



Countywide Trails Initiative

MEETING SUMMARY

Monday, May 20, 2019, 4:30 pm
Saratoga County Planning Office
West High Street, Ballston Spa

Attendees:

I. Presentation: *Zim Smith Trail Update*

(Presenters: Jason Kemper, Saratoga County Planning)

Progress update: 2.9 miles new construction – Elizabeth Street Extension to Coons Crossing Road
Challenge is access – need to build from either end in.

- Elizabeth Street improvements
 - Parking
 - Future access to Mechanicville School District
- 14th fairway at Fairways of Halfmoon – Bruce Tanski/Fairways was very helpful to getting this done
 - Needed to be done by May 2nd before golf season
 - Retaining walls; utility coordination; fencing
 - Golf cart path construction
 - Night construction
- Coons Crossing
 - Bathroom, bench, picnic table, bike racks
 - Parking lots
 - Actuated signal
 - Halfmoon agreed to maintain
- Round Lake Parking lot
 - 45 parking spaces – paved, striped
 - Signage
 - Infiltration drainage system
- Timing
 - Elizabeth St to east side Coons Crossing - complete fall 2019
 - Coons Crossing west side to Round Lake – spring 2020
 - Round Lake parking lot – spring 2019, top coat spring 2020
 - Eastline Road improvements - spring 2020
- Q&A/discussion
 - How do you measure trail users? CDTC did a count a couple years ago as part of the regional trails plan
 - Report is here:
https://www.ptny.org/application/files/8014/9314/6632/2016_CDTC_Count_-_No_appendices.pdf
 - When can town residents do a walk thru? Fall 2019? Works must be fully completed first
 - Measure value of connections and quantify needs/value of trails is important to supporting future trail funding

- Can we do something specific to Saratoga County to measure trail users and support the value of the investment in trails?
 - Ideas to develop a trail users survey to assess trail usage within 1st year of these gaps being filled. – perhaps 2020 – work with PLAN and trail committee and County to develop a plan to do this.

II. Issues Discussion

1. Introduction of Jeff Williams, new planner at Saratoga County
2. Funding Opportunities
 - i. Open space application – sometime June
 - ii. County Trails Application – available now (sent to Supervisors) and will be on county website soon. DUE: July 12th. County will do mapping. \$50,000 available. Max \$10,000 per project. Last year County allocated addition funding to cover the demand.
 1. Previous year’s trails project update
 - a. Malta –scope adjustment possibly
 - b. Clifton Park 2015 project
 - c. Corinth withdrew project
 - d. Closed Scout Road
 - iii. NYS Consolidated Funding Application grants now available. DUE: July 26th
 1. https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2019-04/2019ResourcesAvailableGuide_0.pdf
3. Champlain Hudson Power Express Update (CHPE)
 - i. Mayor deBlasio committed NYC to green power by certain date. Looks like CHPE is going to happen.
 - ii. The CHPE is a pipeline of renewable power from the Canadian border to NYC (hydro-power)
 - iii. Understanding with developers, TDI (transmission developers), that the surface area will be available for trail usage.

III. 2019 Goals for the County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee

1. *Zim Smith – see update above*
 - i. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail (CCT)
 - ii. Coons Crossing to Mechanicville
 - 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
2. *Champlain Canalway Projects*
 - i. Complete the trail through Waterford and Halfmoon to Rt 4 near the treatment plant just south of Mechanicville;
 1. Upper new town to treatment plant 60% design plan prepared
 2. Broke ground behind Momentive. Did have a ROW issue come up and hope to come to resolution in next few days
 - ii. Stone dust on the trail in the Town of Saratoga from near the sword surrender site south to near Garnsey Lane
 1. Tom Wood working hard on the Town of Saratoga piece – great model for partnerships and local match to get trails constructed
 2. Tracey Clothier prepared plan and it will be posted online when complete
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.
 - a. All trails are open
 - b. Emergency communications tower road needs some improvements
 - c. Sign is in progress
 - d. Working with county to identify a date for a grand opening. Jason to coordinate with Town supervisor. PLAN to help spread the word
2. Moreau – complete parking lot; connect to County Forest Land
 - a. Thank you to county for trails. Parking lot status – 3-way agreement_ Moreau, County, Saratoga-Warren Washington BOCES. County is ready to move ahead. Good opportunity but hasn't worked out to date.
 - b. Moreau could submit a county trail application for this work.
 - c. Long term is really dependent on what the state does in future.

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

- i. Lincoln State Forest – expanded recreational opportunities (equine trails, mountain biking, snowmobile corridor, connections to communities)
- ii. Update: OSI received grant to fund a facilitator position for the Palmertown Range.
- iii. Continue to have meetings with communities and stakeholders

5. ***Blueway Trails***

- i. Friends of Kaydeross has been doing clean up and Libby to provide date of when there may be volunteer opportunities in the future
- ii. Support of designation of Kaydeross between Kelley Park and Saratoga Lake as Blueway Trail
- iii. Erie-Mohawk Historic Water Trail
- iv. Hudson Blueway Trail along Champlain Canal
- v. Other: Erie canalway trail challenge – John Mitchell to provide contact info as a possible model for blueway trails in the County

IV. Localized Goals of Trails Committee for 2019

1. Boyhaven (Milton) - development of trails and connections to Middle Grove State Forest
 - i. Feasibility Committee – slowly moving along. Property owner (Munter) looking to transfer 60 acres to town. Current summer program (camp) – this property would be perfect for the summer camp. The importance of connections and open space needs to be highlighted within town. Munter also working with State to transfer lands. It might be valuable to think in the future about what a trail system might look like here. This committee could help. An opportunity to shape it before it goes to the state. Timing for state: unknown
2. Corinth trail system - Town board withdrew their project from the County trails program. Desire to see connection to Moreau Lake State Forest. Railroad and river are challenges.
3. Extend the Ballston Bike Path - to Blue Barnes Road - CHPE coordination could be helpful.
4. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system – Downtown connector design continuing to advance. Hope to start construction this year.

V. Department of Transportation Project Radar List – TIP link from CDTC

1. Route 4 and 32 crossing for Canalway Trail from Halfmoon to Main St in Mechanicville.
2. Rt. 50 crossing at Northline Road
3. Rt 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 – 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. General: Bicycle facilities along state roadways
15. Washington Street Bridge (TIP funded) to incorporate complete streets elements with the bridge is repaved.
16. South Broadway/Crescent Ave, Saratoga Springs – intersection pedestrian/bike improvements

There was discussion about how to track DOT projects and be more proactive. John Mitchell was able to confirm with DOT a few months ago that yes, they do have the map/list. Jackie asked the County to update the map/list and will send to DOT.

Additionally, The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) is the Capital Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which sets forth transportation funding priorities for Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Saratoga Counties (minus South Glens Falls, which falls under the Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council, the other area MPO).

CDTC establishes a 5-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to assign funding priorities. It's a public process and the draft has been out for public review for a while and remains open until June 3rd.

The 2019-2024 Draft TIP is here complete with an interactive webmap and listing by county, by municipality: <http://www.cdtempo.org/documents/transportation-improvement-program/tipupdate>

According to the website, the TIP is expected to be adopted in June.

VI. Updates from Communities

1. **Clifton Park** – J. Ruhl – rapid flashing beacons for crosswalks.
2. **Corinth**- W. Clarke Brookhaven Trail System – within town of Corinth – interested in increasing use of cross-country ski trails and connect to Mullyville trail system.(snowmobile trails).
3. **Milton** – L.Woolbright – see Boyhaven update
4. **Saratoga Springs** – T. Carton
5. **Malta** – A. Benway
6. **Wilton** – M.Olson -
7. **Stillwater** – E. Kinowski
8. **Halfmoon** – J. Mitchell
9. **Greenfield** – K. Blom
10. **Ballston Lake** – A. Dyer – met with County Snowmobile Association and updated on Palmertown project. Association is very supportive of the effort. Moving closer to being one active association instead of multiple separate organizations. Looking to purchase a piece of brushing equipment as a group and will be available for other trail groups.
11. **Ballston Spa**
12. **Mechanicville** – T. Richardson
13. **Saratoga**
14. **Open Space Institute** - K.Petronis

VII. Other

1. Educational/Information Presentations at future meetings
 - i. Champlain Canalway Trail Update - Joe Grasso, CHA
 - ii. Empire State Trail Update - Jeff Olson – maybe another topic?
 - iii. DOT map- (invite Audrey from DOT & Others from DOT)

Upcoming Meeting Schedule: (subject to change)

Monday, July 22, 2019

Monday, September 16, 2019

Monday, November 18, 2019

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