

## Trails Committee Minutes

September 2, 2010 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Veitch; Supervisors Kinowski and Wright; Devin Dal Pos, Saratoga Springs; Larry Gordon, Gansevoort; George Hodgson, Environmental Services; Jason Kemper, Planning; James Mitchell, Steve Godlewski, Saratoga Springs Mountain Bike Association; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Gordon the minutes of the May 19, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Veitch gave a brief update on the Bullard Lane/Edie Road Trail as follows: The three trailheads have been marked with signs. The official opening of the trail was held on July 31<sup>st</sup>. He commended Mr. Gordon and his team for helping out with the construction of the trail along with DPW personnel.

Mr. Veitch distributed a copy of the Kalabus Lot/Perry Lot trail and gave a brief update as follows: The trail has been under construction for approximately a year. The BOCES team has been working on it; however, it has been brought to his attention that a new person will be taking over.

Mr. Hodgson said that it looks like Mr. Flynn is headed to the Warren County BOCES. Mr. Flynn has historically provided an outstanding conservation course, teaching students the conservation ethic. Not the least of which is going out and doing property delineation for the trail work that they were going to be doing. Mr. Hodgson said he is waiting to meet with the BOCES programming director to help put things together.

Mr. Gordon said Mr. Flynn has done a lot with the Kalabus Lot/Perry Lot and the Northumberland and Wilton portions, using the county forest as an outdoor teaching classroom. It is very important that we are in contact with BOCES to understand what is happening and where we go from here, he said.

Mr. Veitch said that he would like to see the Kalabus Lot/Perry Lot trail finished sooner rather than later. He asked the committee to think about whether they would like to go to the Department of Public Works and ask them to finish the trail so that it could be opened or wait until BOCES gives an answer as to what they are doing. Mr. Veitch said he would suggest contacting DPW and asking them to finish the trail.

Mr. Hodgson suggested that before any contact is made with DPW that he have time to speak to BOCES. He stated, the agreement with BOCES was renewed last December. Mr. Hodgson said he would report back to the committee within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Hodgson said the contract with BOCES is a voluntary contract, in that, with a thirty days notice it can be breached. Mr. Hodgson said he did indicate to the Superintendent at BOCES the importance of continuity and there may be reason to re-examine the agreement with them to see if the continuation of the agreement is in the best interest of the county.

Mr. Veitch distributed a map of the Loudon Trail that was opened in August of 2009 to all committee members. The trail has seen a lot of use over the last year and there have been some reports that there is maintenance needed on the trail. Mr. Veitch said, there should to be a maintenance plan established for all trails going forward.

Mr. Veitch said he would like to recommend to the Public Works Committee that there be some money set aside in next years budget for trail maintenance.

Mr. Kinowski suggested partnering with the towns that the trails exist in for help in maintaining the trails. Mr. Veitch said that certainly could be explored.

Mr. Wright said that the county has enough trails currently, that a part-time individual hired for maintenance could keep busy for the summer, working on all the trails. It is time to come up with a maintenance plan.

Mr. Dal Pos suggested an “Adopt the Trail” program.

Mr. Veitch said the mileage for trails going into the next few years would most likely reach toward 30 to 40 miles. He said he could reach out to the

Department of Public Works asking if they would consider trail maintenance as part of their 2011 budget.

Mr. Gordon said the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park maintains all of the connecting trails to the park, including the Nature Conservancy, and trails on both State and town lands as a courtesy to all those who use the trails. He said the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park would have no problem in maintaining Bullard Lane and Edie Road.

Mr. Mitchell said, the Saratoga Mountain Bike Association, consisting of approximately 400 members, maintains approximately 18 miles of trail solely through volunteer efforts. There is a group of officers that organizes trail maintenance two or three times a year, with a significant turnout of between 30 to 40 people.

Mr. Veitch said he would like to consider working with the Saratoga Mountain Bike Association to design a trail. Any county approved use of the trail would be permitted. The benefit to the county would be that a group is going to adopt the trail and maintain it for us, he said.

Mr. Mitchell said, they are a mountain bike group, but they are here to advocate trails and access to not just their members, but the general population.

Mr. Veitch said, the committee would keep looking to partner with different organizations to help with the maintenance of the trails when the opportunity arises.

Mr. Kemper said there has been a lot of interest in the Zim Smith trail, and it should be completed by mid September.

**On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Dal Pos the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom