



Countywide Trails Initiative

Meeting Summary

Monday, March 19, 2018, 4:30 pm
Saratoga County Planning Office
West High Street, Ballston Spa

Attendees: Allison Hargrave, Jason Kemper, Katie Petronis, Jackie Hakes (Chair), Christopher Dorn, Barbara Kerr, Larry Woolbright, William Clarke, Larry Gordon, Pamela Landi, Linda Butchino, Spencer Barrett

I. Issues Discussion

1. Funding opportunities: County is sending out open space & farmland application to committee. Hope to get approved this week (goal). accelerated schedule because year for NYS AG farmland funding with due date in July - talk advantage of matching funding. Hope to align funding. Applications due May 25th anticipated due date. County is available to assist - resolutions, mapping. Available on website, PLAN can post, OSI can post on website. County will reach out directly to municipal staff. Trails will be out next. \$100,000 - OS and farmland. \$50,000 for trails.
2. Community forest projects -\$500,000 in governor's proposed budget - OSI and PLAN discussing opportunities to be a demonstration county. Town of Greenfield project - adjacent to Lincoln Mtn state forest. Community forest - managed by a community (muni or land trust) forest resource management educational, teach sustainable forests management, programming, trails, recreational programming. Not many in NYS. Rensselaer Plateau Alliance example the best example. Town of Wells (5,000acres) snowmobile corridor, hunting, fishing, turn profit from timber sales.
3. CDTC Capital District Trails Project – get involved through website at <http://regionaltrailperspectives.weebly.com/>
4. Other?

II. 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 - final title Mechanicville School district bus garage parking lot - access to school and trail. Bus garage over budget but may just move ahead. final stages of ROW acquisitions.***
 - i. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail (CCT)
 1. Planning for connection from Mechanicville to CCT
 - ii. Coons Crossing to Mechanicville connection - complete ongoing project ongoing. Ongoing activities include: approaching land owners, out to bid in 2-3 months, construction starting early summer, CP rail crossing discussions, working with school district, and parking lot construction in Round Lake.

- iii. Oak street to Spa State Park connection - Explore opportunity to extend from terminus at Oak Street north to Spa State Park. Where is state parks involved in this discussion? They should be at the table. DEC and State Parks has been involved in regular conversations. Jackie to send relevant discussion items from the Committee to State Parks moving forward. Katie to identify appropriate contact for that sharing of information.
- iv. Mechanicville to CCT - signage/ street markings
- v. City trail near Woods Hollow to connect Milton, Ballston Spa, and Saratoga Springs/future Zim Smith trail
- vi. Segment between Village of Ballston Spa snow dump and County sewer ROW in Malta

2. ***Champlain Canalway Projects***

- i. Complete the trail through Waterford and Halfmoon to Rt 4 near the treatment plant just south of Mechanicville;
- ii. 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 –complete the trail systems with signage, trail marking, and a kiosk. This would complete 9 miles of trails including Packer Rd.
 - 2. Moreau – complete parking lot; connect to County Forest Land and connect north to OSI piece connects to park along river.
 - 3. Town of Moreau bike path plan - connect to property OSI property

4. ***Palmertown regional trail system***

- i. Extend Northern Terminus in Palmertown area
- ii. Participate in Master Planning Process - public meeting and survey conducted to date, stakeholder interviews conducted - muni and major interest groups. Developing recommendations in June/July. 1000 ft elevation gain ridge line. Still largely undeveloped. Moreau lake state park is in middle of the ridge. Moreau at north and spa state park at south. Connect via trail system - 1st phase is to create a spine trail and side trails to connect. Opportunity for different groups - mtn biking, horseback, etc. id sensitive areas, forest products industries, etc.
- 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. Support of designation of Kaydeross between Kelley Park and Saratoga Lake as Blueway Trail - ask Blue Neils where we are. Jason to follow-up with Blue.
- ii. Erie-Mohawk Historic Water Trail?
- iii. Hudson Blueway Trail along Champlain Canal?

III. Localized Goals of Trails Committee for 2018

- 1. Boyhaven (Milton) - development of trails and connections to Moreau State Forest - waiting on contract with anonymous donor - at town attorney, environmental soil samples (clean), comptroller working on bond and hope to close April 2018 (anticipated). TB will

need to decide if they keep ownership or turn portion over to DEC. DEC has expressed willingness to buy. Strong support in the town for this effort.

2. Corinth trail system Linking the towns of Wilton - see extended from Moreau Lake State Park across Corinth to state land/spruce mountain, Corinth reservoir property. willing to present to town board if discuss snowmobiles and coordinate with mtn bike. Include trail easement/access in subdivision process. State land land-locked in town of Corinth - similar to spruce mountain approach., black pond lean to? Easement lands - a challenge - certain rights land owners still have (private leases and rights associated with those parcels). Snowmobile club - must be done by March 31 with activity - challenge and limited window to allow snowmobile access. May requirement recreational management plan amendment (DEC has a management plan in additions to the IUP). DEC adventure N Y program - focusing on underserved communities and access. Opportunity to make recreational connection to larger Palmertown region. Palmertown master plan includes recreation. Bill to work with Katie and County to identify potential route. Incorporate into the Palmertown master plan to support. Birth of American tourism, book.
3. Extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road
4. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system – Downtown connector - follow up with Tina Carton. Portion of Route 9 is 6-8 ft shoulder owned by state - that portion looks to be ready to go.

IV. Department of Transportation Project Radar List *Allison to contact Audrey at DOT and we will update map*

1. Route 4 and 32 crossing for Canalway Trail from Halfmoon to Main St in Mechanicville.
2. Rt. 50 crossing at Northline Road
3. 9p shared access upgrades (Saratoga Lake) and crossing near Lake Lonely
4. Spier Falls Road crossing for Equine from Moreau County Forest to State Park.
5. Crossing on Route 4 at Sword Surrender Site
6. Upgrades on Rt 32 between Battlefield and Victory – Need bike lanes.
7. Rt 29 between SS and Schuylerville – need bike lanes for entire length
8. Jones Road & Ballard Exit 16 interchange – wide enough for bike pedestrian use?
9. WWPP needs safe crossing on route 50
10. Tunnel/bridge over/under I87 to connect Spring Run Trail to E side of I87
11. 146a connector to Ballston Lake Trail
12. Crescent Ave Greenbelt Trail section
13. Nelson Ave Ext bridge expansion of bike lanes even if by striping
14. Route 9 bikeway Saratoga Springs to Glens Falls and Route 50 - mistakenly marked years ago and no intention of stenciling and marking in the future (DOT). This is a concern. County roads are in good shape for bicycling Supervisor Veitch are meeting with DOT to figure out what to do at county level. County receptive to this (Keith Manz).

V. Information from Communities

1. *Clifton Park – J. Ruhl*
2. *Corinth - William Clarke* - Village reservoir very successful. View point looking east, great views of Village, becoming destination for folks. Looking to have a forester supervise logging effort. Use skid roads to be future trails. Jason can be a resource and provide input based on County experience. outstanding grant at reservoir - \$\$ for village and town. \$8500. Bill to check with Mayor to find out status. Trout stocking at the reservoir - great event.

3. **Milton** – *L. Woolbright* – see Boyhaven update above. Open space committee revising 2003 town open space and trail map. Final version approved by committee and moved to town board. Troy at County is assisting with mapping.
4. **Saratoga Springs** – *T. Carton*
5. **Malta** –
6. **Wilton** – *M Olson/Larry Gordon* - only youth fishing only at Camp Saratoga now. Regional office DEC opening up trail connection. Stegman bicentennial trail ribbon cutting - April 22nd (earth day celebration) and Stewarts furnishing ice cream. Anybody can table there. Final copy of open space for draft review by June 2018. Publication by Saratoga PLAN Palmertown ridge master plan process - hunting not on the list but should be considered. Matter of education of trail users and hunters - no problem at all. Can be done well.
7. **Stillwater** – *E. Kinowski*
8. **Halfmoon** – *J Mitchell*
9. **Greenfield** – *K. Blom*
10. **Ballston Lake** – *A Dyer*
11. **Ballston Spa**
12. **Mechanicville** – *T Richardson*
13. **Saratoga**
14. **Open Space Institute** - *K. Petronis*

VI. 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 meetings with newly elected officials in various towns that may have new representatives.
3. PRISM – Spencer Barret from PRISM explained the program Cornell Cooperative Extension program. 8 PRISMs across the state - **Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management** Activities include Capital Mohawk terrestrial invasive species management, management plans removals, and scouting out invasive species. PRISM views trails as a vector, ecological health of outdoor spaces. Work together to mitigate invasive species spread. Available to work with towns, land trusts and other groups interested in invasive species.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule: (subject to change)

Monday, May 21, 2018 at 4:30 pm

Monday, July 16, 2018 at 4:30 pm

Monday, September 17, 2018 at 4:30 pm

Monday, November 19, 2018 at 4:30 pm