

Trails Committee Minutes
October 6, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee members Devin DalPos, Jason Kemper, Michael Smith, Matt Veitch; Supervisor Phil Barrett, Chairman of the Board Preston Allen.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Smith the minutes of the July 13 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief update on the Zim Smith Trail. A grand opening event was held a little over a week ago. There was one unfortunate incident on the trail recently that they are working with the Sheriff on additional measures. DPW employees are on the trail on a regular basis and the Sheriff's Department has recently increased their presence on the trail also.

Mr. Richardson he has been asked by residents regarding etiquette on the trail. Mr. Kemper said that some of the biggest complaints he receives is the speed of some road bikers, and yielding the right of way to pedestrians. Mr. Kemper said that signs have been ordered regarding yielding to pedestrians. Within the tunnel, they will be adding striping. The two incidents they had were by the S turn so they will now delineate lanes within the tunnel. Mr. Veitch said that he has ridden the trail several times now from start to end, and noted that the speed limit signs state 25MPH. Mr. Kemper said that these signs originated from the Snowmobile Clubs. Mr. Veitch said that he believes bikers misunderstood this for bike speed. Mr. Veitch said that it's also important to educate pedestrians to stay to the right. Mr. Veitch added that it's a State law that bicyclists must have a bell on their bike. Mr. Kemper said that the Trail Use Policy dictates speed limits on the trail and agreed that the current snowmobile speed limit signs may be misinterpreted by bicyclists. Mr. Veitch suggested opening up the policy, which is approved by the Board, and decide what the speed limit for the bicyclists should be. Mr. Veitch suggested 15-20 should be the max. Mr. Kemper said that the last time they looked at the policy was when snowmobiling in the evening was eliminated, probably 5-6 years ago. Mr. Kemper said that he can send the existing policy out for review. Mr. Veitch said that there may be some other additions or changes to the policy needed now that there is so much use on the trail.

Mr. Kemper said that the mitigation work for the Karner Blue Butterfly habitat is ongoing in the Towns of Wilton and Northumberland. The north site is completed, all the timber has been harvested. Mr. Kemper had a meeting on site this morning with Airport Engineering firm and DPW. They have begun pulling stumps and grading and will be working through the Fall on this site. For the south site, the timber harvest was initiated last Thursday and they anticipate the site will be cleared and ready for the contractor by October 31st. Mr. Kemper said he is working with DPW and the Airport Engineer on timing for the east site. That will go out to bid in the Fall or early Spring, as soon as they get direction on the FAA Grants.

Mr. Kemper distributed a handout for the 2020 Saratoga County Trail Grant Program. The handout is attached to these minutes. The total grant request from 11 municipalities is \$98,201.50. Two of the projects, Town of Moreau and Town of Edinburg are continuations of previously awarded projects. The Town of Malta is a low request compared to the others. Mr. Kemper said that there

is no money left in reserve because last year every project was fully funded with what was left in reserve plus a fund balance transfer. The 2020 grant allotment is \$75K. Mr. Kemper gave a brief overview of the listed projects. Mr. Richardson said that obviously there is not enough funding in the 2020 grant allotment to fully fund all of the projects. Mr. Richardson said that one option is to fund each grant request at a certain percentage to add up to \$75K. Mr. Richardson suggested that since the Malta project is very small it could be fully funded, and then divide the remainder between the balance of the applications. Mr. Veitch said that it seems every year this project is not budgeted enough, and we get more requests than what is budgeted for. Mr. Veitch said that in the past reserve and fund balance has been used. Mr. Veitch questioned if the Open Space Program is being done this year. Mr. Kemper said that Mr. Grattidge made the decision as Chairman that it would not move forward this year. They have paid 2 previous years applications and there are funds remaining in the Open Space Reserve fund. Mr. Richardson asked if it was unusual to take funding from the Open Space account for use on Trails. Mr. Kemper said that it has not been done in the past. Both reserve accounts were set up separately, and there has not been any intermingling, but Mr. Kemper believes that it could be done. Mr. Kemper said that there is a reserve in Open Space that is unallocated to projects as some have come off the table. Mr. Veitch said they would need to check with the County Attorney about taking from the Reserve fund as it may be specific, and suggested that the funding be requested from the current 2020 Open Space Budget. Mr. Richardson said that he had a conversation with Mr. Grattidge a few months ago, and Mr. Grattidge had indicated that now is not a time to be spending money. Mr. Richardson said that he feels the opposite, and believes that we should be spending money, it keeps people working and keeps the economy going. Mr. Grattidge's concerns were to save the funds in case of a potential tax increase. Mr. Richardson suggested bringing the idea to Economic Development. Mr. Veitch agreed and said that he would look at it from the perspective of the Towns who will lose a lot in sales tax revenue due to the pandemic. Mr. Veitch said that since the pandemic, everywhere he goes the trails are being used immensely. Mr. Veitch said that he would support moving funds from one fund to another. Mr. Kemper said that in 2016 CDTC did a trail count north of Round Lake parking lot on Goldfoot Road and the count was just over 80K people. Trail counts were just done 4 weeks ago and they are projecting that on Goldfoot Road this year, the count is estimated at 363K people. On Coons Crossing, they believe the use count will be between 80-100K people in the first year alone. Mr. Richardson said that he would like to go forward with the scenario of transferring the funds, and plan B would be to take the \$75K in funding, deduct the \$1984.50 for the Town of Malta and divide the remaining funds between the other applicants at an approximate 75.89% of funding. Mr. Richardson confirmed with Mr. Kemper that all of the Towns had indicated that the projects will proceed if the award is less than requested. Mr. Barrett said that another important point is that one of the major co-morbidity that people have related to Covid, or any other virus or sickness, is weight control. Obviously the trails are a great way to not only relax but also boost the immune system and hopefully reduce weight to make people better prepared to face any dangerous illness. Mr. Richardson said that he will bring both scenarios up at Economic Development, and forward to Law & Finance.

Mr. Veitch said that at the last meeting, they had discussed forestland trails. He has been out on several of them and getting a feel for their condition. Mr. Veitch said that he understands that the Planning Department has a lot to do and it's difficult to get out to all of these lands to keep them up to date. Mr. Veitch has started building a report together on his observations and some ideas of what should be done moving forward to keep them up to speed. Even on the Zim Smith Trail he

noticed that the split rail fence along Oak Street is starting to deteriorate. Mr. Veitch said that upkeep is part of trail maintenance. Mr. Veitch believes that in addition to funding Town and City trails, funding should be placed in the budget for County trails. Mr. Veitch said that he believes the annual allocation of approximately \$3K in the Planning Department budget for County Trail maintenance is not enough. Mr. Veitch said that in the past this funding was approximately \$15K but was cut several years ago. Mr. Veitch said that the funding should be restored to that level, if not increased in order to get maintenance done. Swampy areas that are getting trampled on and ruining the land, missing signs, better directional items. Mr. Veitch said that he will complete his report with the recommendations and thoughts. Mr. Kemper said that he agreed and oftentimes DPW helps out. Mr. Kemper said that he just talked about redoing the signs which are currently paper with Plexiglas, he has looked at aluminum signs that are \$150 each. An option would be to put up a sign with Plexiglas over it. Mr. Veitch said that this can be brought up during the budget process. Mr. Kemper said that he can send out what has been in the budget for the past few years. Mr. Kemper said that there is some funding in the Zim Smith Capital account however this is set aside as a match for a feasibility study to bring it to Saratoga Springs. Mr. Veitch said that the expense for maintaining these projects should come from the regular budget and not the capital account. Mr. Smith asked if this line item should be put under DPW's budget. Mr. Kemper said that DPW have a full time person on the Zim and on days he is not on the Zim, he is directed to other projects such as Loudon and Kalibus Perry. Mr. Kemper said that DPW sent down the large mower twice this summer which was a great help. Mr. Veitch and Mr. Smith said that it could be brought up to Buildings & Grounds or Public Works. Mr. Richardson said that he will discuss the request to increase the budget amount to Mr. Pemrick.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board

2020 Saratoga County Trail Grant Program

Municipality	Project Name	SBL #	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Request	Outside Funding Source	Notes
Town of Charlton	Mill Pond Park Trail	246.-3-10	A proposal to renovate an existing trail from Crane St. that loops from the southside of Alpaus Kill and northside of Mill Pond and to create a new loop from this trail to the southside of Mill Pond along with providing markers and signage. (1,100 l.f. with 500 l.f. new)	\$ 15,510.00	\$ 10,000.00	In-Kind labor of \$5,000 and \$510 of material	
Town of Edinburg	Town of Edinburg Nature Trail - Ph II	67.-2-18	A proposal to add an additional 3,000 l.f. of walking trail to the existig trail system on the Town's municipal property.	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 9,500.00	In Kind Services & Town funds	
Town of Galway	Galway Trailheads - Glowegee Trail & Galway Preserve	200.-1-101 212.-1-8.1	A proposal to re-surface the access and parking area for Galway Preserve trailhead and to create an access drive and parking area for the Glowegee Trail's South trailhead. (crusher & stone)	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	Saratoga PLAN, and Anonymous	
Town of Clifton Park	Meadow Estates Multi-Use Trail Restoration	271.13-1-53 271.-5-24.111 276.-2-121	A restoration of an existing trail that was designed in 1994 and restoration of segments of connecting trails. Restoration includes asphalt, crusher run and storm pipes	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	Town Rec. Funding	
Town of Ballston	Ballston Veteran's Trail Extension to the Zim Smith Trail	239.-1-7, 6.2, 239.-2-43, 39.1, 11, 67 & 228.-3.26.11	A feasibility study to find the best route alternative to extend the existing Veteran's Trail to the Zim Smith Trail (~2 mi.)	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	Town Funds	
Town of Malta	Malta Ecological Park Trail Restoration	204.-1-31.1	A proposal to restore the trails existing 0.75 mi. surface with fresh Engineered Wood Fiber.	\$ 3,969.00	\$ 1,984.50	In Kind Services and Town Funds	
Town of Greenfield	Town of Greenfield Recreational Walking Trail Improvements	162.-1-81.2	A proposal to improve and upgrade the existing Town trail in their Middle Grove Park. Improvements include placement of crushed stone and asphalt.	\$ 13,390.00	\$ 10,000.00	In-Kind Services	
Village of Victory	Victory Loop Trail	numerous	A proposal to plan and design a historic loop trail through the Village linking to historic sites and connecting to existing trails. Also to repair wooden fence overlooking a bluff on the Seige Trail, repair signage and provide wayfinding signage.	\$ 21,925.00	\$ 9,717.00	In-Kind Services, Stewart's donation	
Town of Moreau	Scenic Hudson River By-way Trail Continuation	63.-1-8 63.-1-46 63.-1-7 63.-1-9	A proposed trail along the Hudson R. between Nolan Rd. and Old Bend Rd. for walking and biking. There are several future trail connection possibilities.	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	In Kind Services	
Town of Saratoga	Town of Saratoga Boat Launch Enhancement	196.-1-18	A proposal to construct a 16 ft x 40 ft rubber matting to stabilize the boat trailer launch and to place crusher run, picnic tables and signage for the existing boat launch area.	\$ 46,620.00	\$ 10,000.00	In-Kind Services	
Town of Wilton	Snook Kill Trail	115.-1-20,23.21,37,34.1, 114.-2-22.1 & 127.8-1-49	A proposal to plan, map and designate a trailhead and parking for a Town trail that would extend from the Town Hall along the Snook Kill to Northern Pines Rd.	\$ 22,536.00	\$ 10,000.00	In-Kind Services and Town fund of \$15,000	
Totals				\$ 295,950.00	\$ 98,201.50		
2020 Grant allotment: \$75,000							