Countywide Trails Initiative

MEETING SUMMARY

Monday, November 18, 2019, 4:30 pm
Saratoga County Planning Office
50 West High Street, Ballston Spa

SARATOGA
P·L·A·N
PRESERVING LAND AND NATURE

Attendees: Alyssa Benway, Andy Damon, Carole Fraser, Bonnie Nightingale, John Mitchell, Linda Butchino, Bill Lasher, Erin McCabe, Tina Carton, Mike Horn, Mary Ann Morgan, Barb Kerr, William Clark, Jaclyn Hakes, & Pamela Landi

I. **Presentation: Trail Accessibility in Saratoga County, by Carol Fraser (Volunteer, Retired DEC)**
   Carol will talk about a project she is working on to inventory and assess accessibility of trails in Saratoga County, and also about training that she offers to help those who build and/or maintain trails improve accessibility in thoughtful, low cost ways

1. Carole is retired from DEC and volunteering for this effort. See ppt. Environmental clearing house of Schenectady county ECOS) is looking to create a publication with trail accessibility information. Some members have mobility issues but still wanted to get into he woods. They wanted to do a publication on accessible trails. ADA coordinator at DEC experience making natural areas accessible using universal design.

2. Several trails in Saratoga county selected for assessment. many trails were paved and accessible. Looking at more natural trails and trying to make accessible and to improvement mobility.

3. Seeking volunteers to conduct assessments on more types of trails to get people into a more wooded setting. Some may be looking for trails that have more quiet uses (not biking)

4. Universal trail assessment process. Beneficial designs developed. Barriers to trail use for people with limited mobility.
   i. Lack of knowledge of trail condition
   ii. Where is access possible

5. UTAP Principles
   i. Objective measurements
   ii. Description of trail head
   iii. Features of trail
   iv. Typical and extreme values
   v. Collect data in one assessment
   vi. Inform/coordinate with trail manager
   vii. Disseminate data to trail users.

6. Use station approach and divide trail into segments to identify existing conditions on trail – every 100 feet or at change in surface, tread, extremes, etc. Follow best path of travel at 36 inches wide

7. Recording features: location, zone (trail bed or visual field); feature information; size/quantity/units;

obstruction

8. Give people the information so they can make their own decisions based on their own abilities

9. Trail Access information – 'tip strip'

    i. Length; grade; cross slope; surface; width; features of facilities

    ii. Other information: Accessible parking; restrooms; benches; etc

    iii. 8% is standard slope.

10. United States Access Board outdoor developed areas publication

11. UTAP identifies the existing conditions. One way UTAP can be used is to compare to existing conditions to various standards (ADA, US Access Board)

12. Benefits: Knowledge of what exists; conveyed in a consistent manner; increased independence

13. Need volunteers! Willing to provide training. Would like to be read to go next year with the assessments. Carol will share list of those trails that have had initial assessments and work with PLAN identify additional trails to assess.

14. Possible opportunity to share digital data once completed (with County, PLAN, etc)

15. Discussion about ebikes – some entities are controlling weight and speed of power-controlled mobility device instead of defining the device (ebikes, wheelchairs, etc). NYS does have some legislation in the works regarding this issue.

II.   **Issues Discussion**

1. 2020 Meeting Schedule

    i. Moving off Mondays for meetings. Next meeting: January 16, 2020 at 4:30 pm. Charlie will schedule next meetings in January.

2. Discussion of 2020 Goals for the Board of Supervisors Trails Committee – Purpose of these goals is to provide the Board of Supervisors Trails Committee with a list of county-wide priorities and identify where County assistance (technical, etc) may be important to advance the effort.

    i. Zim Smith – keep and obtain updates from Jason Kemper for 2020

    ii. Champlain Canalway Projects – keep and update as needed

    iii. Equine trails – keep and update as needed

    iv. Palmertown regional trail system – keep for 2020

    v. Blueway Trails – consider removing and shifting to localized goals since there is not much known about needs and status

    vi. Consider adding Saratoga Greenbelt Trail – some trail connections identified on concept are outside City limits which would require partnerships. The vision is a regional vision requiring coordination of all parts together including Zim Smith Trail and Palmertown trail efforts.

    vii. Consider adding: Rail Trail between Saratoga Springs and Corinth - somewhat unknow the direction of the community for this as a trail. Could connect a variety of trail users (snowmobile trail, bicycles, etc) with crossing over Schroon River. Town of Corinth purchased ROW. Charlie to speak with more people to understand possibilities. Possibly a localized goal for 2020 instead?

3. Funding Opportunities

    i. County Trails Grants status update – committee meeting on 11/19 to make decision – positive outcome from previous Committee discussions related to increasing funding for trails funding given the volume of funding requests

    ii. NYSDEC Urban Forestry Grant due 12/4

4. Other? None.

III.   **2019 Goals for the County Board of Supervisors Trail Committee**
1. *Zim Smith –No updates*
   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 – no updates since last meeting*
   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. Still trying to schedule a public opening. Had lots of activity this fall and had a soft opening.
      2. Moreau – complete parking lot; connect to County Forest Land. Looking for new volunteer to be liaison between town and county (from horseman's assoc). Future is exciting. History: Years ago supervisors were receiving complaints about horses on Zim Smith. So, the County looked at other areas to be developed to take pressure off Zim Smith Trail.
      3. Lots of horses in Saratoga County (most of all counties in NYS, source unknown)

4. *Palmertown regional trail system –*
   i. Lincoln State Forest – expanded recreational opportunities (equine trails, mountain biking, snowmobile corridor, connections to communities)
   ii. Preference is to continue to allow for equine uses, if possible, in Lincoln State Forest. Entrance to Lincoln Mtn road might be good spot for parking area with accessible mounting areas.
   iii. November 25th meeting with DEC. Partnering with ADK Mountain club on trail scouting and planning.
   iv. First meeting of Committee was last week. Video is on PLAN website.

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
   iv. Hudson Valley Greenway continuing to push forward
   v. City of Saratoga Springs designing signage. One signage placement is at entrance to Kaydeross to let people know where the public access is located

IV.   **Localized Goals of Trails Committee for 2019**
1. Boyhaven (Milton) - development of trails and connections to Middle Grove State Forest. Mr. Munter is moving along with sale of portion of property and also moving forward with state. Once his has plans in place, it may make sense to have Mr. Munter come and provide an update to this committee.

2. Corinth trail system - Spruce Mtn Fire towner to Village of Corinth reservoir property. Would like to see application template used for Spruce Mtn trail template to cross Lyme Timber land during non-hunting season. Deer hunting rights may be a challenge in moving forward. Old jeep trail already exists. Wilcox Lake Unit Management Plan still in progress. Snowmobiles permitted, ATVs are not. W. Clark willing to reach out to Lyme Timber to see if they might be open to idea.
3. Extend the Ballston Bike Path - to Blue Barnes Road – no updates.
4. Saratoga Springs Greenbelt system – Downtown connector (shift to Countywide goals?)
    i. ROW phase. (easements for 3 property owners)
    ii. Construction contract for Geyser Road being awarded at next City Council meeting
    iii. State park to Hemlock Trail section in progress
    iv. Henry St pilot completed in September. Timing unfortunate – city closed High Rock parking for new parking garage during that time, concern with loss of parking. Takeaway – people are not aware of Greenbelt Trail.

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* -putting rapid flashing beacons for trails crossings.
2. *Corinth- W. Clarke* – looking to make improvements to parking area near Spruce Mtn.
3. *Milton – B. Kerr* – see Boyhaven discussion
4. *Saratoga Springs – T. Carton.* City of Saratoga Springs designing signage. One signage placement is at entrance to Kaydeross. See Greenbelt updates above.
5. *Malta – A. Benway – no updates*
6. *Wilton – M.Olson. no updates*
7. *Stillwater – E. Kinowski. No updates*
8. *Halfmoon – J. Mitchell* – trail crossing at 4/32 completed. Multiple use trail from lighthouse park to CCT.
9. *Greenfield* – C. Dake. Brookhaven Golf Course– Town looking to sustain restaurant; miles of cross-country trails; should support as much as possible.
10. *Ballston Lake – A. Dyer*
11. *Ballston Spa – Liz.* Add to distribution list. no update
12. *Mechanicville – T. Richardson. No updates.*
13. *Saratoga – T. Woods no update*
14. *Moreau –* Jackie to reach out to possible contact/representative for Town. no update
15. *Open Space Institute - K.Petronis – no update*
16. *Galway* – PLAN has started 2 new trails systems at Old Mill Road and Barkersville Road. Volunteers

put in bridge. Trails will be open to public in spring. Galway golf course (Rte 45 and Jockey) not opening next year and owners are looking at ideas of what to do. Currently has snowmobile trail. Prosperity Partnership looking at outdoor recreation as economic driver also.

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?

Upcoming Meeting Schedule: Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 4:30