

Trails Committee Minutes

September 23, 2009 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Veitch; Supervisors Wright, Wormuth, and Richardson; Larry Gordon, Gansevoort; Devin Dalpos, Saratoga Springs; Jason Kemper, Planning; G. Hodgson, Environmental Services; Julie Stokes, Saratoga PLAN.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the July 22, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Veitch gave a brief overview of the Kalabus/Perry Trail Proposal as follows:

Mr. Veitch said this is a lot that straddles the towns of Northumberland and Wilton. There is already a road that has been cut through the lot. This is the lot that the BOCES forestry classes use for their training. Upon a walk through on the property, it was noted that there are mountain bike trails, walking trails and trails cut for logging classes, with most of the trails on the Kalabus lot.

Mr. Veitch said he would like to develop the Kalabus lot into an extensive trail network, marking everything that is already there and set it up as the trail. The second lot, which is the Perry Lot, is currently just a road. All in all, there are approximately five to ten miles of trails throughout the property.

Mr. Veitch said most of the work in establishing the trail system will be done by BOCES. It is anticipated that it will take several months to complete.

Mr. Veitch said he will keep the committee informed on the progress of the trail system.

Mr. Gordon gave a brief update on the progress of the Bullard Lane Trail system including the following points:

Currently, all trails are being cleared to 8 ft. wide as well as the disposing of brush. All the trails systems are totally in place, both on the State property and town property.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief update on the Loudon Trail as follows:

After checking the register, it appears that the trails are averaging four to six people a day. Signage still needs to be put in place with regard to dumping and marking of the trails.

Mrs. Stokes said it would be good for the county to look at a consistent countywide signage system, now that there are a series of trails being developed.

Mrs. Stokes said the equine community is really pleased with the Loudon Trail and they are currently working on an event idea that would be held to promote the trail.

Mr. Veitch said all the trails would have entry signs that look the same. Trail markers will be round and color-coded.

Mrs. Stokes said all the trails should be put on the county website, where trail maps can be accessed.

Mr. Gordon said the signage should contain information that the parks are open from dawn to dusk.

Mrs. Wormuth said the town of Halfmoon has been working with Norfolk Southern concerning the trail access and flood plain issues.

One of the stipulations for building the trail is the approval of all easements. There is some additional work that will have to be done on private property, with six or seven individual parcels where easements will need to be obtained.

Mrs. Stokes said Saratoga PLAN is going to need assistance from the County. She said she is hopeful that the Trails Committee will authorize Mr. Kemper to begin working with Saratoga PLAN to make contact with the six property owners. Mrs. Stokes said the option would need to be implemented within the next five years.

Mr. Veitch said requested a motion from the Trails Committee to forward the easement requirements with regard to the Zim Smith Trail in the Town of Halfmoon on to the Economic Development Committee, and to actively work with Saratoga PLAN and the County.

A motion was made by Mr. DalPos, seconded by Mr. Richardson to forward easement requirements with regard to the Zim Smith Trail extension to railyards in the Town of Halfmoon on to the Economic Development Committee and to encourage partnering with Saratoga PLAN and the County. Unanimous.

Mrs. Stokes said Saratoga PLAN has a subdivision easement on 640 acres in the town of Providence. The owners of the property are in seventeen different parcels and are now in need of getting out of it. Saratoga PLAN has been working with the Providence Planning Board to adjust the lot lines, so that the two houses can be sold. This will allow 630 acres to be available for a trail system.

Mrs. Stokes said Saratoga PLAN is currently trying to get the trail system up to the Spruce Mountain Fire Tower so it can be restored. At this point, Saratoga County and the Department of Environmental Conservation are in discussions with regard to Sewer

violations. The County Attorney was hopeful that DEC would use, as payment, a couple of acres on the top of Spruce Mountain.

Mr. Richardson thanked Mr. Kemper, Mrs. Wormuth and Mrs. Stokes for all their hard work toward the Zim Smith Trail System.

Mr. Richardson said in doing all these trail systems, we should be thinking about Mr. Ritchey and the DPW crew to ensure that they have the staff to help maintain the trails.

On a motion made by Mr. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Wright the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom