

Economic Development Committee Minutes
August 2, 2011 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors A. Johnson, Kinowski, Sausville, Collyer, and Wood; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Jason Kemper, Planning; Maria Trabka, Saratoga PLAN; Press.

Chairman Daly called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Johnson the minutes of the July 6, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Kinowski said Mr. Carl Beard is from the National Park Service and he has been providing technical support to the Champlain Canalway Working Group for the past few years. This is a working group with representatives from Whitehall and Waterford working a map, link, and trail along the 58-mile corridor. Mr. Beard was instrumental in getting Champlain Canal action plan completed this spring and has requested the opportunity to present the plan to the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Kinowski said there was a need for an agenda and strategic plan in order to move forward for this year with regard to the county trail system. He said he asked Saratoga PLAN to give him five major items, which they did. The biggest one was the completion of the Zim Smith Trail, specifically the southern portion heading toward Mechanicville.

Mr. Kemper said a minor contract was established with Greenman Pedersen to look into extending the trail to Coons Crossing in the Town of Halfmoon and down to Mechanicville. The feasibility study was updated, and at the same time Saratoga PLAN has come forward and they sitting on a grant from Assemblyman Reilly and the process has begun to transfer that money to Saratoga County, he said. This would be a 100% funded grant right of way acquisition, and a lot of incidentals would be included in the grant. Mr. Kemper said if this can be done he expected that this could be done without any county funding whatsoever. If we are going to move forward on this trail, we need to begin to acquire the funding right away, he said.

Mr. Kinowski said Mr. Kemper, Mr. Richardson and he have met with Supervisor Wormuth with regard to a plan to move forward. There was a lot of assistance offered, however, Supervisor Wormuth decided that she would move forward on her own and is planning to meet with the landowners within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Kinowski said a booklet was completed by the Planning Department that lists all trails in Saratoga County and all the towns and their trail systems, so they would be all linking from an economic development prospective.

Ms. Trabka from Saratoga PLAN said calls have been coming in with regard to people getting lost on the Spruce Mountain trail because it isn't marked, and Saratoga PLAN doesn't feel as though they can mark a trail that is on other people's land. Mr. Kinowski said the county would be doing something through a request to the Trails Committee; however, details are not available as yet.

Ms. Daly asked Mr. Kinowski to thank the Governor's office for making sure that Saratoga County has a seat on the Regional Economic Development Council. Chairman Wood has, in his position as chairman, asked Ms. Daly to be the designee to serve for Saratoga County, which she has graciously accepted with honor, she said.

Ms. Trabka gave a brief overview of a power point presentation from the National Park Service.

Mr. Kinowski said the Zim Smith Trail would be submitted for national recognition

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Sausville the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom