

Trails Committee Minutes
August 12, 2013 – 1:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Supervisors Wright, Kinowski and Grattidge; Jason Kemper, Planning; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the June 13, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Kemper said this year there were four parcels that were scheduled for harvest and currently they are half way through the second parcel.

With regard to Spruce Mountain, the Deeds were received back from DEC. The County has signed them and the County Attorney has issued the TP's and has sent them back to the DEC for a final signature.

The Zim Smith trail extension into Mechanicville has two grants that are being worked on, one which is a CFA grant that will cover design and permitting for the entire length of the trail, and the other grant will be used to design and construct the extension from Mechanicville up to Coons Crossing. Mr. Kemper said they would be applying for the maximum funding. The total funding is approximately \$3 million for all the DOT regions.

Mr. Richardson said the Rucinski parcel is approximately 145 acres along the railroad in the same area that the Zim Smith Trail was being built. Since the parcel is now owned by the county approximately 4 acres have been portioned off for the trail, and the remaining 141 acres will be auctioned in September.

Mr. Richardson said the Champlain Canal Way Trail System is going to go from Waterford to Whitehall. Meetings have been taking place on a monthly basis for several years and there is quite a bit of activity that has taken place. There are many different sections that have been completed and Waterford has their section completed up to Momentive Performance Materials. Last month the City of Mechanicville gave the county an easement to go over a piece of property behind Momentive Performance Materials that takes the Trail to Halfmoon. Halfmoon has been working on their piece along with Stillwater and the Town of Saratoga has a section completed past the Saratoga Battlefield. There are also other sections that are being worked on and completed past the Dix Bridge, which will be a part of the system as well. Mr. Richardson said the Dix Bridge is scheduled to be completed by the end of October.

Mr. Richardson requested a resolution of support for the Champlain Canal Way Trail System to be used for support in applying for grants.

Mr. Richardson said all the money that has been raised has been from either the local communities or from grants.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Wright to approve a resolution of support for the Champlain Canal Way Trail System. Unanimous.

Mr. Richardson said the Lakes to Locks Passage has been working with the Historic Hudson Hoosick Partnership with regard to the Visitor Center in the Village of Schuylerville. The partnership has received grants to offset expenses. It is anticipated that in September the property will be purchased from the grant money; however, DEC will be the owner of the property and they will sign an agreement to allow the Visitor's Center to be built. There are other grants that are being worked on totaling just under \$900,000 that will need to be matched to be used to build the Gateway Visitors Center on the same location. Inside the center will be from each community that is a part of the partnership, a spot for each community to give the location of the community and any amenities that the community may have.

Mr. Richardson said a proposal will be made to the Economic Development Committee with regard to the possibility of using some of the county timber land to help with the grant match. The hope would be to obtain the timber at no expense, but the expense of cutting down the timber would be paid for by the partnership and locating it in Schuylerville for the Visitors Center.

Mr. Richardson said some of the members of the partnership include, the Village and Town of Waterford, Town of Halfmoon, City of Mechanicville, Village and Town of Stillwater, Town of Saratoga, Village of Schuylerville and Victory Mills, Northumberland, Village and Town of Corinth, Queensbury, Village and Town of Fort Edward, Greenwich, Easton, Schaghticoke and many not for profits such as the Open Space Institute, Saratoga PLAN, Friends of the Battlefield, and Siena College.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom