



SARATOGA  
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PRESERVING LAND AND NATURE

## Countywide Trails Initiative

**DRAFT** Meeting Notes

November 18, 2014

Saratoga County Planning Office

*Assignments in green – info since meeting  
in italics*

Linda Buchino	Milton, Equine
Bill Clarke	Corinth Trails
Pandora Davis	Saratoga PLAN, Northumberland
Michael Hale	LA Group, Town of CP Trail Committee
Jason Kemper	Saratoga Cty Planning Director
Joanne Klepetar	Town of Wilton Councilwoman
Bill Lasher	Henning, Levine, Glenwild, Cty Forest, Galway, Equine
Scott Miller	Ballston/Clifton Park
Thomas Mott	OPRHP, Saratoga Spa State Park
Katie Petronis	Saratoga PLAN
Margo Olson	Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park
Jeff Olson	SS Greenbelt Trail Comm.
Julie Stokes	Saratoga PLAN/Town of Saratoga
Pat Tuz	Wilton
Bob Vittengl	Town of Moreau, Councilman

Welcomed Katie Petronis and Pandora Davis from the Board of Directors of Saratoga PLAN. JSS is turning over Chair of the Countywide Trail Committee to Katie in 2015. They will work together for a few months.

**Supervisor Vietch and the County Board of Supervisors have included \$250,000 in Farmland and Open Space Protection grants and \$100,000 in Trail Grants in the 2015 Budget! The final hearing on the Budget is 12/3 – call your Supervisor and ask for their support and/or attend the hearing – 5:30pm on Wednesday 12/3 on McMaster Street!**

### Issues:

- McGregor Prison Closing - B. Vittengl understands that current plans are to transfer 800 acres to OPRHP and the remaining 400 are being offered for development. At this point a private school may be the best fit.
- Expansion of Recreational Use Statute. NYS's recreational use statute provides that: property owners are not liable (public or private) if they grant permission for use of their property for designated trail use without a fee. There is an effort to expand the categories of use. Some were proposed by the Governor in the

2014 legislative season but did not receive sponsors. Snowmobile, hunting, equine and land trust groups are interested in the expansion of the statute. We need to look for sponsors this year. A copy of the proposed statute is on PLAN's website under trails

- Back County Horseman of American – local chapter in formation – B Lasher attending – will report back. JKemper interested in attending. Need to find a group of equine advocates that will help to develop trail system on county forest lands in Moreau. Deb Balliet. [Debbaliet1@gmail.com](mailto:Debbaliet1@gmail.com) is the contact for the Chapter formation. 12/3 is the next meeting – 6:30pm in the SS Library.

### **Goals for the County Board of Supervisor's Trail Committee for 2014 –**

1. **Complete ROW acquisition to connect the Zim Smith Trail from Coons Crossing to Mechanicville.** JKemper reported that cty issued RFP to complete design of trail from Coons Crossing to Mechanicville. Acquisition of remainder of ROW is proceeding and meetings w. RR were productive.
2. **Champlain Canalway Projects –**
  - **Identify funding for construction of Waterford Section to meet Halfmoon.** Notes from Janet Kennedy of Lakes to Locks – meetings w. Halfmoon to obtain some of match. Still need \$6,000. **Champlain Canalway Working Group reaching out to town of Waterford to seek remainder of match since trail is in town.**
  - **Crossing Rts 4 & 32.** Awaiting Scenic Byway Grant for feasibility.
  - **Support Town Efforts to complete trail sections.**
    - Town of Stillwater numerous initiatives. Report at next meeting
    - Town of Saratoga – Federal lands access grant in design – issue w. old dump has risen.
    - Siege Trail – *PLAN reports that OPRHP has completed SEQR and Brookfield power has approved construction. Maybe town can do some of the brush hogging this fall.*
3. **Advocate with NYS for the extension of the Palmertown Trail JK to check w. Cty Trail Committee to see if they passed resolution.**
4. **Facilitate agreement w. DEC, Lyme and PLAN to allow access to the Spruce Mt Fire Tower.** Still being assured by DEC that they are “actively working on it”.
5. **Assist and support Equine advocates in developing a trail system on county forest lands in Moreau.** See above
6. **Update and expand the county and PLAN's website/link to the county trails.**
7. **Complete easement between Mechanicville and Cty – DONE!**

JSS distributed Fulton County Brochures showing trails. Does the county or chambers do anything similar? These were at Visitor Center on Rt. 29. **JK to check.**

### **City of Saratoga Springs –**

- Greenbelt Trail Committee: Committee meeting on a regular basis. J. Olson said that they are looking at a series of sites and small projects to show progress.
- Geysers Road Trail – Awarded \$1.6 Million!!! YEAH.

- Spring Run Trail Parking Area – **Constructed! Going to be paved???**
- Saratoga Spa State Park – T Mott reports that trail has been constructed on Rt 9 from Marin Ave to Picnic Entrance – it is paved. **Will get GPS coordinates of new trails to JK so that they can be added to the web site.**

### **Saratoga PLAN Trails –**

- Siege Trail –see above
- Hennig and County Forest in Providence. B. Lasher said there are now 15 miles of trails and 4-5 bridges constructed by the volunteers. 1600 hours of work – materials provided by the volunteers!.

### **Power (gas) Line Corridors –** No new information.

**Zim Smith Trail – North.** Northline road into Milton efforts. Need to follow up when WELton is better.

**Wilton Trail system** – JKlepetar will bring trail maps to the next meeting – Peter Faith w. Greenman Pederson conducting traffic study in Wilton and has been urged to include trail and alternative transportation amenities.

**Long Path** Extension from Thatcher State Park to the Adirondacks. County Supervisors considering including in the NYS Open Space Plan.

**Snowmobile** – no report

**Department of Transportation Project Radar List** – S. Miller working on maps of each of these items showing how they would connect to trail networks. Needs assistance on some of projects - assigned people to assist **(in green)**

1. WWPP needs safe crossing on route 50 **(Margo)**
2. Exit 15 over the Northway – key component of short term solution for Greenbelt Trail. - **under construction – (Jeff)**
3. Crossing on Route 4 from Schuyler House to Siege trail.**(Maria)**
4. Route 4 and 32 crossing for Canalway Trail from Halfmoon to Main Street in Mechanicville.**(Wally/Tom Richardson).**
5. Rexford Bridge pedestrian - potential reuse of old bridge.
6. Rt 29 bridge replacements in Grangerville –JSS and Supervisor met w. engineer in charge. 4’ shoulders being added to either side of bridge. Interesting note— wetlands mitigation will be the expansion of a wetland in the cloverleaf of Exit 14 – no kidding!
7. Rt. 50 crossing at Northline Road
8. 9p shared access upgrades!
9. Spier Falls Road crossing for Equine from Moreau County Forest to State Park.
10. Crossing on Route 4 at Sword Surrender Site
11. Upgrades on Rt 32 between Battlefield and Victory – Need bike lanes. **(JSS)**
12. Rt 29 between SS and Schuylerville – need bike lanes for entire length!
13. Jones Road – wide enough for bike pedestrian use.

14. Tunnel or bridge over/under the Northway to connect Spring Run Trail to the east side of the Northway
15. 146a connector to Ballston Lake Trail – needs trail
16. Crescent Bridge over the Northway needs to be wide enough to carry trail.

**Town of Moreau** – B. Vittengl reviewed trail initiatives in the town. Will hold public forum. Looking at a three phased trail along the Hudson River next to Ft. Edward encapsulated site – LA Group working on. There is a solar farm in area. Betar bikeway, 160 acres... Ft. Edward watershed – 500 acres all connecting to 75 acres adjacent to Moreau Lake SP. BV bringing maps to next meeting so we can understand the connections.

#### **Towns: Cities**

- Wilton – nothing more
- Corinth – trails on resouvoir property.
- Clifton Park – numerous projects. Mike Hale on Open Space/Trail Committee and will update at the next meeting.

**The Next Meeting is February 3, 6:00 pm**  
**Saratoga County Planning Office - West High Street - Ballston Spa**

**Assignments! Some left over from last meeting!**

#### **J. Kemper (S. Miller offered to assist)**

- **Department of Transportation Project Radar List** – Mapping
- Check on Cty resolution on efforts to transfer McGregor Prison lands to Parks – Palmertown Range and Trail protections.
- Provide link or text of proposed revision of Recreational Use Statute to PLAN.
- Ck funding or Fulton County Brochures

#### **J. Stokes**

- JSS, MT and JM set meeting to transfer all power express and power line corridor information!
- Need to follow up w. Ballston (extension of Ballston Bike Path) need meeting w. new supervisor.
- Malta – check w. A Ball to see if town interested in pursuing connections. JSS

#### **J. Bonville**

- Set up meeting w. A. Ball about Minnerly Road.

#### **J. Klepetar**

- J. Klepetar will find the town's trail plan and bring to the next meeting so we can look at connections to Greenbelt Trail and the Palmertown Trail.
- Ownership of Jones Road Bridge.

**T. Mott**

- GPS coordinates of new trails in Spa Park – will check on potential new ones in Moreau and Peebles Island SP's.

**B. Lasher**

- Represent group equine interests on potential formation of Chapter – but looking for volunteer group to work w. the county on converting forest parcels for equine.

**B. Vittangl**

- Bring maps of Moreau Trail projects to the next meeting.