

Trails Committee Minutes
April 15, 2014 – 3:15.p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Supervisors Veitch, Wright, and Martin; Larry Gordon, Town of Wilton; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the August 12, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Update on County Forestry Program

Mr. Kemper said in 2013 the revenues at the end of the year met budget projections with four parcels that were bid on receiving \$150,000 in revenue. Mr. Kemper said the forestry program has been scaled back from its \$150,000 revenue projections to between \$65,000 and \$70,000.

Update on Spruce Mountain Fire Tower

Mr. Kemper said currently the Fire Tower is in the hands of the DEC where they are working on opening up access to the tower through an easement on private property.

Update on Zim Smith Trail

Mr. Kemper said in 2013 they were unsuccessful with both CFA applications. Currently out of the thirteen property owners, there are four that have not made contact back. A minor contract request with Gilbert and Associates of approximately \$8,500 has been made through the County Administrator's office to acquire the necessary right of way maps, and a 10,000 minor contract with Greenman Pederson to redraw the lines through property owned by Mr. Tansky. He said since no federal funding has been received as yet, his office is trying to make sure that everything they do adheres to the federal highway administration, so as to not jeopardize things in the future.

Update on Champlain Canalway Trail System

Mr. Richardson said the City of Mechanicville has given the county an easement so they can work on property that is behind Momentive Performance Materials on Rt. 4. He said he recently had a meeting with city officials where the Town of Halfmoon has a piece of the trail already put together that they want to connect to Mechanicville. The City of Mechanicville has agreed to give Halfmoon an easement so they can extend their trail going north into Mechanicville, and in return Halfmoon will complete work on a small piece of property that the

City of Mechanicville owns so the City won't have to take care of it. Mr. Richardson said the Zim Smith Trail and the Champlain Canalway Trail will intersect at the Mechanicville waterfront with an anticipated grand opening in May. He said eventually the Champlain Canalway Trail System will go from Waterford to Whitehall.

Mr. Richardson said in the Village of Schuylerville the old town hall building has been raised and the Hudson/Hoosick partnership is in the process of buying the land from the Town of Saratoga where a new Gateway Visitors Center will be built. He said \$900,000 in grant money has been received thus far for this project. The Gateway Visitors Center will offer an opportunity for all the communities along the river, in Washington, part of Rensselaer and Saratoga County to display a plaque inside the building depicting a historic site within their County. He said the Hudson/Hoosick partnership has obtained a total of \$5 million in grant monies thus far.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom