



# Countywide Trails Initiative

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Monday, September 16, 2019, 4:30 pm**

**Saratoga County Planning Office**

**West High Street, Ballston Spa**

**Attendees:** Charlie Dake, Mike Horn, Jaclyn Hakes, Jason Kemper, Jeff Williams, Bonnie Nightingale, Liz Kormos, Bill Lasher, John Mitchell, Mary Ann Morgan, Barb Kerr, Tina Carton, William Clarke, Alyssa Benway, Joe Grasso, Erin McCabe, Paul Dietershagen

### **I. Presentation: Champlain Canalway Trail Update**

(Presenter(s): Joe Grasso, CHA)

1 – Halfmoon to Waterford – From Village of Waterford and southern connections to Town of Halfmoon is an important connection with an extensive trail network with beautiful views. Construction is wrapping up. Construction project administered by County.

2- Upper New Town Rd to City of Mechanicville – Along the old tow-path and is an unimproved route through sewer district plant. This is a challenging route with wetlands, streams, rail crossing, archeological aspects. Currently in design and permitting stage. Lots of beaver activity that flooded entire path. Involved lots of permitting to construct a trail. Goal to construct next year. Water transmission main in ground next year and intent is to have that lay groundwork for trail project and reduce construction costs for this important off-road connection. 50% design state now and plan to be at 100% by year end.

General: This is a segment of the Empire State Trail. Town took on responsibility segment by segment starting in the 1990's.

### **II. Issues Discussion**

1. Committee Chair Transition – Charlie Dake will be taking over the role of chair for this committee from Jackie Hakes. Charlie is a PLAN Board Member and has experience scouting trails in the Palmertown Range area.
2. Funding Opportunities
  - i. Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail Grants – Due 11/8/19  
<https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/grants-funding>
  - ii. County Trails Grant Program – 10 applications received. Total in requests is double what is in budget. Setting committee meeting soon. The County does not have much flexibility for trails program with overflow projects. Applications received for projects in Charlton, Edinburgh, Galway, Milton, Malta, Moreau, Stillwater, Mechanicville. Up to \$50,000 allocated for municipal seed money to help communities get something going. Small trail projects. Fast turnaround process. \$10,000 max with local match (make more competitive). In kind services often used for match. Flexible grant program. There is a demonstrated need that will be shared with supervisors during 2020 budget process.
3. Other? None.

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

1. *Zim Smith*

- i. Connecting the Zim Smith to the Champlain Canalway Trail (CCT) – Mechanicville - Ended by little league fields, end of Elizabeth street and east to boat dock and CCT. Project started last week – county funded grant, signage and in-kind services. School district expansion not happening and finalizing connection still up in air.
- ii. Coons Crossing to Mechanicville - paving now. Up Elizabeth Street extension; Fairways of Halfmoon – fence is up. Subbase in; paved thru golf course; fiberglass bridge going in - full speed ahead. Over 1 mile of fence to go in; back in from Coons Crossing to put in bridge. Different than most other trails in the county. A challenging section to design and construct. Looking to add benches and picnic tables for views along the way. Federal funding and state parks funding assistance, but a big push from board of supervisors to make this happen – purchased land, design – all county funding. Automated flashing to cross rail tracks to be installed in February. Improvements north of Coons Crossing – holding off until sewer trunk line work (relining) is completed. This work expected to be completed this winter so that trail can be finished in spring with no impact. Bathroom added at Coons Crossing. Halfmoon maintaining bathroom and parking lot. \$5 million for over 3-miles of trail. Hope to open this fall.
- iii. Oak Street to Spa State Park connection - focus has been area south for now. Will examine what remains for funding after southern section completed. This is a priority once southern section is done. Discussions at the supervisor level of the importance of the connection will be important. Several routes have been identified but further feasibility may be needed. Village of Ballston Spa wants to understand where connections might happen and how they can work toward that and work into their future plans. ROW will be biggest issue for this connection. County did ROW acquisition. Scott Miller involved previous and may have background.
- iv. Mechanicville to CCT - signage/ street markings – Main Street Mechanicville, on-street signage
- 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 - focus has been on southern section. Looking at large project for relining sewer trunk line – opportunities to have prelim work being done to prepare surface. Surface rights? County already has easement or owns all of sewer. Water surface rights is a little different.

## 2. *Champlain Canalway Projects – see Joe’s presentation*

- 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 – almost completed.

## 3. *Equine trails*

- i. Moreau County Forest and Providence equine trail improvements – work differently because these are on county lands, which are sometimes logged. Bill provided update and overview of horseman’s association. More rugged trails designed for horses, mountain bikes, snowshoeing and XC skiing
  - 1. Providence –complete the trail systems with signage, trail marking, and a kiosk. – working to complete. Horseman’s Assoc. provided all labor as volunteers. Many trails are existing logging roads, often times. Small percentage of horse owners that want to trail ride. Parking lot is key because many haul the horses, need at least 10 miles of trails. These are approaching that length and include a series of loops. County is creating a map. Sign is completed by county. Grand re-opening of trail with county and town this fall. Soft opening this weekend with association.
  - 2. Moreau – complete parking lot; connect to County Forest Land. Not as advanced as Providence. Using mostly existing ATV trails. Abuts state park which allows horses and former Finch Pruyne land. State park doesn’t have much room for equine trailers.

New parking lot in county forest is important. State now charging a day use fee for equine. Slow process and working with volunteers. Kiosk materials available and will be focus once summer paving.

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

- i. Lincoln State Forest – expanded recreational opportunities (equine trails, mountain biking, snowmobile corridor, connections to communities) – OSI and PLAN driving strategy. OSI received grant to hire Wendy as Palmertown coordinator for 2 year contract. [Wendy.palmertown@gmail.com](mailto:Wendy.palmertown@gmail.com). Starting with scouting inform for Lincoln Mtn state forest Unit Management Plan (UMP). Will be a tremendous help with moving this forward. Mike promoted trails finance forum. Britany Chase development has been moving forward. Between Skidmore north woods. Charlie offered to purchase lot 9 which would make connection to Saratoga and greenfield. 70 acre-woodland property.

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
  1. Ongoing process and happening mostly along Hudson river valley greenway. Putting kiosks in fort Edward. Addressing kayakers. Every 15 miles provide opp for to pull out/put in and have access to restaurants, services, ext.
  2. CDTC didn't incorporate water trails.

**IV. Localized Goals of Trails Committee for 2019**

1. Boyhaven - development of trails and connections to Middle Grove State Forest. Town involvement diminishing. Mr. Munter moving forward.
2. Corinth trail system - linking the towns of Wilton and Northumberland - not much new.
3. Extend the Ballston Bike Path - to Blue Barnes Road - no update.
4. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system –
  - i. Downtown connector – Tina – currently in design. Hoping to finalize design. Go to bid in late winter/spring construction next year. Geyser Rd out for construction bid. Starting construction soon.
  - ii. Henry St. pilot project. Feasibility studies and prelim design through downtown. 2-way cycle track on street, on-way. Pop-up pilot project. Looking to get feedback from public. Positive feedback so far. Lake Avenue is dangerous street – 2 intersections identified to make major improvements – how to make safe connections. Feasibility study on Crescent Rd within ROW out to Nelson. Better crossing of south Broadway and Crescent – working with NYSDOT for DOT (trail on south side.) hoping to work with County when they repave crescent in a few years. Presentation by Tina on city website. Funding thru CDTC mini grant and AARP to fund materials.

**V. Department of Transportation Project Radar List**

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

## VI. Updates from Communities

1. *Clifton Park* – J. Ruhl
2. *Corinth*- W. Clarke
3. *Milton* – L. Woolbright
4. *Saratoga Springs* – T. Carton – working with county grant to get engineering done on bog meadow bridge. Didn't have enough budgeted for engineering. And might look reissuing. Pitney Meadows. Bikeatoga – at Skidmore doing a bike film forum at 7pm. Police dept doing bike rodeo during the day. 9/27-9/28
5. *Malta* – A. Benway
6. *Wilton* – M. Olson – Erin (WWPP) – DEC mowing meadow habitats this fall and mowing overgrown trails. WWPP mowing trails on town lands this fall. Replacing trail markers that have fallen. Friday trail maintenance projects volunteers. Fixing kiosks, trails heads more welcoming and appealing, bicentennial trail completed – Camp Saratoga south to Edie Road parcel. Future trail connections being discussed
7. *Stillwater* – E. Kinowski
8. *Halfmoon* – J. Mitchell - CCT working group updated long range plan now publicly available supervisors meeting Oct 24<sup>th</sup> Washington County.
9. *Greenfield* – Charlie – see Palemertown discussion above
10. *Ballston Lake* – A. Dyer
11. *Ballston Spa* – would like to get added to local goals (add new members); new trustee
12. *Mechanicville* – T. Richardson
13. *Saratoga*
14. *Moreau*
15. *Open Space Institute* - K. Petronis
16. *Saratoga PLAN* – Mike Horn. – Carpenter Rhodes, Milton; Barkersville trail project - doing final due diligence.

## VII. Other

1. Educational/Information Presentations at future meetings
  - i. Empire State Trail Update - Jeff Olson
  - ii. DOT map- (invite Audrey from DOT & Others from DOT)
  - iii. Saratoga Greenbelt – Tina Carton?
  - iv. Other ideas?
2. Saratoga PLAN's Feast of the Fields – September 19, 2019
3. Trails Finance Forum – September 27, 2019

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

Monday, November 18, 2019