday due to the MLK holiday)

Monday, March 18, 2019

Monday, May 20, 2019

Monday, July 22, 2019

Monday, September 16, 2019

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