

Trails Committee Minutes  
May 09, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee members Preston Allen, Jason Kemper, Michael Smith, Matt Veitch and Tom Wood; Jeffrey Williams, Planning; Keith Manz, Public Works; 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 August 26, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Kemper gave an update on County Forestland. He said that a parking lot in Providence has been completed and an opening will be scheduled soon. Mr. Kemper thanked DPW for the work they continue on County Forestland, picking up garbage, trail improvements and parking lot improvements. Mr. Veitch said that he was recently approached by a constituent who has requested benches be placed in the Providence trail adjacent to the Saratoga Plan parcel.

Mr. Kemper said that they are currently harvesting a parcel in the Town of Corinth. This parcel was landlocked until recently when a county owned parcel was pulled from the auction list. A survey and easement is underway to provide future access to this parcel. There is also an option for the County to keep the parcel for future use.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief update on the Zim Smith Trail and displayed a map for the Committee. They broke ground last fall and the big deadline was May 1<sup>st</sup> to get across the Fairways of Halfmoon which is now done. The Sewer district will be doing a major re-lining project from Coons Crossing north and that section of the trail will now be done after the sewer project is complete. This section of the trail will be closed until then. Coons Crossing to the City of Mechanicville will be completed this fall, including parking lots. The Village of Round Lake Parking lot will be completed this month. Eastline Road flashers will be put in next spring.

Mr. Richardson said that they have been working on the Champlain Canalway Trail. Mr. Kemper has been working on the Halfmoon-Mechanicville portion. Signs have been ordered for Mechanicville. Mr. Kinowski is working on the path through the Town of Stillwater to the Town of Saratoga. Mr. Wood said that the Wilbur road section begins at the Town of Stillwater line and runs north, and another section called the Surrender March Trail is having the finishing touches done now. Work on the section through the Village of Schuylerville along the canal is beginning tomorrow.

Mr. Kemper distributed the Saratoga County Trails Grant Program for 2019. Mr. Richardson requested adding trail design to the list of eligible projects. The program will be emailed out to Supervisors and posted on the website next week.

Mr. Kemper distributed a summary report of the Saratoga County Trails Program from 2015-2019 and gave a brief overview. Mr. Kemper said that the total outstanding projects total \$84K and the trails reserve account currently has \$102K. Mr. Kemper said that the reserve account is working well for the process. Mr. Veitch thanked the Treasurer for setting the account up.

### Saratoga County Highway Bike Routes

Mr. Veitch said that a 7-8 person working group including himself, Saratoga Greenbelt Trail people, Saratoga Springs Commissioner of Public Safety, Saratoga County Commissioner of Public Works, and Jason Kemper, was put together. One item they have discussed is a countywide bike system. Mr. Veitch distributed a map of Saratoga County highlighting county roads which have been identified as part of the bike route system, and town or city roads that could potentially be included. One feature is that there is at least one road in every town in the County. They also tried to push roads in the eastern part of the County toward the Empire Trail and Champlain Canalway. Mr. Veitch said that they would like to include provisions that future improvements to County roads on the bike route system would include larger shoulders if possible. Mr. Manz said that there will always be pinch points and they can possibly place signage there also. Mr. Veitch said that they would like to incorporate green bike route signs on the same stake as County Route signs at entrance points to the county roads. The committee agreed to Mr. Veitch moving forward with the project and first discussing it with Mr. Dorsey. Mr. Veitch said he will talk to the County Attorney regarding any potentially liability in designating these roads.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board