

Trails Committee Minutes  
March 4, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Supervisors Veitch, Wright, Wormuth, Collyer and Grattidge; Larry Gordon, Gansevoort; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; League of Women Voters; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the December 29, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Kemper said the Rucinski property is on the county auction for March, and after speaking to the County Attorney, it was thought that the best way to proceed for a right of way for the Zim Smith Trail would be to have a survey done and completed on what would be needed for the trail and to subdivide the small section of land from the overall parcel prior to it going on the auction block. Mr. Kemper requested committee approval to recommend that the parcel be removed from the March auction list in order to give some time to get the small parcel subdivided, and time to work with the town of Halfmoon with whatever their requirements are. The total parcel is 146 acres, with approximately 4 acres needed for the trail. He said the four acres that is being looked at is not developable land.

Mr. Dorsey said the remaining 142 acres would be sold at the September auction. He said at this point there has been no attempt to redeem the property by the owner.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Veitch requesting a resolution to be forwarded to the E&A Committee, Economic Development Committee and Law and Finance Committee to pull the entire Rucinski parcel from the March 2013 Auction, and to authorize the County Attorney, Director of Planning and Chairman of the Board to take any and all actions necessary to secure any documents necessary to subdivide the property into two parcels; one, approximately 142 acres and the other approximately 4 acres, for the purpose of retaining ownership of the 4 acre parcel for the Zim Smith Trail Extension and selling the main parcel at the September 2013 Auction. Unanimous.**

Mr. Kemper gave an update on the Forestry Program stating that the budgeted revenue for 2013 was \$150,000 from the timberlands. He said there are currently four parcels, one in Corinth, two in Moreau and one, split between Northumberland and Wilton. The bids are in and work will begin to harvest the four parcels. Mr. Kemper said as the parcels are harvested they will be opened up for trail use.

Mr. Kemper said there was a large parcel of land that was harvested around the Moreau State Park. The trails have been put on GPS, and as soon as the snow is gone his office will work with

DPW to put the signage up. He said it is anticipated that all the trails that were previously harvested will be opened for Equine use in the spring.

Mr. Kemper said a parcel on Spruce Mountain was subdivided out where the old radio tower was and will be donated to the Department of Environmental Conservation. A signed contract has been received and a closing date is anticipated in April.

Mr. Kemper said approximately two months ago he attended a presentation in the Town of Halfmoon on a subdivision that Mr. Tanski was working on. He said he was appreciative of the efforts of the Town of Halfmoon to be able to keep the connections for the Zim Smith Trail, and of Mr. Tanski's donation of a right of way along the railway.

Mr. Kemper said there is a minor contract with Greenman Pederson Engineering and Gilbert Van Guilder Associates to get from the City of Mechanicville to the Tanski Property. Meetings have taken place with the Mechanicville School District where they had a couple of minor requirements that will be taken care.

Mr. Richardson thanked Mr. Kemper and Mrs. Wormuth for their work in helping to make the trail into Mechanicville possible.

Mr. Richardson said the easement in the Town of Waterford is a piece of property that is located behind Performance Materials that the City of Mechanicville owns, and the city has given the county a right for an easement to go across that property.

Mr. Kemper said the City of Mechanicville owns a strip of land in the town of Waterford. The issue was that it was outside the City of Mechanicville and the Town of Waterford had no interest in owning the parcel, and the City of Mechanicville didn't have the necessary resources to build the trail or to apply for funding. There are some concerns about dumping that has occurred on the parcel in the past, and the county did not want to own the parcel; therefore, the easiest way would be to have an easement established that would give the county the ability to construct a multi-use trail in the future and to oversee any grant applications to get the trail constructed.

Mr. Richardson said everyone is on board with this and they are very happy to see this happen. He said this is an important trail coming toward Mechanicville intersecting with the Zim Smith trail that comes into Mechanicville by the waterfront. Mechanicville is in the process of building a new building at the waterfront that has bathrooms and hot and cold showers that will be accessible to everyone on the trails and the waterfront, he said.

Mr. Richardson said the following items are still being worked on with Saratoga PLAN:

- Bringing the Zim Smith Trail into Mechanicville
- An Easement from Mechanicville on the Canal way Trail
- Bringing the canal way from Halfmoon across Rt. 4 and 32

- Continuing to coordinate the work and progress between the county forest and Saratoga PLAN properties
- Equine properties in Moreau
- Coordinate efforts with DEC to ensure legal access to spruce mountain

Mr. Richardson announced the appointment of Mr. Kinowski as committee Vice Chairman.

Mr. Richardson said the Dix Bridge is in the process of being worked on with a possible ribbon cutting ceremony either late summer or early fall. The bridge will be for trails only, he said.

**On a motion made by Mr. Kemper, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom