

TRAILS COMMITTEE  
June 28, 2011, 3:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Ed Kinowski, Chairman; Supervisors Veitch, Richardson and Wood; Jason Kemper, Planning Director; Devin DalPos, Saratoga Springs; Maria Trabka, Saratoga Plan; Press.

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

On a motion by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the March 29, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

Chairman Kinowski said before he gets to the agenda items he wanted to re-hash a couple of items to explain where he is going for 2011 and what he has done to familiarize himself for his role as Chairman. He said that basically he spent some time in the Planning Department asking questions and getting answers to help him achieve this. He said he wanted to develop a strategy to move forward with the trails such as identifying funding streams, man hours worked by the Planning Department and the Department of Public Works, identify all County owned lands (which was completed by the Planning Department), work with the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and local club's assistance with the trails.

Chairman Kinowski asked Mr. Kemper to give an update on the Zim Smith Trail. Mr. Kemper said the Supervisors in the room all have copies of the feasibility study that was completed for the possible extension of the trail by 3 miles into the City of Mechanicville. He said this will connect all the towns north along the river to south along the river which has been a key priority for the County. Mr. Kemper said this will give an idea of the right of ways that are needed. He said in the Town of Halfmoon there is an option pending for 7 acres which needs to be moved on within 5 years and this is year 2. Another issue, he said, is that Saratoga Plan has a \$250,000 member item from Assemblyman Riley given specifically for right of ways to make this trail happen. He suggested a meeting between the towns, the city and Saratoga Plan to discuss this and come to a decision. Thirdly, NYSEG is extremely interested in working with the County on this corridor as they need it to reach a project that is in the works, Mr. Kemper stated. Mr. Kemper said his main priority would be a meeting between the Town of Halfmoon, City of Mechanicville, Town of Stillwater, NYSEG, Saratoga Plan and Saratoga County. He said right now would be a great opportunity for cost sharing between NYSEG, Saratoga Plan and Saratoga County. Securing the rights of way is the most important part of this, Mr. Kemper stated.

Mr. Kinowski said he has two questions with the first one being what authority this ad hoc committee has and if this committee decides to move ahead what does that really mean. Mr. Kemper said he would be uncomfortable without bringing this before Economic Development and ultimately the full Board of Supervisors. Mr. Kinowski said that this Committee will forward it to the Economic Development Committee. He said that his second question was about the right of ways/which parcels. Mr. Kemper said they were identified in the feasibility study and Mr. Kinowski acknowledged receiving the file which included that information. There was then a discussion on right of ways and what is the best approach to take to get them. After some discussion it was decided that the Supervisors on this Committee would approach the landowners. Mr. Richardson said the landowners may be confused as they have received correspondence from Saratoga Plan as well as NYSEG and a personal conversation is what is needed now. The amount of land needed for the right of way was then discussed as well as what

part of the property is needed. Mr. Richardson stressed the importance of moving ahead quickly as NYSEG is doing work in that area and may be able to assist with the trail now. Chairman Kinowski said a tentative date of July 6<sup>th</sup> was set for the meeting between the County, the affected municipalities, NYSEG and Saratoga Plan.

Chairman Kinowski said with regards to the County Trail Information item he wanted to note that the County Trail information is on the web; however, it is not easily accessed. He suggested researching how to make it easier to access. Mr. Veitch said he would look into how to make that work the best.

Chairman Kinowski gave an update on Spruce Mountain. He said he was going to put together information for the Law and Finance Committee and when he started to do this there were issues that he thought time would take care of and proposed putting this information together by next July.

Chairman Kinowski spoke about nominating the Zim Smith Trail as a National Recreation Trail. He said this was suggested at the last meeting and was going to look into it along with the Planning Office. Mr. Kemper said Saratoga Plan originally brought this to the County's attention, would be a huge recognition and may set the County up for some Federal funding. Chairman Kinowski said the application can go ahead as is and Mr. Kemper said he would prepare the application for the Board's approval.

Chairman Kinowski said he spoke with Saratoga Plan's Trail Committee and asked them to give him a list of their top five (5) projects. The one, he said, that stuck out to him was to develop a joint trail system between the County's forest land in the Town of Providence and Saratoga Plan's Hennig Preserve. Mr. Kemper said this land was one of the last harvests that the prior Forestry Manager did and sits directly across the road from Saratoga Plan's more than 700 acres. Mr. Kemper passed around a map showing the area of discussion. Ms. Trabka of Saratoga Plan said volunteers have been in the area working on this trail and have been working on a proposal connecting the trails and hoped to have horseback riding available on the County forest portion. She said between the two there is more than 1,100 acres. Mr. Kemper said Ms. Trabka mentioned horses and they have had some issues with them with regards to parking and how much room trucks/trailer take up and went on to say there was a harvest in the Town of Moreau that would be a better place for them. He said bids are in for additional harvesting that will open up more property and give them more room to park. After that harvest, he said, there will be over 300 acres that could be proposed for equestrian use. Chairman Kinowski asked Mr. Kemper to keep this Committee up to date on this project. Mr. Veitch said this is going to be great when it's done. Mr. Wood asked if shoulders of roads or roads are ever used to complete trails. Mr. Kemper said yes, absolutely we do especially when a road needs to be crossed. Chairman Kinowski asked about ownership of the trail. Mr. Kemper answered that each group keeps ownership of their own part. Mr. Veitch said in the case of Wilton Wildlife there is an agreement with them to maintain the trail and if there are bigger issues than County's DPW will take care of that. He said that is the case with most of the trail with the exception of a couple of areas in which he and Mr. Kemper maintain with the assistance of DPW.

Mr. Veitch asked when the Moreau section would be completed and could be signed. Mr. Kemper said bids were received last Thursday to cut an additional piece and he is proposing to go to the Board this month to accept that bid. At that time, he said, the logger can get in and out with the hopes of doing something in the fall. Mr. Veitch asked if the trail would be open in the

fall. Mr. Kemper said that was his hope. He added that it is over 300 acres with a lot of loops and ample parking. He said the State Park has approached him about having it be an equestrian destination and proposed helping with a trail from the Moreau State Park to the County's trail. Mr. Veitch said he had one other question about signage on the Zim Smith Trail and said he sent out ideas that he had. Mr. Kemper said he did speak with DPW about the signs/trail markers and the sign shop will be making them and that green road signs that will have the towns on both sides will be included.

With no other business to come before this committee and on a motion by Tom Richardson, seconded by Devin DalPos the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Hargrave, Clerk