

Trails Committee Minutes
July 15, 2014 - 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Supervisors Veitch, Wright, Martin, Kinowski, Wood and Sausville; Devin DalPos, Saratoga Springs; Julie Stokes, Saratoga PLAN; Chris Cornwell, GPI; Jason Kemper, Planning.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Martin the minutes of the April 15, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Kemper updated the committee on the Zim Smith Trail project stating that there are currently two minor contracts going on, one with GPI to solidify arrangements with Mr. Tanski, NYSEG and the railroad; the other minor contract is with Van Guilder Associates, a survey firm from Clifton Park who is doing all of the right-of-way mapping.

Mr. Kemper said there have been a series of contracts to complete the portion of the trail from Coons Crossing to Elizabeth Street in the City of Mechanicville, which is approximately 3 miles. He said at the same time they are looking at a connection from Oak Street in Ballston Spa going to the Saratoga Spa State Park; continuing to work with New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, (OPRHP).

Mr. Cornwell from Greenman Pedersen, Inc. gave a brief power point presentation on the Zim Smith Trail project.

Mr. Kemper said he would like to finish up the right of way mapping through a minor contract by the end of July. He said following the Federal process a request for qualifications (RFQ) will be sent out to a number of firms and then have a committee at the county to select a firm, and then a fee will be negotiated with the firm to complete the project. He said in the fall a public information meeting will be held to go over the project. He said it is anticipated that by spring of 2015 there will be a project design in hand and the project will be shovel ready.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Martin to authorize the Planning Department to move forward with the final design and ROW acquisition for the Zim Smith Trail Extension. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief update on the county forestry plan, stating that the parcel in Moreau has been completed. Work is now in progress on two parcels in the town of Corinth.

Mr. Kemper said there is a parcel in the town of Moreau state park which presents a great opportunity for equine use. Work is continuing with Cornell Cooperative Extension and DPW.

Mr. Richardson updated the committee on the Champlain Canalway Trail System, stating that the Town of Waterford has already completed their section behind Momentive Performance Materials. He said he has been working with the Town of Waterford and Halfmoon to move a section through Mechanicville. He said Halfmoon has a grant they are working on to start construction north and completing a part of the trail in Mechanicville as well.

Mr. Richardson said that Mount McGregor is a piece of property that has a great opportunity as far as trails are concerned.

Mrs. Stokes requested a resolution of support of all the vacant land that is being transferred to state parks, excluding all the buildings, water systems and sewer systems and also allowing access up to Grants Cottage. She said this is moving forward, and the Commissioner of State Parks wrote a letter last week to OGS asking for the transfer of the property.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Veitch to approve a resolution of support to transfer 762.63 acres from Mount McGregor State Correctional Facility to be added to Moreau Lake State Park and Grant Cottage State Historic Site in the Towns of Corinth, Wilton and Moreau. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Veitch the meeting was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom