



# Countywide Trails Initiative

## NOTES

Thursday, March 10, 2015 at 5:30pm

Saratoga County Planning Office

West High Street, Ballston Spa

*\*Follow up items in green*

### Attendees:

Katie Petronis – Saratoga PLAN

Jim Ruhl – Clifton Park

Ryan Riper – Town of Wilton

Devin Rigolino – Saratoga PLAN

John Mitchell – Town of Halfmoon

Aaron Dyer – Snowmobile Association

Maryanne Morgan – Town of Milton

William Clarke – Town of Corinth

Linda Butchino – Equine Community

Maria Trabka – Saratoga PLAN

Julie Stokes – Town of Saratoga, Saratoga PLAN

Wally Elton – City of Saratoga Springs, Champlain Canal Trail Working Group

Larry Woolbright – Town of Milton

Jim Sevinsky – Town of Charlton, Saratoga PLAN

Audrey Burnison

## I. Issues Discussion

1. Former McGregor Lands
  - i. Transfer update – we think the transfer has been completed!
2. Funding opportunities
  - i. County Trails Funding (*J Kemper and T Richardson*) Call for applications? They're aiming for May and expecting 53k county-wide
  - ii. Open Space Funding
  - iii. Backcountry Horsemen funding application for Moreau project (*B Lasher*) - funding application (for a source of water) is still in progress. A meeting was held (in February) with Michael Greenslade of the Spa State Park concerning equine use such as trail etiquette, signage, parking, manure clean-up and educational efforts by the Park and SBCH with the common goal to enhance the park experience for all park trail users. It was a good session.

## II. Proposed 2016 Goals for the County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee

1. Zim Smith
  - i. Complete the ROW acquisition and Design to connect the Zim Smith Trail from Coons Crossing to the City of Mechanicville
  - ii. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail
  - iii. Extend northern terminus, including the Saratoga Amtrak Station
    1. State is working with private landowner to obtain a right of way for access across private land
2. Champlain Canalway Projects
  - i. Focus on Waterford section of the Canalway – Wally says the design work on the Waterford section is underway; Ed Kinowski says they'll finish this year
  - ii. Support towns in trail efforts – Halfmoon, Stillwater, Saratoga, Mechanicville
    1. OSI should be closing on the donation of the OSI owned towpath parcel in Stillwater to the town next week
    2. WA County has come to the table and the town of Greenwich has designated areas for the trail, Town of Whitehall and Fort Edward are both working on the trail, lots of momentum
    3. Jim Ruhl asks about trail from Mechanicville to Stillwater? There is a 2-3 mile gap on the W side of the river. Maria thinks the town may have purchased a piece of property that is key in that area and that this may help make the connection. Tom Richards and Ed Kinowski have plans to connect it.
3. Equine trails - (*B Lasher/J Kemper*)
  - i. Complete a phased equine trail on the Moreau County Forest and continue efforts on equine trails in Providence
    1. Efforts to get County acreage perimeter cleaned up and in use
      - a. VOTEC and County work on parking lot (*J Kemper*) – it's been delayed somewhat but moving forward slowly
  - ii. Back County Horseman of America report
4. Hudson Power Express – consider locations along the power line that provide trails opportunities (*S Miller*) Scott presents group with a map outlining priorities; *Katie would like to add the map to the notes*
  1. Glenville; Clifton Park - NG gas line from Ballston to Alphaus Road; Ballston Bike Path
  2. Saratoga Springs into Milton and Village of Ballston Spa
- ii. Meeting with Rick Chase to talk about opportunities – *Katie is going to schedule a meeting with him*
5. Support of county-wide trail computer system – *Devin Rigolino*

### **III. Localized Goals of Trails Committee for 2015**

1. Corinth trail system – Needs for public access to state lands; completion of UMP; Lyme Timber easement agreements; and trails from Spruce Mt

to the reservoir property – (*B Clarke, B Lasher*)

- i. Trail up Spruce Mountain is getting great amounts of use, trailhead is full
2. Linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland to expand the trail system. Use of Champlain Hudson Power Express Project in RR corridor.
3. Extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road – *S Miller/J Ruhl*
  - i. Power Express in Ballston is the only way to achieve this
4. Local Zim Smith Goals:
  - i. City trail near Woods Hollow to connect Milton, B Spa, and Saratoga Springs/future Zim Smith trail
  - ii. Easement between Village of B Spa snow dump and Cty sewer ROW in Malta
5. Katie – should we consider adding the Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system to this list? Yes. Done.

#### **IV. Snowmobile** *A. Dyer*

1. “Take a Friend Snowmobiling Day” debrief – cancelled due to lack of snow.

#### **V. Department of Transportation Project Radar List** *S. Miller* Scott presented

mapping and the list and contact information to Audrey, she will report on it and share it with Rob Cherry

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
  - a. Julie Stokes can be the contact
6. Rt. 50 crossing at Northline Road
  - a. Who does DOT contact in the town of Milton? – Larry Woolbright says he spoke with DOT about it and they said they need a concrete plan to bring to them first
  - b. Larry will be the contact, *Katie will fill him in on the list*
7. 9p shared access upgrades (around Saratoga Lake) –
  - a. Town of Malta could be lead on that
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.
  - a. Julie can be the contact
11. Rt 29 between SS and Schuylerville – need bike lanes for entire length! – J Stokes spoke with DOT rep and confirmed recent repaving was a direct overlay, rep says width is sufficient for bikes

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.
17. *Katie will add an agenda item for Crescent Ave for a portion of the Greenbelt Trail*

## **VI. Information from Towns/Cities**

1. **Clifton Park – J. Ruhl**
  - i. New chairman of trails committee, Roy Casper – priorities are keeping up with subdivisions and minor subdivisions; would also like to add a proposed trail to the Power Express map Scott generated to run under the northway in CP
  - ii. Julie asked about Ushers Rd connection to Zim Smith? Jim says there is an open field, they are waiting for someone to propose some use there
2. **Corinth – B. Clarke** From top of Spruce Mountain over to reservoir there is a great trail connection opportunity across Lyme land and public land, just need a few trail easements, most groups are supportive but having trouble gaining town support
3. **Milton – L Woolbright**
  - i. Open Space/Trails committee is working on a map based on a 2003 open space and trails map that was developed and adopted, so it's being updated
  - ii. Friends of Kaydeross notes that County Open Space Plan shows a Kaydeross Creek Blueway, this has never been implemented
    1. Katie asks if there are current needs? Larry will ask at the next meeting and bring them to us
    2. Maria thinks Jason may have maps showing put in/take out opportunities; *Katie will ask Jason to bring to next meeting or send to Larry*
4. **Saratoga Springs – K. Maynard/W. Elton/others**
  - i. Douglas – we are in a good spot, this year the committee is focused on greenbelt implementation, focusing on 1. Crescent Ave to connect two pieces of Spa Park; 2. Downtown connector; 3. Complete Streets plan; 4. Solar Array project; 5. Pitney Farm connection are top priorities
  - ii. Let's add Tina Carton, new development coordinator, should be invited to these meetings
  - iii. Wally – why does Spring Run Trail have ribbon nailed into trail?
5. **Malta – S Miller**
6. **Wilton – Ryan Riper-** updating Open Space Plan and looking at connections to connect the Palmertown Trail and up to Northumberland
  - i. Julie – can we look at ways to get parking off Daniels road?

Would be great for Greenfield and Wilton to work together on improving access, potentially putting in a trail over the water line

7. *Stillwater* – E. Kinowski/ K. Petronis
  - i. Devin met with Ed to plan for the trail south of the Battlefield and is hoping to have that completed by the end of summer
8. *Halfmoon* – J Mitchell
  - i. Pruyn Hill road is happening
9. *Greenfield* – Ken Blom
  - i. 175 Acres South of Brookhaven Golf Course that might be an interesting trails opportunity
10. *Ballston Lake* – A Dyer
11. *Ballston Spa*
12. *Mechanicville* – T Richardson
13. *Saratoga* – Julie met with Supervisor this morning, federal land access grant that runs from Schuyler House to Garnsey Road is delayed because of the requirements of cleaning up a dump in the middle

## VII. Other

\*\*\*Next Meeting May 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30