



# Countywide Trails Initiative

## Meeting Summary

**Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 3:30 pm**  
**Saratoga County Planning Office**  
**West High Street, Ballston Spa**

*Attendees: Katie Petronis, Linda Butchins, Bill Lasher, Larry Woolbright, Loren Grimm, Doug Hallar, MaryAnn Morgan, Barbara Kerr, Jaclyn Hakes*

### **I. Issues Discussion**

1. Funding opportunities
  - i. County Trails funding – 2019 budget discussion
  - ii. 2018 budget (proposed):
    1. \$100,000 open space planning
    2. \$50,000 trails
  - iii. Need to work through local supervisors to advocate for 2019 budget
  - iv. Need to make a compelling case for additional funding in 2019
    1. Use list developed Katie to build case for additional funding for program
    2. Identify strong applications/projects for 2018 program
    3. Katie to put together letter for Supervisors to thank them for putting resources for trails into the 2018 budget and request additional funding for next budget that does not take away from the open space program
    4. Jackie to follow-up with Jason to confirm budget adoption/program funding, eligibility of projects, and schedule.
    5. Challenge: communication of available funding goes directly to supervisors and may not always be acted upon as a result of many important issues being handled. Discussions on how to further involve local trail advocates in each community. Another challenge is the limitation on what funding can be used for and the amount that can be requested.
2. Other? No other items to discuss at this time related to funding.

### **II. Discussion of Proposed 2018 Goals for the County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee** - This list of goals, once consensus is reached by this committee, will be forwarded to the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee for consideration.

1. Zim Smith
  - i. Extend northern terminus: Is the time right for this with the Palermtown planning efforts underway with Open Space Institute (OSI) and Saratoga PLAN? Jackie to follow-up with Jason.
  - ii. Local Zim Smith Goals:

1. City trail near Woods Hollow to connect Milton, Ballston Spa, and Saratoga Springs/future Zim Smith trail
2. Segment between Village of Ballston Spa snow dump and County sewer ROW in Malta
- iii. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail
  1. Construct Trail from Coons Crossing to Mechanicville - build/construct trail; - need to confirm with Jason.
  2. Planning for connection from Mechanicville to CCT - need to confirm with Jason on whether this gets removed as complete or should continue on 2019 goals list.
2. Champlain Canalway Projects
  - i. Announcement - \$12 million to - complete the trail through Waterford and Halfmoon to Rt 4 near the treatment plant just south of Mechanicville; put stone dust on the trail in the Town of Saratoga from near the sword surrender site south to near Garnsey Lane
3. Equine trails
  - i. Moreau County Forest and Providence equine trail improvements
    1. Providence – parking area completed now, but there is a need to complete the trail systems which includes signage, trail marking, and a kiosk. This would complete 9 miles of trails including Ecker Rd.
    2. Moreau – 2018: complete parking lot; connecting County Forest Land may be a 2019 goal
    3. Town of Moreau bike path plan?
4. Palmertown regional trail system - participation in Master Planning Process
  - i. 1st public meeting for master plan in December
  - ii. Send invite to trails committee: December 13, 5-8:00 Greenfield Community Center. Includes an introduction to the public of the project which is identifying opportunities for the region recreationally and economically. Joint effort with OSI and Saratoga PLAN
  - iii. Lincoln State Forest - equine use allowed but trails not developed. Mtn biking, snowmobile corridor, what communities want to be connected: Corinth or Wilton access? How to expand recreational opportunities.
5. Blueway Trails -
  - i. Designation of Kaydeross between Kelley Park and Saratoga Lake as Kaydeross Blueway Trail. It is believed that the next step for this is a resolution for Board of Supervisors vote. Jackie will confirm with Blue Neils.
  - ii. Erie-Mohawk Historic Water Trail - Need to be clear about what the ask/need is for this. Jackie to ask Jen Viggiani, Town of Clifton Park.
  - iii. Hudson Blueway Trail along Champlain Canal - Need to be clear about what the ask/need is for this. Jackie to ask Jen Viggiani, Town of Clifton Park.
6. Hudson Power Express trails opportunities – is this still urgent? Project Seems to have been shelved. Remove from 2018 goals.
7. Other: None identified.

**III. Draft 2018 Goals for the County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee** (see previous - used 2017 goals as starting point)

**IV. Localized Goals of Trails Committee for 2017** - The localized goals are those

projects/initiatives that may not qualify as county-wide priorities, but may be priority for specific town or are internal local initiatives

1. Boyhaven (Milton) - development of trails and connections to Moreau State Forest
  - i. Town of Milton is currently conducting due diligence to purchase property
2. Corinth trail system – It was noted that B. Clarke may have moved so a new contact - Jackie to contact Matt Rogers, Corinth Planning Board.
3. Linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland to expand the trail system
4. Extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road - the committee discussed asking Scott Miller to present on this to the committee and bring an updated map.
5. Local Zim Smith Goals: moved to 2018 County-wide 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 –
  - i. Downtown connector

**V. New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) Project Radar List** - running list of project important for NYSDOT to know about. Audrey at DOT has the list with accompanying map. The group discussed inviting Audrey to a meeting to present and update her (she is the contact at DOT since Rob Cherry retired)

- ~~1. Route 50 Exit 15 (completed)~~
2. Route 4 and 32 crossing for Canalway Trail from Halfmoon to Main St in Mechanicville.
- ~~3. Rexford Bridge pedestrian crossing (in process)~~
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

**VI. Information from Communities**

1. **Clifton Park** – J. Ruhl no updates
2. **Corinth**- no updates
3. **Milton** –
  - i. **Boyce park** - trail work complete for trails connecting to rail bed of old trolley line and Kaydeross Creek - add loop that connects 4.5 miles of trail
  - ii. **Boyhaven** - contract signed. Scouts cleaned facilities out, public input

sessions (3 public meetings - 50 people attending), usage surveys to provide info to Town Board, Environmental Site Assessment(ESA) Phase 1 and structural analysis and survey all started; the hope is that the Town Board will pass resolution for bond (public hearing/ Referendum needed). Closing at the end of January anticipated.

4. **Saratoga Springs** – no updates
5. **Malta** – no updates
6. **Wilton** – *M Olson* no updates
7. **Stillwater** – *E. Kinowski* no updates
8. **Halfmoon** – *J Mitchell* no updates
9. **Greenfield** – *Ken Blom* no updates
10. **Ballston Lake** – *A Dyer* no updates
11. **Ballston Spa** no updates
12. **Mechanicville** – *T Richardson* no updates
13. **City of Saratoga Springs** -
  - i. Complete Streets - Still trying to get updated complete streets document passed.
  - ii. Alletta Street Connector to South street to Railroad Run path - a 10' wide easement conveyed by Empire State College
14. **Saratoga**
  - i. Siege Trail

**Open Space Institute (OSI) update by Katie:**

- January closing on 4,388 acres in Providence and Edinburgh. OSI is purchasing this property along east side of Sacandaga reservoir known as the Hans Creek property. Vly Swamp reservoir included and provides 100% of water supply for City of Amsterdam. Purpose is to protect natural resources, water quality, trails (snowmobile/hiking, etc). Intent is to purchase and sell a conservation easement to allow for public recreation rights and allow to continue to as is or sell in fee to state.
- Smith farm property in Moreau - OSI looking to purchase this 900 acre property connecting to Moreau State Park along river and through County Forest Land and National Grid Corridor. Currently delayed due National Grid ROW issue.

**VII. Other**

1. Educational/Information Presentations at future meetings?
  - i. Empire State Trail - Jeff Olson
  - ii. CCT design work Update - Joe Grasso (defer for Jason for timing)
  - iii. DOT map- Scott Miller (invite Audrey from DOT)
  - iv. Palmertown Master Planning Process - Jeff Olson/ Maria Trabka/Katie Petronis
2. Schedule meeting with newly elected officials in various towns that have had new representatives. Send email out to inquire - Jackie and Katie to work on this

**\*Next meeting -**

**Tuesday, January 16th, 2018 at 5:30 - 7:30 pm**