

Trails Committee Minutes

December 9, 2010 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Veitch; Supervisor Wright; Jason Kemper, Planning; Dennis Flynn, BOCES; Press.

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

Mr. Veitch said he asked Mr. Kemper to inquire at the Department of Public Works as to what the rate would be for a worker to do maintenance. Mr. Kemper looked at each of the county trails and put together a proposal for each one as to what it would cost for maintenance.

Mr. Veitch outlined the costs for county seasonal workers as follows:

Full time seasonal worker: \$7,700 – June 1st - September 1st
Half time seasonal worker: \$3,850 – June 1st – September 1st

Total proposed costs for all trails: \$1,920

M. Kemper outlined his Trail Maintenance Proposal for 2011 as follows:

Zim Smith Trail

Mr. Kemper said that approximately every two weeks he rides the trails and has not had to contact the Department of Public Works with any issues at all this summer. This will be the first full year the trail has not had on going work on it.

A memorandum was signed with the Charlton Snowmobile Club where the majority of the trees and limbs that come down over the winter are taken care of by the club. They will also clear brush and limbs in the fall and again in the spring. Mr. Kemper suggested that the county supply a ½ to 1 full day of labor in the spring and again in the fall to do any additional work that may be necessary.

Mowing around the Malta Park is performed by the Town of Malta, and the area around the Village of Round Lake is taken care of by the Village. All other mowing responsibilities will be the responsibility of Saratoga County. Mr. Kemper suggested that there be a schedule of at least three to four mowings during the summer months. In the past, mowing has taken approximately 8-10 hrs. to do the full length of the trail.

Mr. Veitch said 10 hrs. @ \$16/hr for a seasonal laborer with no benefits x four mowings would be a total of \$640.

The tree limbs and brush that would be done would be 8 hrs. @ \$16/hr x two days for a total of \$256.

Most of the other issues that come up can be handled by the Towns, Dept. of Public Works, or Planning Department.

Loudon Road Trail

Mr. Kemper said this is the only trail that we don't have a group looking after it right now. He is suggesting on full day of labor in the spring and one full day of labor in the fall to remove any trees or brush from the trail. He is also suggesting that a seasonal employee spend about an hour or two a week on the trail to pick up whatever is left in the parking lot or other issues that may arise.

Mr. Veitch said at 8/ hrs x \$16 for 2 days the total cost would be \$256

2/hrs a week x \$16/hr x 12 weeks would be a total cost of \$384

Kalibus-Perry Trail

Mr. Kemper said BOCES will be addressing the majority of the maintenance issues. He is suggesting one full day of labor in the spring and on day in the fall to take care of any large trees or limbs on the trails. The county should have some time allotted to the parking lot if it needs to be addressed.

Mr. Veitch said at 8/hrs x \$16/hr for two days the total cost would be \$256.

Edie-Bullard Trail

Mr. Veitch said that BOCES will cover most of the major maintenance of this trail through a contract we are proposing. Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park has also agreed to adopt this trail for the minor cleanup and maintenance issues. The county Department of Public Works may need someone to get involved if there is major work to be done.

Mr. Veitch said at 4/hrs x \$16/hr for 2 days the total cost would be \$128.

Mr. Veitch suggested forwarding the Trail Maintenance Proposal to the County Administrator's office for review.

Mr. Veitch said after discussions with Mr. Flynn and walking the Edie-Bullard Trail, it was recognized that there are some issues of tree stumps on the trail. Discussions took place on having BOCES students clean up the trail.

Mr. Veitch said he has had discussions with Mr. Rider and Mr., Kemper with regard to what it would take for BOCES to continue to do work on the Edie-Bullard Trail. Mr. Rider has established a draft agreement stating that BOCES will do any maintenance work on the Edie-Bullard Trail for educational purposes.

Mr. Veitch said he reached out to the Wilton Wildlife Park in late September with regard to an Adopt-A-Trail program for maintenance on trails. At the October Board Meeting in Wilton, it was unanimously approved to adopt the Edie-Bullard Trail for maintenance. The next step will be to have Mr. Kemper work with the Wilton Wildlife Park to ensure that they have insurance on the trail.

Mr. Veitch said next year the committee would be looking at including a mountain bike trail in the Town of Northumberland.

Mr. DalPos said having a Mountain Bike Trail is good to have because it is something different. Being more diversified will help to get more people involved and more publicity for the trails.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom