



# Countywide Trails Initiative

**DRAFT Meeting Notes**

**February 3, 2015**

**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
Bill Lasher	Henning, Levine, Glenwild, Cty Forest, Galway, Equine
Scott Miller	Ballston/Clifton Park
John Mitchel	Halfmoon,
Mary Ann Morgan	Milton, Equine
Katie Petronis	Saratoga PLAN
Margo Olson	Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park
Jim Ruhl	Clifton Park
Julie Stokes	Saratoga PLAN/Town of Saratoga
Bob Vittengl	Town of Moreau, Councilman

KPetronis(KP), Chair of PLAN’s Countywide Trail Committee thanked JStokes for her efforts to form and continue the trail initiative for PLAN and the county for the last 11 years. Supervisor Kinowski is the new Chair of the Supervisor’s Trail Committee. JKemper was unable to attend this evening.

**Issues:**

- McGregor Prison Closing –KP described a meeting that Saratoga PLAN had in the Governor’s Office requesting that all of the unimproved acres be transferred to OPRHP. PLAN was joined by affected town Supervisors, our Senator and Assemblywoman, a representative of the Park Commission, Audubon and OSI. The response was positive but will need to wait as four different agencies sort out the issues and seek a purchaser for the buildings and road. They also showed the Governor’s office the vision surrounding the Palmertown ridge both in trails and diversity protection. They were interested that so much thought had gone into the planning.
- Expansion of Recreational Use Statute. JK conveyed that it is not gaining any traction this year. Comm. discussed some of the uses that are not included in the statute.
- Back County Horseman of American- B Lasher reported on the last meeting which JKemper and the Manager of Moreau Lake SP attended. Group impressed with the willingness of the county and park to work towards a trail system.

Forming the Saratoga Backcountry chapter – have sent in the \$150 to the National. The next meeting is 2/25 at 6:30 in the county Building on West High Street. SMiller expressed frustration that the committee has been discussing and pushing this for nearly 5 years. After extensive discussion several actions were decided.

- BVittengl said the outside perimeter of the county acreage is 8-10 miles with road beds around most of it. **BVittengl and BLasher agreed to meet and GPS the perimeter road bed and provide to the county**
- VOTEC and BOCES both have forestry and equipment classes. They were used successfully by the county for the Calebus-Perry Forest and should be approached to create the trail system if the equine group will GPS the best route.

### **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.** JSS stated that the county has let a contract to finalize the ROW and finalize the design for the trail from Coon's Crossing to Mechanicville. Plans are to complete the ROW and design by the end of the year and apply for CFA in 2016 for the trail.
2. **Champlain Canalway Projects–** SM requested a map of the Saratoga Section of the Canalway so we can see what is constructed/planned/missing. **Suggested that WElton meet with THills to prepare the map of the area similar to what we did with the ZS.**
  - **Identify funding for construction of Waterford Section to meet Halfmoon.** Canalway group worked w. Supervisor Kinowski on a proposal for the Town of Waterford. The Town has committed the remaining \$6,000 in cash for the match
  - **Crossing Rts 4 & 32.** Awaiting Scenic Byway Grant for feasibility.
  - **Support Town Efforts to complete trail sections.**
    - Town of Stillwater numerous initiatives. **Suggest that EK outline at the next meeting.**
    - Town of Saratoga – Federal lands access grant in design – environmental review by NPS has determined that the old dump has contaminants. Approaching OGS as owner to undertake the cleanup.
    - Canalway meetings now alternate between Saratoga and Washington County to develop interest in the extension of the system.
3. **Advocate with NYS for the extension of the Palmertown Trail -** Supervisors joined PLAN for meeting in Governor's office.
4. **Facilitate agreement w. DEC, Lyme and PLAN to allow access to the Spruce Mt Fire Tower.** JSS reported that DEC says initial agreement w. Lyme is now in Albany being reviewed by legal counsel. Suggests that anyone with questions contact the Regional Director – Robert Stegaman. Some discussion on whether the access road to the emergency radio tower can be considered legal access for hiking/equine/snowmobile. **Question for JKemper.**

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.**

JSS as the county's representative on the Region 5 Open Space Committee for the revision on the NYS Open Space Plan – followed up on Saratoga PLAN's suggestion that the Long Path be added as a priority project. JSS reached out to the affected Supervisor's and they support the addition. It has been forwarded to the DEC Regional office.

**2015 Goals for the Supervisors Trail Committee** – KP will take suggested goals back to PLAN staff and board and bring back to the committee at the next meeting. These should be items where the Supervisors can have an impact. We may want to consider goals for our committee as some separate items.

1. Complete the ROW acquisition and Design to connect the Zim Smith Trail from Coons Crossing to the City of Mechanicville. Be ready to submit a CFA in 2016.
2. Champlain Canalway Projects
  - Move forward on the Waterford section of the Canalway with the Scenic Byway funding. Hopefully have enough funding to determine best way to cross Routes 4&32.
  - Support towns in the trail efforts – Halfmoon, Stillwater, Saratoga. City of Mechanicville.
3. Complete a phased equine trail on the Moreau County Forest and continue efforts on equine trails in Providence.
4. Corinth trail system – needs for public access to state lands, completion of UMP. Needs Lyme Timber easement agreements and trails from Spruce Mt to the reservoir property.
5. Develop rules and regulations for the new County Trail Grants program – **KP to check w. Maria to see if a process has been developed and which committee will make the grant decisions.**
6. Consider better trail computer system – the one we have is difficult to use.

Other items that committee should consider:

- Linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland to expand the trail system. Use of Champlain Hudson Power Express Project in the RR corridor.
  - Actions:
    - **MOlson to check on Wilton's Trail Plan.**
    - **PDavis to check on Northumberland's trail plan.**
- Work with Clifton Park and Ballston to extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road. **SMiller and JMitchel will meet at the county and examine maps to determine where Champlain Hudson Power Express project might be helpful.**

**Power (gas) Line Corridors** – JMitchel and BVittengl discussed and explained the

issues surrounding the Champlain Hudson Power Express project. Although the project is more than willing to have trails on top of the line – the RR will be less accepting. Also the route moves from one side of the RR to the other. Felt we needed to find discrete sections where it could help connect a trail system. Not looking to follow the line throughout the county. BVittengl indicated that there is funding in the project and does not necessarily require that the trail be on top of the line. **JMitchel will be meeting w. county staff to prepare mapping.**

**Snowmobile** – no representative

**Department of Transportation Project Radar List** – S. Miller to meet w. county staff to create maps that show the projects and their connection to trail networks

1. Exit 15 over the Northway – key component of short term solution for Greenbelt Trail.)
2. Crossing on Route 4 from Schuyler House to Siege trail.
3. Route 4 and 32 crossing for Canalway Trail from Halfmoon to Main Street in Mechanicville.
4. Rexford Bridge pedestrian - potential reuse of old bridge.
5. Rt 29 bridge replacements in Grangerville
6. Rt. 50 crossing at Northline Road
7. 9p shared access upgrades!
8. Spier Falls Road crossing for Equine from Moreau County Forest to State Park.
9. Crossing on Route 4 at Sword Surrender Site
10. Upgrades on Rt 32 between Battlefield and Victory – Need bike lanes.
11. Rt 29 between SS and Schuylerville – need bike lanes for entire length!
12. Jones Road – wide enough for bike pedestrian use.
13. WWPP needs safe crossing on route 50
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 distributed full trail plan for the Town of Moreau along the Hudson River and outlined the plans for connections to county forest lands and MLSP. Town working with ALTA Planning and Design and the SUNY Albany Planning Studio – distributed draft copies of the report and maps. KP stated that this is an exciting initiative and vision for the town and praised the interconnectedness of town/cty/state resources.

**Town of Clifton Park** – J. Ruhl reported on recent meetings of the Town’s re-energized Trail and Open Space Committees. PLAN met with the Open Space Committee and discussed opportunities for collaboration. The Garnsey road parcel is directly adjacent to a PLAN parcel and the town and PLAN are now exploring join access and trail efforts. JRuhl indicated that a member of the Open Space/Trail Committee attends all of the Planning Board Meetings to assure that trail opportunities are considered in each

proposal. Major town efforts continue on the Mohawk Crescent Trail which will connect CP w. Halfmoon under the Northway.

**Towns of Milton** – MAMorgan reported that the Open Space Committee has been meeting regularly. They are looking at 20 acres that are high and dry adjacent to Treble Park on route 67. This would provide better access. The town Supervisor is also interested in expanding parks and trails in the town. Interested in accessing the new county trail grant program.

**The Next Meeting is March 31, 6:00 pm  
Saratoga County Planning Office - West High Street - Ballston Spa**

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

### **E. Kinowski**

- Attend next meeting of PLAN Trail Committee – please
- Present Town of Stillwater’s plans – similar to what was done at the Canalway meeting.

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

- Department of Transportation Project Radar List – Work w. SMiller to map the projects and their links to trail.
- Provide link or text of proposed revision of Recreational Use Statute to PLAN.
- Equine Trail System. Determine how difficult it is to identify perimeter trail system on Moreau Cty Forest
- Explore VOTEC or BOCES to construct trail system similar to Calebus Perry.
- Spruce Mt – is the access road for the emergency radio system a legal access for the public.

### **KPetronis**

- Check w. Maria/Jason to determine process to develop rules and regs for Trail Grants – who will be making grant decisions?
- Make appointment w. ABall and JSS.

### **S. Miller/J.Mitchel**

- Meet w. cty staff to examine potential linkage of Ballston Bike Path to the south – RR access from Power Express?
- JMitchell to examine what other limited sections of the project might make some sense.

### **MOlson/PDavis**

- Check town’s trail committee/maps/regulations. Figure out how to look at both towns to develop trail network that potentially connects WWPP with Hudson

Crossing and Schuyler Park.

**J. Stokes**

- Malta –set up meeting w. A Ball and KP to see if town interested in pursuing connections. JSS

**W. Elton**

- Work with Troy Hiltz to create a map of the Saratoga portion of the Champlain Canalway that shows what is constructed/planned/missing.

**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. Lasher/BVittengl**

- BVittengl and BLasher GPS the perimeter road bed and provide to the county when it stops snowing!