

Trails Committee Minutes  
December 19, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Kinowski; Supervisors Veitch, and Wright; Devin Dalpos, Saratoga Springs; Larry Gordon, Gansevoort; Jason Kemper, Planning; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the October 4, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Update on the County Forestry Program

Mr. Kemper said there has been approximately \$100,000 worth of timber cut in the past two years. This year there will be approximately \$121,000 in revenue from the County Forest Lands. Three parcels are targeted for 2013, he said.

Mr. Kinowski said the reason for briefing the County Forestry Plan is because as they go through it opens up Equestrian Trails and trail systems on our lands.

Update on Equestrian Trail in the Town of Moreau

Mr. Kemper said there are 10 miles of GPS trails in the Town of Moreau including four parcels around Reynolds Road and the Water Authority. At the last Saratoga PLAN Trails meeting the equine community was asked what some of their thoughts were on what still needed to be done. He said over the winter DPW will probably do some of the required work with a trail most likely opening in the spring. He said work continues actively with Moreau State Park.

Update on Spruce Mountain

Mr. Kemper said all deeds have been signed and it now stands with the Attorney General's office, which has to approve the transfer of land in the State Comptroller's office.

Mr. Kemper said what is completed today is the wrap up for 2012 and he will be making a recommendation to the Chairman that this item stay on the agenda until it is approved.

Update on Zim Smith Trail extension to Mechanicville

Mr. Kemper presented a map of the trail extension to the committee and outlined some of the details. He said the Board of Supervisors authorized approximately one year ago up to \$180,000 to begin working with landowners to acquire the right of way along the trail. He said what has been spent to date is approximately \$9,500 with a minor contract with Greenman Peterson and Van Guilder Associates working to get some better survey data for the

preliminary trail design. He said he has been in contact with 15 landowners and have had discussions with them with no issues moving forward.

#### Update on Proposal for County Trail addition (City of Mechanicville/Waterford)

Mr. Kemper said the County Attorney has all the deeds, descriptions and maps for the property. He said they were looking for an easement to be given to the county which will help with partners and others as they apply for grants because it is all going to be Saratoga County property.

Mr. Kemper said with regard to the Zim Smith Trail, the connection to Luther Forest is approximately 90% complete. This will give a 1.2 mile spur from the Zim Smith up to the roundabout by the Luther Forest Tech Park.

Mr. Kinowski said Mr. Veitch has received emails about people dumping on trails and trail heads, and the Department of Public Works has been doing a tremendous job cleaning that up.

#### Proceeding with the trail system between Henning Preserve and County Forest Lands in Providence.

Mr. Kinowski said there was an immediate release from Saratoga PLAN entitled; Volunteers Build Nine Miles of Trails in Providence. He said the volunteers did not stop there, they needed a new challenge, so with PLAN's blessing and approach from the county Trails Chairman, PLAN volunteers moved swiftly to design and map the trail system through the summer. Within two months they had mapped out all the trails and were given the go from the county to cut and mark the trails. .

Mr. Kinowski thanked Mr. Kemper for a job well done and his continued support to the trails committee.

Mr. Veitch said there was an article in the paper about the Loudon Trail and potential hunting that is occurring during hunting season and trail walkers. He said something that is of concern is to make sure that everyone knows the rules when hunting or walking the trail. He said when the trail was first developed the issue did come up as to whether hunting was permitted on county lands and what should be done as a trails committee to deal with that. Mr. Kemper said this parcel was a tax acquired parcel, but the State did maintain that there should be 500 feet from a residence for hunting. Mr. Veitch said it is just educating people about the rules. He said there is a small logo on all signs that states hunting is permitted on the premises so people can be aware of that. I don't think that the county should be restricting hunting, but we should spell out what the rules are, he said. Mr. Kemper suggested during hunting season there could be a temporary sign that would be put in every trail parking lot stating the rules.

Mr. Kinowski said the signs should contain information that we want the public to understand such as a number to call or a site to visit followed by hunting is allowed on these trails and then identifying the points of contact if there are concerns.

Mr. Gordon said the hunters are obligated to understand what the rules are, which they do. Five hundred feet from an occupied dwelling has been there forever. He said with the new trail systems that are going in and the new people moving into the area, they don't understand what the hunter's rights are. It behooves us in our trail locations to notify the hikers when hunting season is in effect, which is not hard to do with a sign he said.

Mr. Veitch said the hunters have a right to be there and the hikers have a right to be there as well, but they need to be educated about what the hunters are doing on the property. He thanked the committee for their consideration on the matter.

**On a motion made by Mr. Dalpos, seconded by Mr. Veitch the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom