



# Countywide Trails Initiative

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Monday, May 21, 2018, 4:30 pm**  
**Saratoga County Planning Office**  
**West High Street, Ballston Spa**

**Attendees:** Larry Gordon, Tina Carton, Bill Lasher, Allison Hargrave, Linda Butchino, William Clarke, Jim Ruhl, Joe Grasso, Maria Trabka, Libby Smith-Holmes, Jaclyn Hakes

### **I. Issues Discussion**

1. Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group Picnic
  - i. *June 1, 2018, 11:30 am at Lighthouse Park, 289 Route 4, Halfmoon*
  - ii. *Each town supervisor will report on status of their section of the trail.*
  - iii. *BBQ and trail walk after*
  - iv. *Committee members offered to bring a side dish or dessert*
  - v. *Invited groups:*
    1. *Halfmoon trail group*
    2. *Trail volunteers*
    3. *Countywide trail committee*
    4. *Parks and trails NY*
    5. *Canal Corp*
    6. *Others*
2. Funding opportunities
  - i. *Saratoga County Open Space and Farmland Grant Applications due: May 25, 2018.*
  - ii. *Saratoga County Trails Grant Applications due: released last week. \$10,000 per proposal. 100% match. Due July 12, 2018. \$50,000 total funding available.*
  - iii. *Hudson Valley Greenway Conservancy Trail Grant Program due: August 10, 2018. Focus on connections to the Empire State Trail. Up to \$75,000 per grant for planning, design and construction, rehabilitation, trail education/interpretation.*  
<http://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/trailgrants.aspx>
  - iv. *Bill Lasher appointed DEC trails citizen advisory committee, which helps to review grant applications.*
3. CDTC Regional Trails Plan – final draft happening soon. Includes Saratoga, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Albany Counties. Saratoga County Planning has been engaged.

### **II. 2018 Goals for the County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee**

1. **Zim Smith**
  - i. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail (CCT)
    1. Planning for connection from Mechanicville to CCT
  - ii. Coons Crossing to Mechanicville – *Going to bid in next month*
  - iii. Oak street to Spa State Park connection
  - 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
  - vii. *Village of Ballston Spa trails plan? There was uncertainty as to whether or not the*

*Village has or is working on a trails plan. If they are, it would be important to connect Zim Smith segments from south.*

2. ***Champlain Canalway Projects*** – updates to be provided a picnic on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - i. Complete the trail through Waterford and Halfmoon to Rt 4 near the treatment plant just south of Mechanicville - *designed and approved. Ready for bid late summer. May be possible to construct this year. County would administer on behalf of Town of Waterford. Halfmoon section on upper New Town Rd to Rte. 4/32 crossing. Hudson River Greenway agreement in place. This is a \$2.4 project and CHA is consultant for initial design work. This will connect with Zim Smith. Schedule: 1-2 years design/permitting with a 2020 target for completion.*
  - 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. – *Moving slowly, but parking lot done. Needs a little repair from snow plows.*
    2. Moreau – complete parking lot; connect to County Forest Land - *parking lot started. Brush has grown up so clearing needed. Saratoga back country set up work days this summer and fall to mark trails. Progress being made*
    3. Town of Moreau bike path plan
    4. *State park going thru process of how equine and bikes co-exist on trails. Park has more land due to acquisition (Finch Pruyn property) and other smaller parcels becoming part of state park. Park Ranger forming a citizens committee to help determine how things might be developed.*
  
4. ***Palmertown regional trail system***
  - i. Participate in Master Planning Process
  - ii. 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. - *DEC would like to see proposed trails submitted for Lincoln Mtn State forest. Haven't really identified trailheads and short loops yet – PLAN is working on and needs to get to DEC this summer. Skidmore might be source of intern/assistance for summer to help with this.*
  
5. ***Blueway Trails***
  - i. Support of designation of Kaydeross between Kelley Park and Saratoga Lake as Blueway Trail
  - 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 Middle Grove State Forest
  - i. *This project is still in flux with numerous potential scenarios being considered by town, the Boy Scouts, a private individual purchase, Saratoga PLAN and other partners (Open Space Institute, The Nature Conservancy). The status seems to be changing on a day to day basis.*
2. Corinth trail system Linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland – *rail road track from Saratoga to Anton and train no longer running. Long-term potential multi-use rail with trail or trail in place of rail.? Warren County IDA owns north.*
3. Extend the Ballston Bike Path to Blue Barnes Road

4. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system – Downtown connector – *the City has funding from DEC/CDOT for connector. Ext 15 to excelsior to high rock to Lake Avenue. At East Ave – trail will turn and be into spring run trails. Safe access off-road from below city hall to spring run trailhead. Trying to keep the connector all off road. High Rock/Excelsior intersection improvements will be needed. East will be sidewalks and bike lanes. At Excelsior Springs ramp, safer connection will be made from Spring Run Trail. Timing: survey complete, working on design, working with property owners.*
  - i. *Working with county (along Crescent Ave) feasibility to get trail on crescent next year. – have old county grant*
  - ii. *Major sewer break at railroad run – West Circular. Bring trail heads together / intersection improvements.*
  - iii. *New trail signage – wayfinding program extending into trails program for aesthetics with a stock solutions. Working on standard, consistent design for signage.*
  - iv. *Bog Meadow – City working with PLAN to do upgrades and improvements for 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary*
  - v. *Oak Ridge – trail development – connections for greenbelt trail. Along an off road trail Union ave to Lake Ave.*
  - vi. *Crescent Ave bridge wider. But slip ramp makes a long crossing*

#### **IV. Department of Transportation Project Radar List** *(Audrey Berstein – DOT?)*

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 Saratoga Springs and Schuylerville – need bike lanes for entire length
8. Jones Road – 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

#### **V. Information from Communities**

1. **Clifton Park** – J. Ruhl – *Biggest gains working with developers – requirement for them to support comprehensive plan. Hope for future ordinance for trails to spell out what has to happen so developers know in advance*
2. **Corinth** - W. Clarke – *see Corinth trail system above*
3. **Milton** – L. Woolbright – *see Boyhaven above*
4. **Saratoga Springs** – T. Carton – *see Saratoga Springs Greenbelt above*
5. **Malta** – Jackie to reach out and identify liaison.
6. **Wilton** – L. Gordan - *Draft copy of Open Space and Trails Plan coming out soon -Larry would like to see Witt PDD in the appendix. Palmertown trail to Parkhurst to Exit 16 to Camp Saratoga to Ruggles Road. How to get from Homestead Rd to Champlain Trail? Homestead to King and use road? Would require Northumberland and County to be on board. East west connection through Bacon Hill important. Copy of the Ora Phelps Trails? Wilton completing application for horse trail Camp Saratoga to Edie Road. Connect to county forest to bicentennial trail to Jones Rd.*
7. **Stillwater** – E. Kinowski
8. **Halfmoon** – J Mitchell
9. **Greenfield** – K. Blom – *coordinate with Corinth - Jackie to find contact*

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.

**Upcoming Meeting Schedule:** (subject to change)

Monday, July 16, 2018 at 4:30 pm

Monday, September 17, 2018 at 4:30 pm

Monday, November 19, 2018 at 4:30 pm