



SARATOGA
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PRESERVING LAND AND NATURE

Countywide Trails Initiative

NOTES

Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 5:30 pm

Saratoga County Planning Office

West High Street, Ballston Spa

Attendees:

Katie Petronis	Chair, Saratoga PLAN
Jenn Hunt Dempsey	Saratoga PLAN
William Clarke	Corinth
John Mitchell	Champlain Canal Trail
Bill Lasher	Saratoga Backcountry Horseman's Association
Larry Woolbright	Milton
Tom Richardson	Supervisor, Mechanicville
Laurie Bonser	Ballston
Blue Neils	Friends of Kayadeross
Jim Ruhl	Clifton Park
Maria Trabka	Saratoga PLAN

I. Issues Discussion

1. Funding opportunities
 - i. County Trails Funding - Status update on 2017 budget
 1. Proposed budget does not include Trails funding; now is the time to contact elected officials
 - ii. Open Space Funding - Status update on 2017 budget
 1. Proposed budget includes \$250,000 for Open Space funding, so please make calls to push for that line to remain in the budget

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

1. Zim Smith
 - i. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail –
 - ii. Extend northern terminus, including the Saratoga Amtrak Station
 - iii. Bill Clarke asks about Pitney – K Petronis reports that closing is scheduled in December and that the group remains committed to permitting a public trail to run through the property
 - iv. Complete the ROW acquisition and Design to connect the Zim Smith Trail from Coons Crossing to the City of Mechanicville – Tom Richardson gives an update; construction should be 2018; Jim Ruhl thanks Tom Richardson and Jason Kemper for all the work he did to bring us to this point
2. Champlain Canalway Projects
 - i. Waterford Section – Awaiting CHA finalization of the scope of work
3. Equine trails - (*B Lasher*)

- i. Backcountry Horsemen Report
 - 1. funding application for Moreau project? (*B Lasher*) – Bill has received the application, must be submitted by March 15; meeting in January to discuss what they'd like to apply for
 - ii. Complete a phased equine trail on the Moreau County Forest and continue efforts on equine trails in Providence
 - 1. parking lots update – in Moreau we just need the materials to be spread, in Providence we need both materials and spreading. Bill recommends that the county goals for 2017 specifically list parking lot completion as a goal
- 4. Hudson Power Express
 - i. Trail Opportunities
 - 1. Glenville; Clifton Park
 - 2. Saratoga Springs into Milton and Village of Ballston Spa
 - ii. Town of Milton – *L Woolbright*
- 5. Support of county-wide trail computer system – M Trabka hands out map showing status of PLAN's data gathering efforts, see map and chart attached; a donor gave PLAN funding to allow Abbie to continue her work through the spring semester; Chamber of Commerce is going to use the Healthy Parks system to put this data online for people (they will supply the graphic, PLAN will supply the data)

III. Localized Goals of Trails Committee for 2015

- 1. Palmertown Range –
 - i. PLAN is doing trails scouting for trails on Lincoln Mountain State Forest and adjoining land recently purchased by OSI; DEC will be updating their Unit Management Plan in 2017 so the timing is good
 - ii. NYSCPP application – OSI is submitting an application in partnership with PLAN, University of Albany, and others to engage in a community process to develop a conservation plan for the Palmertown Region
- 2. Corinth trail system – (*B Clarke*) Town received \$12,500 from County Trails funding for trails development on Village Reservoir property; Brookhaven Golf Course now has ten miles of groomed trails.
 - i. Bill recommends adding connector between Spruce Mountain Fire Tower Trail and Village Reservoir property
- 3. Linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland to expand the trail system
- 4. Extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road; Power Express connection – *S Miller*
- 5. Local Zim Smith Goals:
 - i. City trail near Woods Hollow to connect Milton, B Spa, and Saratoga Springs/future Zim Smith trail
 - ii. Segment between Village of B Spa snow dump and Cty sewer ROW in Malta
- 6. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system – *D Meyer*
- 7. Kayadeross Creek Blueway – *Blue Neils* reports – idea to establish this as an official trail system as a test case. If it is worthwhile, let's consider blueway trails throughout the County
 - i. Arrowhead Casino access – currently held in trust by the Archaeological Trust; the City may have a retained deed right to access which should be explored
 - ii. Larry Woolbright points out that it would be great to have one more

- point of access between Kadeross Ave Extension and the Lake
- iii. Formal designation process – designation increases visibility and buy-in by the communities it runs through and the county; a recommendation to the board of supervisors that the trail be designated would help; John Mitchell let's consider support of blueway trails as a 2017 goal

IV. Department of Transportation Project Radar List *S. Miller*

1. Exit 15 over the Northway
2. Route 4 and 32 crossing for Canalway Trail from Halfmoon to Main St in Mechanicville.
3. Rexford Bridge pedestrian crossing
4. Rt. 50 crossing at Northline Road
5. 9p shared access upgrades (Saratoga Lake) and x'ing near Lake Lonely
6. Spier Falls Road x'ing for Equine from Moreau County Forest to State Park.
7. Crossing on Route 4 at Sword Surrender Site
8. Upgrades on Rt 32 between Battlefield and Victory – Need bike lanes.
9. Rt 29 between SS and Schuylerville – need bike lanes for entire length
10. Jones Road – wide enough for bike pedestrian use.
11. WWPP needs safe crossing on route 50
12. Tunnel/bridge over/under I87 to connect Spring Run Trail to E side of I87
13. 146a connector to Ballston Lake Trail
14. Crescent Ave Greenbelt Trail section
15. Nelson Ave Ext bridge expansion of bike lanes even if by striping

V. Information from Towns/Cities

1. ***Clifton Park*** – *J. Ruhl* – Vischer Ferry improvements update
 - i. Meeting tonight to discuss Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve - meeting will focus on potential improvements in the vicinity of Clute's Dry Dock and at the Ferry Drive Gateway, respective destinations at key entrances/destinations for the Preserve.
2. ***Corinth*** – *B. Clarke*
3. ***Milton*** – *L Woolbright* presents draft of Town of Milton Open Space Committee Trails map
4. ***Saratoga Springs*** – *K. Maynard/W. Elton/others*
5. ***Malta*** – *S Miller*
6. ***Wilton*** – *M Olson*
7. ***Stillwater*** – *E. Kinowski*
8. ***Halfmoon*** – *J Mitchell*
9. ***Greenfield*** – *Ken Blom*
10. ***Ballston Lake*** – *A Dyer*
11. ***Ballston Spa*** –
12. ***Mechanicville*** – *T Richardson*
13. ***Saratoga***

VI. Other

1. Gateway Visitor's Center – HHP update from Tom R, visitor's center is under construction now should be completed by end of 2018, Timber Framers Guild are doing the work, this has been an 8 year effort that is finally being realized; land has now transferred to the Partnership
 - i. Have a \$350,000 grant from Lakes to Locks for interpretive signage

inside the building for all communities along the stretch of river to provide information

2. Development of 2017 Recommendations for County Board of Supervisor's
 - i. Zim Smith
 1. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail, including:
 - a. a focus on ROW acquisition and Design, and a move toward construction to connect the Zim Smith Trail from Coons Crossing to Mechanicville; and
 - b. planning for connection from Mechanicville to CCT
 - ii. Champlain Canalway Projects
 1. Waterford Section
 - iii. Equine trails
 1. Complete parking lots at the Moreau County Forest and Providence equine trails
 - iv. Palmertown regional trail system
 1. Support of and participation in planning processes
 2. Consideration by County Planning Department of trail...(talk to Jason)
 - v. Blueway Trails
 1. Support of designation of Kaydeross between Kelley Park and Saratoga Lake as Blueway Trail
 - vi. Hudson Power Express trails opportunities should the project progress

*Next meeting February 9th at 3 pm