

Trails Committee Minutes
October 4, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Kinowski; Supervisors Wright, Veitch, Richardson and Wood; Devin Dalpos, Saratoga Springs; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning; Press.

Chairman Kinowski 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 June 28, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief update on the county Forestry Program and Equestrian Trail in the town of Moreau. He said the forestry program has been delayed due to the dry weather, but will continue this fall.

Mr. Kinowski said the equestrian trail for the Town of Moreau is moving along with a trail opening to be announced soon. He said all the logging trails that are opened up will not be for vehicle use. Snowmobiles are not classed that way, so they will be allowed.

Mr. Kinowski said work continues in cleaning up Spruce Mountain. Mr. Kemper said the County Attorney and the Chairman have signed all agreements, which were sent on to the DEC. DEC will then forward it on to the State Comptroller's Office and then to the Attorney General's Office. Once they are approved there, the county will receive the Deed back. He said DEC has not put a time frame together with regard to a response time, as yet.

Mr. Kinowski said he spoke to Mr. Becker of Pan Am Southern about the five year window that was given in working with the Town of Halfmoon Planning Board and told him about the phased approach. Mr. Becker reiterated that they were very liberal along this line considering what the land involved and how far away it was from the track and the fact that it was a wetland. He said they specifically worked the details out so we would not have to go back to the Army Corp of Engineers in order to use it as a trail head. Mr. Becker said if the county would send periodic updates, he didn't see an issue going on beyond the five years.

Mr. Veitch asked about the landowner portion of the trail. Mr. Kinowski said they are working the Eastern portion toward the City of Mechanicville first. As for the northern portion, they have been working with some property owners.

Mr. Kemper said the Board authorized approximately a year and a half ago up to \$180,000 for acquisition rights. Since then meetings have taken place with the engineers to come through the subdivisions.

Mr. Richardson said the Mayor has talked to the City of Mechanicville Attorney where a letter will be drafted to be presented to the County Attorney stating that the City of Mechanicville is

willing to grant an easement to run the trail across the piece of property that is now behind Momentive Performance Materials.

Mr. Kinowski asked Mr. Veitch what his thoughts were with regard to the Zim Smith Northern Connection. Mr. Veitch said he would like to see the Southern end of the trail finished before beginning the Northern end. The committee agreed.

Mr. Kemper said Saratoga PLAN has created a number of trails between the Hennig Preserve and the County Forest lands in the Town of Providence. He said volunteers are in the process of putting up signage on the three miles of trails.

Mr. Kinowski asked Mr. Kemper if he would establish a trail maintenance proposal as he did last year showing how much money is required to maintain the trail systems. He said there are a number of people helping out, including the County Public Works Department.

Mr. Kinowski said the next Trails Committee meeting will take place in December. A date will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Kinowski asked the committee how they would like to pursue any town support or help or updates from towns on their trail systems. Mr. Wright suggested that a letter be drafted and put into all Supervisors' mailboxes.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom