



## Countywide Trails Initiative

Notes

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Saratoga County Planning Office, 6 pm

Assignments in Green

### Attendees:

Katie Petronis – PLAN  
Julie Stokes – PLAN, Town of Saratoga  
William Clarke – Corinth  
Scott Miller – Ballston/Clifton Park  
Margo Olson – Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park  
Aaron Dyer – Snowmobiles  
Bill Lasher – Hennig, Levine, Glenwild, County Forest, Galway, Equine  
Jason Kemper – County Planning  
Ed Kinowski – Supervisor, Town of Stillwater, Trails Committee Chairman  
Linda Butchino – Milton, Equine  
John Mitchell – Halmoon  
Barbara Kerr – Town of Milton  
Connor Christofforsen – Skidmore student  
Andy Donaldson – Skidmore student  
Mary Ann Morgan – Milton, Equine

### Issues Discussion:

McGregor Prison Closing – No updates since last meeting.

Back County Horseman of American – (*B Lasher*) Report on 2/25 meeting

- B. Clarke - SMBA is concerned with potential conflicting uses. J Kemper notes that that's why we want to focus on Moreau County Forest; we shouldn't have as much conflict there because the Moreau perimeter trail is better suited for horses than bikes.
- B. Vittengl/J. Kemper – efforts to get Moreau Cty Forest perimeter cleaned up and in use; GPS routes; and ask BOCES and/or VOTEC to help create system
  - B. Vittengl and B. Lasher visited trail and started logging GPS points, will visit one more time and provide GPS points to Troy to create a map. B. Vittengl called J. Kemper to discuss perimeter and figure out whether we should ask BOCES to assist or be done in-house by the County. Saratoga County Horsemen is willing to do trail work as well. B. Lasher will take group of horses onto site when snow clears.

County Trails funding – (*J Kemper*) status of development of criteria and application process

- i. J. Kemper – plan on rolling out Open Space and Trails programs together, want to leverage Open Space fund with NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets funding (want to use it as a match for that program); draft criteria for the County fund has gone out to the Open Space and Trails Committees, they'll review and sign off; may be looking at June/July for applications and Oct-Nov for awards
- ii. J. Stokes – asks if we can review the list of criteria? E. Kinowski says that should be possible.
- iii. K. Petronis asks about process and funding recipients. E. Kinowski says that all checks will be cut to municipalities for projects.
- iv. S. Miller points out that criteria should weight trails projects that are inter-municipal.
- v. E Kinowski – it was a tough decision for supervisors to fund the program, so we should let them know how important it is

**Proposed 2015 Goals for the County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee:**

PLAN board approved and adopted the following recommendations:

1. *Zim Smith*

- i. Complete the Right of Way 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.
  - a) J. Kemper – we now have a contract with Greenman Peterson Engineering for the portion from Coons Crossing to Mechanicville; we have some money left in the ZS capital account as well to match
  - b) E. Kinowski will get Kevin Tollison, Halfmoon Supervisor involved

2. *Champlain Canalway Projects*

- i. Move forward on the Waterford section of the Canalway with the Scenic Byway funding.
  - a. E. Kinowski – Waterford has committed to providing \$6,000 in funding for the project. He asks if there is a deadline by which the funding must be in hand? J. Stokes says there is, and recommends E. Kinowski speak with Janet Kennedy or get it done in the next few weeks. *E. Kinowski says he will draft a resolution in the next few weeks. Julie has connected he and Janet Kennedy.*
- ii. Support towns in trail efforts – Halfmoon, Stillwater, Saratoga, Mechanicville
  - We now have a map completed by the Canal Corp of the Champlain Canalway Trail, showing sections completed and in progress. *J. Stokes will get electronic copies to J. Kemper and K.*

Petronis.

- J Stokes mentioned that at the end of June there will be a picnic at Hudson Crossing to get Sara County supervisors to speak with WA County supervisors about the trails efforts
  - Conversation about the Federal Lands Access Grant to extend the trail from Schuyler House to Sword Surrender Site. Park Service can't accept it because of a dump on site.
3. *Equine trails* – Complete a phased equine trail on the Moreau County Forest and continue efforts on equine trails in Providence.
- i. B. Lasher – will get info to Troy and J. Kemper for trails development in Providence
4. *Hudson Power Express* – consider locations along the power line that provide trails opportunities
- i. J. Mitchell presented maps to identify where Champlain Hudson Power Express and Trails could interface; gave an overview of the line location.
  - ii. Identified places where the line crosses a railroad as not optimal for a trail, and places that would require significant design work
  - iii. Findings:
    - a. S. Miller would like to connect the Ballston Bike Path to the Mohawk Bike Path – it looks like the proposed line is right next to railroad so it's impractical, but maybe they'd upgrade an access road and we could use that for the crossing.
    - b. S. Miller – In Milton near a viaduct over the Kayadaross, there is a vacant parcel that runs down to the stream; there may be a connection to the village of Ballston Spa from Milton
      - a. M. Morgan notes that Milton has a committee working on developing that area right now; also talked about Zim Smith coming near there and needing to come up to Route 50
    - c. S. Miller suggested looking at opportunities in Wilton near Jones road and Scout Road
  - i. M. Olson asks about the timeframe of the power project? J. Mitchell thinks they may be holding off until the economy improves
  - ii. K. Petronis recommends that we identify recommendations and send them to S. Miller who will list these in writing for the next meeting
    - a. M. Olson, A. Dyer, S. Miller, and J. Mitchell will come up with recommendations. K. Petronis will send them a link to access the Google Earth mapping that J. Mitchell developed.
5. *Develop rules and regulations for the new County Trail Grants program*
6. *Consider better county-wide trail computer system*
- i. E. Kinowski queries what the concerns are. K Petronis will speak to PLAN and asks that others submit concerns to her via email. She will

Comment [kp1]: What else was mentioned about this?

let J. Kemper know what they are. E. Kinowski asks whether there is there an app we can use that could simplify this. J. Kemper points out that the County pays a yearly hosting fee, Troy updates the data, then they link it to the Real Property data.

- Process of Presentation to County Board of Supervisors – E. Kinowski asked for the list and gave it to the County Board of Supervisors. He notes that each of these goals and initiatives are already being worked to some degree. J. Stokes asks that when the Supervisor Trail Committee meetings are scheduled, someone from this committee be invited? **She recommends that we also send these goals to the board of supervisors through the trail committee.**

#### **Localized Goals of Trails Committee for 2015:**

1. *Corinth trail system* – There are needs for public access to state lands; completion of a UMP; Lyme Timber easement agreements; and trails from Spruce Mt to the reservoir property. J. Stokes – Dennis Moreal (supervisor from Corinth) has released an RFP to design a trail at the reservoir
2. *Linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland to expand the trail system.* There may be an opportunity for use of the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project in the railroad corridor. **M. Olson and P. Davis will speak with snowmobile groups to link through some of the club land through Wilton. M. Olson will coordinate that meeting between now and next trails meeting.**
3. *Work with Clifton Park and Ballston to extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road.*

#### **Snowmobile: A. Dyer**

- J Stokes noted an increase in business to the village of Greenwich because of the Dix Bridge completion; it's already brought more business to WA County.
- The County snowmobile assc is being reorganized, A. Dyer brought the greenbelt plan to them and they're interested in working cooperatively. They may have a way to get from Ballston Bike Path over to the Zim Smith. He says landowners have expressed some concern over liability where the path would run over their properties. J. Stokes mentions the NYS Public Use Statute and suggests this be brought to them.
- The association has created a trails coordinator position and A. Dyer has filled that; he's now working on obtaining funding for infrastructure
- S. Miller – Ballston needs a way to cross the Mourningkill, recommends that as a goal

**Department of Transportation Project Radar List:** *S. Miller* presents a map that represents these projects, so that we can provide this to DOT; highlights locations where trails and state highways may interact; asks the group to review this map and identify things that don't show up and make aesthetic recommendations. **J. Stokes and E. Kinowski – recommend E. Kinowski bring this to the County Trails Committee.** J. Stokes says that DOT has offered us access to their list of projects over next 5-10 years so we can review what's coming down the line. **J. Stokes and E. Kinowski recommend**

working with the County to get that list. J. Kemper will digitize the map. S. Miller will make changes based on comments tonight, then will get it to J. Kemper before next meeting. J. Kemper will then show it to towns, ask for their input, and digitize it. It will show trails in place, in process, and pipedreams.

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.

#### Information from Towns/Cities

1. **Milton** – MA. Morgan
  - ii. Larry Woolbright – town of Milton owns land along Middleline Rd and Route 67 and are buying more land, will be constructing a new trail system
2. **Wilton** – M. Olson will work with J. Klepetar to look at town trail plan and review connections to greenbelt and palmertown trails
  - iii. M. Olson met with J. Klepetar, at last town board meeting they picked up a parcel at the tax auction
  - iv. S. Miller asks if M. Olson can bring the town trail plan to the next meeting. She agrees.
  - v. M. Olson says that Wilton doesn't currently have a trail committee but she's considering it
3. **Corinth** – B. Clarke, points out that easiest access to McGregor parcel is through Corinth, doesn't want Corinth to be left out of the conversation.
4. **Saratoga** – trying to clean up boat launch on Route 4, there is a scenic easement on the property, owned by DOT, permitted to town, town began developing it, DOT said they found a scenic easement that restricts all development, Town is FOILING to get information

**\*\*\*Set Next Meeting – 6 pm June 2**