

Countywide Trails Initiative

AGENDA

Thursday, May 20, 2021, 5:30 pm

Virtual Option (Microsoft Teams):

In-person Option:

112 Spring Street, Saratoga Springs, NY



Attendance in-person: Charlie Dake (Chair), Tina Carton, Jeff Morris, Aaron Dyer, Michael Horn

Attendance virtual: Alyssa Benway, John Mitchell, Dave Woodin, Bill Cook, Liz Kormos, Scott Miller, Maria Trabka,

I. Administrative

1. Scheduling & Format

- i. Third Thursday of odd months
- ii. We intend to continue offering a remote option at least through July To be evaluated based upon evolving COVID-19 guidance
- iii. Interest in informal on-trail meetings of even months? Sounds like a fun idea, good to enhance understanding of existing trail system in the County

2. Agenda Changes None

3. Funding Updates

- County Trails grant \$75,000 available, applications due July 9
- CFA opportunity released by NYS ([2021 Consolidated Funding Application](#)) includes a number of opportunities for trails
 - PLAN is speaking with County Supervisors about opportunities and also exploring applying directly for Palmertown trails
 - Up to \$10M for climate smart communities which can include trails that reduce vehicle miles traveled (e.g. reduce emissions)
- There may also be Federal funding available through Senate earmarks

II. Education topics will resume soon! Topics welcome.(consider education on snowmobile trails, goals, trail maintenance, etc.)

III. Updates from Communities

1. Saratoga County – Jason Kemper

- i. Board of Supervisors Goal 1: Zim Smith No update available on the feasibility study for the northward connection to Saratoga Springs
- ii. Other

2. Halfmoon – John Mitchell No significant updates, the Eire Canal Towpath Connector along the Mohawk is to have engineering study begin soon; in response to a question, the EST section to Mechanicville was cancelled due to price and quality of materials needed increasing beyond available budget

- i. County – Board of Supervisors Goal 2: Champlain Canalway Projects
- ii. Local

3. Saratoga PLAN –

- i. Board of Supervisors Goal 3 – Palmertown Progress being made on master trails plan and some initial work on detail plans on individual sites is beginning.
- ii. Other Experiencing some negative feedback from neighbors at one of our trails

4. **Saratoga Springs – Tina Carton**
 - i. *County – Board of Supervisors Goal 4, Saratoga Greenbelt Trail*
 1. The Downtown Connector along High Rock and Excelsior is progressing with the last easement needed being signed, next step is to get final design to DOT (worried about COVID premiums on construction)
 2. the Crescent Avenue Project is on Paul Tonko's list of 10 projects promoted for earmark funding, result TBD
 - ii. *Other*
 1. Geysers Road Trail opened
 2. Trail is being developed along West Fenlon Street by the State Park in lieu of a sidewalk connection
5. **Saratoga Backcountry Horsemen – Bill Lasher**
 - i. *County – Board of Supervisors Goal 5 - Equine Trails*
6. **Milton – Barbara Kerr**
 - i. *Local - Boyhaven trails and connections to Middle Grove State Forest*
 - ii. *Board of Supervisors goal 6 – Blueway Trails*
7. **Corinth- William Clarke**
 - i. *Local - Corinth trail system*
 - ii. *Reservoir to Spruce Mountain connection?*
8. **Mechanicville – T. Richardson**
 - i. *County – Zim Smith*
9. **Waterford – Dave Woodin** Waiting to hear about the 1 mile section to be built north of Momentive. Likely to receive a CDTC grant for a project in Waterford.
10. **Malta – Alyssa Benway** No update
11. **Ballston Spa – Liz Kormos** Liz Kormos mentioned that the Village of Ballston Spa has a CDTC linkage grant for planning and is conducting bicycle and pedestrian counts
12. **Snowmobile Clubs – Jeff Morris, Aaron Dyer and Bill Cook**
 - i. A lot of projects were postponed due to COVID, so efforts are focused on catching up on infrastructure.
 - ii. Had some difficulty with new bollards on Zim Smith trail due to freezing in the ground, but worked it out, easy to store in the new storage facility
 - iii. Charlton club is working with Fulton County to tie together; Fulton County has some funding that they are looking to put to use
 - iv. Saratoga club trying to connect with Warren County, Palmertown and Lincoln Mountain club
 - v. Lincoln Mountain club was working with Town of Wilton regarding trail extension and going along some roads, but were dropped from a meeting agenda (waiting for more info) ... trail basically stops at McGregor's Pub, planned to go up Parkhurst to make up for trail connection that was lost
 - vi. 24% of NYS registered snowmobiles are within 1 hour of Saratoga Springs. Many travel elsewhere to ride, thousands travel from out of state to ride. Saratoga has good trails but they are not advertised. The Palmertown and Warren County connections will be significant developments. Hotels and restaurants ought to be involved. Snowmobilers will ride 50-150 miles in a stay and stay several days. Good idea to promote with chambers of commerce.

*Point of discussion raised regarding involving the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce in these meetings and in promoting trails in Saratoga County. Better marketing via maps, web-based resources and promotion/advertising could be useful.