

Trails Committee Minutes
May 3, 2018 – 2:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee members Preston Allen, Devin Dal Pos, Jason Kemper, Paul Lent, Matt Veitch and Tom Wood; Allison Hargrave, Planning; Jarrett Sweet, Planning Intern; Margie Van Meter, 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. Wood the minutes of the October 12, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief update on the following:

County Forestry

Providence Parking Lot

Mr. Kemper said that the 2018 harvest has not been finalized at this point. The County recently pulled a parcel in Corinth from the March 2018 auction and they are currently evaluating whether to harvest this lot and then return the parcel back for auction.

Zim Smith Trail

Mr. Kemper said that they have received full approval for the right of way acquisition. The cost is approximately \$223,600 for 13-14 parcels. For Mechanicville School district parcel, originally the school district was planning to build the parking lot and be reimbursed however it was decided that that it is in the best interest to not wait and instead have the County build the lot and have the school district connect into it at a future date. Mr. Kemper will be bringing the ROW acquisition to the Economic Development committee scheduled for later today. Mr. Kemper said that all property owners have agreed to the offer letters however there is one parcel that has a title issue. Once this has been completed, Mr. Kemper is hoping to go out to bid in June with construction in Fall. Mr. Richardson thanked Mr. Kemper for his outstanding work on the Zim Smith Trail project.

Saratoga County Trails Grant Program

2018 Application

Ms. Hargrave said that the 2018 application has been reformatted. This year the grant funding will be \$50K with a \$10K limit for each project. Water trails have been added as an eligible project. They also added that if the grant remains active for more than a year after the date of award, they will require quarterly updates, this will help with project tracking. They would like to get the applications out mid to end of May. Ms. Hargrave will email a draft out for the committee to review.

Open Projects Update

Mr. Kemper said that there are three projects currently open, a 2015 from the City of Saratoga Springs in the amount of \$12,500, 2015 from Clifton Park in the amount of \$12,500 and 2016 from Corinth in the amount of \$8,000. The funds for the three outstanding projects is in the reserve fund. Mr. Kemper is comfortable with the projects in the City of Saratoga Springs and Town/Village of Corinth, however has not received updates regarding the Clifton Park project. Mr. Kemper said that he will reach out again for an update. Mr. Richardson said that he will also reach out. If the funds are not needed, they can be used on another project. Total trails funding to date \$153K which leveraged an additional \$1.5M in trail projects.

Establishment of Bike Routes on County Roads

Mr. Veitch said that he has had a few inquiries from constituents regarding how to make some of the County roads more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. One of the ideas was to establish some of the County Roads as bike routes, for example Lake Desolation Road. If roads were designated as official bike routes, traffic would know that they are bike routes and to expect to see cyclists on it. If the County was to pursue this, it was noted that some of the shoulders are a little too narrow. Mr. Allen said that he did bring the issue of widening shoulders to the long range capital committee recently. Mr. Veitch said that he uses a cycling app that can determine which roads are being used often by bike riders. Mr. Veitch gave the name of two cycling apps to Mr. Speziale to try to get data to determine which roads would be best to use as a designated bike route. Mr. Speziale said that they would need to do some homework on the proposal, they would be concerned about liability, conformance on what they can call a bike route, areas that may have bottlenecks due to utility poles decreasing the size of the shoulder, and also the cost. Mr. Veitch said that he would like to explore the initiative and see if it is something they can bring back to the board at a later date.

CDTC Regional Trails Study

Ms. Hargrave said that they met recently with the CDTC and consultants working on this project. A visioning session was held with some community members in February and the preliminary findings were presented in April. This project is looking at the possibilities of connections both north and south and east and west through the County. The Planning Department will be looking into ownership of existing right of ways for the consultants moving forward with the project.

Mr. Richardson said that a recent CDTC survey estimated that over 100K people used the Zim Smith Trail annually.

Saratoga Springs Crescent Avenue Trail Group

Mr. Kemper said that they have been meeting regularly with this group regarding a Crescent Avenue Connector. They are also looking at county bike routes and figuring out how to map those. Mr. Veitch said that Commissioner of Public Safety Peter Martin has also joined the group. Crescent Avenue has a wide shoulder and they are hoping that they can do a lot of work without a lot of money. They have been utilizing data from apps to figure out what roads bike routes could go on.

Kalabus Perry Mountain Bike Usage

Mr. Kemper said that this is a County Forestland parcel. Mr. Kemper said that they have reinitiated talked with a bike group regarding this parcel and met with three representatives last month. The group has been meeting regularly with DEC. Mr. Kemper said that he is working with them and the County Attorney on a draft stewardship agreement to help alleviate conflicts with the group. The County actively manages the forest on that land and may harvest in the future. An option would be to go in and harvest now and then not need to go back again for several years.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Allen the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board