

TRAILS & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
May 5, 2021 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Chair: Kevin Tollisen

Members:

Phil Barrett  
Ed Kinowski  
Jack Lawler  
Tom Richardson - VC  
Mo Wright  
Benny Zlotnick

- I. Welcome and Attendance
- II. Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2021
- III. Amending Resolution 258-2019 Open Space Grant Town of Milton
- IV. Saratoga County Community Forest Grant Update
- V. Zim Smith Award Update
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment

Due to public health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, there is limited capacity in the Boardrooms. The public will have an opportunity to hear the meeting live via an audio signal using this call-in number and access code:

Dial: 1-978-990-5145  
Access Code: 1840389



# SARATOGA COUNTY

## AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

**TO:** Steve Bulger, County Administrator  
Mike Hartnett, County Attorney  
Pam Wright, Clerk of the Board

**CC:** Jason Kemper, Planning Director  
Therese Connolly, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
Matt Rose, Management Analyst  
Clare Giammusso, Confidential Secretary/County Attorney's Office

**FROM:** Jason Kemper, Director of Planning

**DATE:** 4/28/2021

**RE:** Town of Milton Open Space Grant

**COMMITTEE:** Trails and Open Space Committee

1. Is a Resolution Required:  **YES** or  **NO**  
(If YES, please complete #2- #10) (If NO, skip to #10 and provide reason for bringing the item)

2. Is a Budget Amendment needed:  
(If yes, budget lines and impact must be provided)  
No

3. Are there Amendments to the Compensation Schedule:  
(If yes, provide details)  
No

4. Specific details on what the resolution will authorize:  
Resolution will amend Resolution 258 of 2019. Specifically, the Town of Milton total grant project cost and subsequent county grant award will be reduced.

5. Does this item require hiring a Vendors/Contractors:  
a. Were bids/proposals solicited:  
b. Is the vendor/contractor a sole source:  
c. Commencement date of contract term:  
d. Termination of contract date:  
e. Contract renewal and term:  
f. Contact information:  
g. Is the vendor/contractor an LLS, PLLC or partnership:  
h. State of vendor/contractor organization:  
i. Is this a renewal agreement:  YES or  NO  
j. Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:



# SARATOGA COUNTY

## AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

6. Is this an annual housekeeping resolution:  
(If yes, attach the last approved resolution)
  - a. What were the terms of the prior resolution
  - b. Are the terms changing:
  - c. What is the reason for the change in terms:
  
7. Is a new position being created:
  - a. Effective date
  - b. Salary and grade
  
8. Is a new employee being hired:
  - a. Effective date of employment
  - b. Salary and grade
  - c. Appointed position:
  - d. Term:
  
9. Is a grant being accepted:
  - a. Source of grant funding:
  - b. Amount of grant:
  - c. Purpose grant will be used for:
  - d. Equipment and/or services being purchased with the grant:
  - e. Time period grant covers:
  
10. Remarks/Reasoning (Supporting documentation must be attached to this form):

Resolution 258 of 2019 awarded an Open Space Grant to the Town of Milton for the Smassanow Project. Total estimated project costs at the time of the grant award were \$179,854 with a county grant award amount of \$89,927 (50% of the total project cost). The Planning Department was notified that the total project cost has been reduced to \$152,994 and the therefore the County Open Space Grant has been reduced to \$76,497 (50% of the total project cost). This change is greater than the 10% allowed in Resolution 258-2019 and in consultation with the County Attorney a new resolution will be required. Attached is the letter received by the Planning Department from Saratoga PLAN detailing the new anticipated project costs.



## saratoga PLAN

Preserving Land and Nature

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Will Orthwein, *Chair*  
Lorraine Skibo, M.D., *Vice Chair*  
Jane Mastaitis, *Treasurer*  
Seth Simrall Dunn, *Secretary*  
Phyllis Aldrich  
Susanne D'Isabel  
Charlie Dake  
Fil Fina III  
Jaclyn Hakes  
Richard Higgins  
Rachel McDermott  
Peter Olmsted  
Phillip A. Oswald, Esq.  
James Sevinsky  
Billie Taft  
Karen Totino  
James T. Towne, Jr., Esq.

### EMERITUS BOARD

Jay Arnold  
Tim Barnett  
Peter R. Brooks  
John Colley  
Jennifer Hunt Dempsey  
Barbara L. Glaser  
John Munter, Sr.  
Lisa Nagle  
Brad Oswald  
Katharine Petronis  
Ray Seymour  
Julia S. Stokes

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Barbara Faraone  
Michael Gaige  
Joe Grasso  
Charles Hanahan  
Scott Miller  
Raymond O'Connor  
Jeff Olson  
Libby Smith-Holmes  
Larry Woolbright

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maria Trabka

April 27, 2021

Jason Kemper  
Director of Planning, Saratoga County  
50 West High St.  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Dear Jason,

I am writing with regards to the Saratoga County Grant for Farmland Protection of the Smassanow Farm in the Town of Milton. We have completed all of the necessary due diligence and are prepared to proceed with purchase of the development rights on this property.

The original project budget was \$179,854, and the Saratoga County award was 50% of this, or \$89,927. The grant program requires a 50% match.

Based primarily upon the appraised value of development rights being lower than expected, and secondarily on cost savings recognized with vendors, the project cost has come in \$26,860 less than the original budget.

The actual project cost comes to \$152,994. Applying the 50% match requirement, the final Saratoga County contribution to this project ought to be \$76,497.

We are glad that Saratoga County will realize \$13,430 of savings while achieving the same conservation outcome, and hope that these funds can be put towards additional conservation of open space and farmland in the future.

Regards,

Michael Horn  
Conservation Director



# SARATOGA COUNTY

## AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

**TO:** Steve Bulger, County Administrator  
Mike Hartnett, County Attorney  
Pam Wright, Clerk of the Board

**CC:** Jason Kemper, Planning Director  
Therese Connolly, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
Matt Rose, Management Analyst  
Clare Giammusso, Confidential Secretary/County Attorney's Office

**FROM:** Jason Kemper, Director of Planning

**DATE:** 4/28/2021

**RE:** Saratoga County Community Forest Grant

**COMMITTEE:** Trails and Open Space Committee

1. Is a Resolution Required:  YES or  NO  
(If YES, please complete #2- #10) (If NO, skip to #10 and provide reason for bringing the item)
2. Is a Budget Amendment needed:  
(If yes, budget lines and impact must be provided)  
No
3. Are there Amendments to the Compensation Schedule:  
(If yes, provide details)  
No
4. Specific details on what the resolution will authorize:  
No resolution, just an update.
5. Does this item require hiring a Vendors/Contractors:
  - a. Were bids/proposals solicited:
  - b. Is the vendor/contractor a sole source:
  - c. Commencement date of contract term:
  - d. Termination of contract date:
  - e. Contract renewal and term:
  - f. Contact information:
  - g. Is the vendor/contractor an LLS, PLLC or partnership:
  - h. State of vendor/contractor organization:
  - i. Is this a renewal agreement:  YES or  NO
  - j. Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:



# SARATOGA COUNTY

## AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

6. Is this an annual housekeeping resolution:  
(If yes, attach the last approved resolution)
  - a. What were the terms of the prior resolution
  - b. Are the terms changing:
  - c. What is the reason for the change in terms:
  
7. Is a new position being created:
  - a. Effective date
  - b. Salary and grade
  
8. Is a new employee being hired:
  - a. Effective date of employment
  - b. Salary and grade
  - c. Appointed position:
  - d. Term:
  
9. Is a grant being accepted:
  - a. Source of grant funding:
  - b. Amount of grant:
  - c. Purpose grant will be used for:
  - d. Equipment and/or services being purchased with the grant:
  - e. Time period grant covers:
  
10. Remarks/Reasoning (Supporting documentation must be attached to this form):

Saratoga County has been informed that the community forest application that was applied for last year was tentatively funded by the US Forest Service. Once the grant details are finalized the Board will need to formally accept the grant. This should occur in the coming months. The details of this grant are still being worked out between Saratoga County, Open Space Institute, Saratoga PLAN and the US Forest Service. Attached is an email sent by Saratoga PLAN on 3-25-21 to all Supervisors summarizing the project. County funding match for this grant is proposed to come from un-allocated funds in the Open Space Reserve Fund.

## Saratoga County Community Forest

Updated March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Driving along busy Route 9 in Wilton, it is hard to imagine, nestled between the restaurants and shopping plazas, the gateway to a pristine Adirondack forest ripe with opportunities. The proposed 202-acre Saratoga County Community Forest includes a rocky ridgeline, forested ravines carved by tumbling creeks, a crisscross of old logging roads ready for recreation, and an old graphite mine waiting for historic interpretation. Developed as a multi-use forest, the property will become a hands-on space for environmental education, and sustainable forest management, as well as a recreational hub for the surrounding communities – all while helping to permanently protect the environment.

*The proposed **Saratoga County Community Forest** will serve as a dynamic community hub for multi-use recreation, offering best-in-class trails and connections to the larger multi-use **Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trail** system, for which a master plan is currently in progress. The recreational opportunities provided by this property will attract both community and regional visitors, benefiting local tourism and recreation-related businesses such as outdoor gear stores, restaurants, and lodging.*

Saratoga County is one of the "**Palmertown Partners**" working collaboratively with local municipalities, state agencies, conservation organizations, and a spectrum of other interests to conserve the forest resources of the 62-square mile Southern Palmertown Range in the Adirondack Foothills in order to advance its recreational, economic, and conservation potential.

Experiences at the Community Forest could range from a quick picnic with friends at the trailhead, to a half-mile ADA-accessible nature walk for a young family, to a 10-mile mountain bike ride, to a 50-mile loop hike on the Friendship Trails system starting from the property.

The nature and location of the property makes it ideal as a gateway for access by users with varying abilities and experiences. Easily reached off busy Route 9 with ample space for parking, the gentle sloping gradient up into the property will allow people of many fitness levels to utilize the trails. The open field at the base of the property will allow for picnicking and other more passive uses. These amenities will contribute to and diversify economic development opportunities for the Saratoga-Wilton community - while protecting its forest habitat, which ranks very high for resiliency to climate change for native species.

It is proposed that the property be purchased and managed by Saratoga County as a county forest, with planning and stewardship assistance from a Community Forest advisory team to be convened with the assistance of Saratoga PLAN. The Open Space Institute, along with PLAN, will assist in facilitating the transaction and raising the necessary funds for the acquisition.

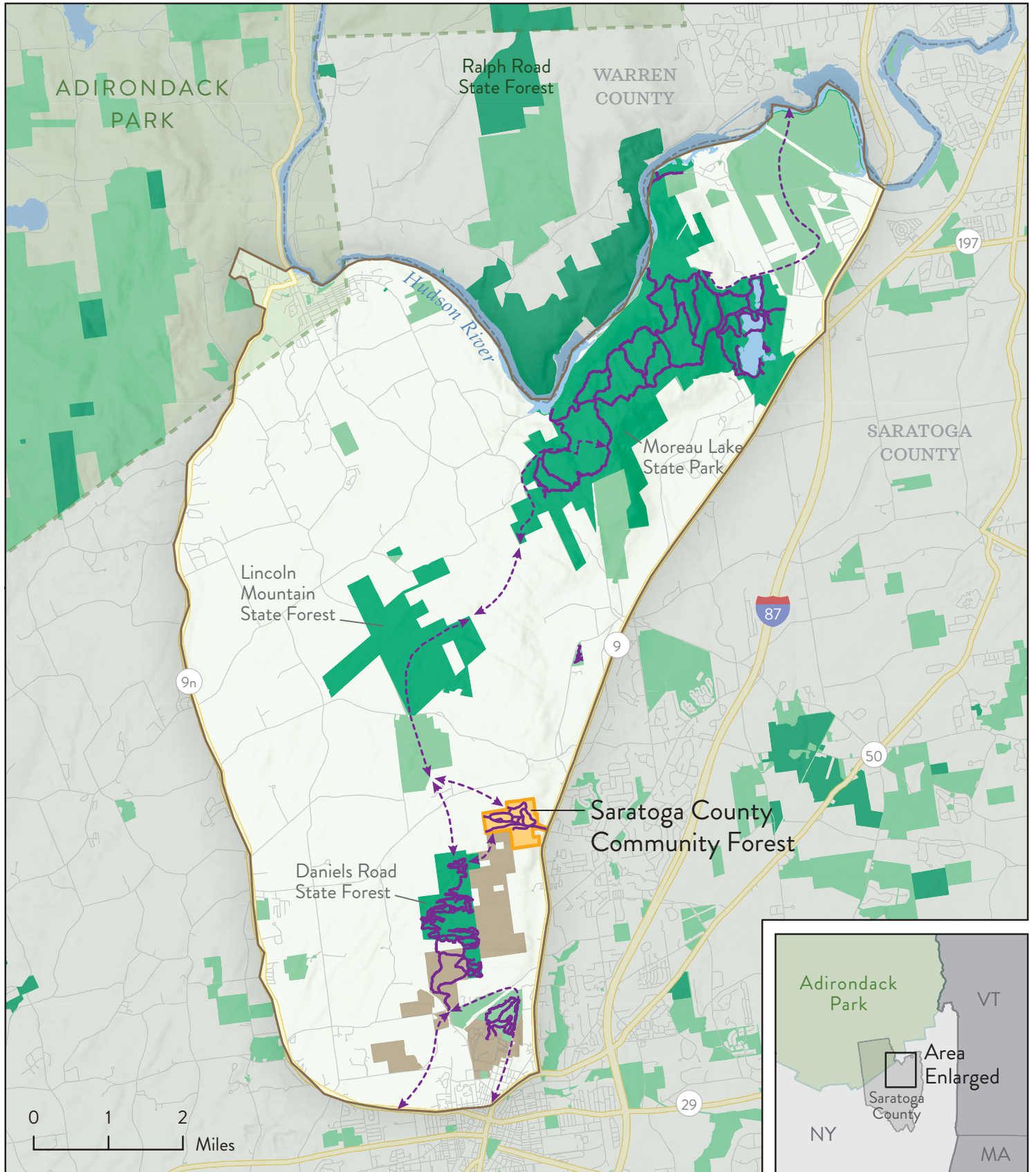
The eight contiguous parcels that make up the property, spanning the town line between Wilton and Greenfield, were purchased by Wilton Partners LLC over many years. The land is currently used by the owners for their own personal recreation. The owners have agreed to sell the property for \$463,000 -- \$200,000 less than the current appraised value of the land.

Saratoga County submitted a proposal to the U.S. Forest Service's Community Forest grant program to cover 50% of acquisition and due diligence expenses. With the \$200,000 bargain sale donation from the landowner, an estimated \$175,000 remains to be raised for the purchase. Partners have begun identifying State and local funding sources including private philanthropic sources to support the project. An announcement of grant awards by the US Forest Service is expected in May 2021.



# Saratoga County Community Forest

Towns of Wilton and Greenfield, Saratoga County, New York | January 2021



- Saratoga County Community Forest
- Skidmore College Land
- State-Protected Land

- Other Protected Land
- Palmertown Focus Area
- County Boundary

- Existing Trail
  - Potential Trail Connection\*
- \*These trail lines are generalized and do not represent true locations*







# SARATOGA COUNTY

## AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

**TO:** Steve Bulger, County Administrator  
Mike Hartnett, County Attorney  
Pam Wright, Clerk of the Board

**CC:** Jason Kemper, Planning Director  
Therese Connolly, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
Matt Rose, Management Analyst  
Clare Giammusso, Confidential Secretary/County Attorney's Office

**FROM:** Jason Kemper, Director of Planning

**DATE:** 4/28/2021

**RE:** Zim Smith Trail Award

**COMMITTEE:** Trails and Open Space Committee

1. Is a Resolution Required:  YES or  NO  
(If YES, please complete #2- #10) (If NO, skip to #10 and provide reason for bringing the item)
2. Is a Budget Amendment needed:  
(If yes, budget lines and impact must be provided)  
No
3. Are there Amendments to the Compensation Schedule:  
(If yes, provide details)  
No
4. Specific details on what the resolution will authorize:  
No resolution, just an update.
5. Does this item require hiring a Vendors/Contractors:
  - a. Were bids/proposals solicited:
  - b. Is the vendor/contractor a sole source:
  - c. Commencement date of contract term:
  - d. Termination of contract date:
  - e. Contract renewal and term:
  - f. Contact information:
  - g. Is the vendor/contractor an LLS, PLLC or partnership:
  - h. State of vendor/contractor organization:
  - i. Is this a renewal agreement:  YES or  NO
  - j. Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:



# SARATOGA COUNTY

## AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

6. Is this an annual housekeeping resolution:  
(If yes, attach the last approved resolution)
  - a. What were the terms of the prior resolution
  - b. Are the terms changing:
  - c. What is the reason for the change in terms:
  
7. Is a new position being created:
  - a. Effective date
  - b. Salary and grade
  
8. Is a new employee being hired:
  - a. Effective date of employment
  - b. Salary and grade
  - c. Appointed position:
  - d. Term:
  
9. Is a grant being accepted:
  - a. Source of grant funding:
  - b. Amount of grant:
  - c. Purpose grant will be used for:
  - d. Equipment and/or services being purchased with the grant:
  - e. Time period grant covers:
  
10. Remarks/Reasoning (Supporting documentation must be attached to this form):

The Zim Smith Trail Southern Extension Project was awarded the 2020 Project of Year in the Transportation Category by the Capital Region Branch of the American Public Works Association. Award letter is attached to memo.



January 21, 2021

Jason Kemper  
Director of Planning, Saratoga County  
Saratoga County Planning Department  
50 West High Street  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Dear Mr. Kemper,

Congratulations, the **Zim Smith Trail Southern Extension Project** is being honored by the APWA Capital Branch as the 2020 Project of the Year in the Transportation (Less than \$5 Million) Category, along with seven other projects at the Annual Awards Presentation. Your Public Works Department will be recognized for its role in the project.

On behalf of the APWA Capital Branch, I would like to welcome you to attend our very first virtual Awards banquet. I think I speak for everyone when I say I hope this is the only virtual awards banquet and not the start of a tradition. This year we had a number of great project submissions, more than prior years and after some difficult decisions by our Awards Committee, we are excited to present awards to our branch. Please plan on joining us on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at noon. Since we cannot offer lunch this year, we will try to keep it to an hour. Please find the Microsoft Teams Meeting link within this email. Hope to see you there!

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the APWA Capital Branch, I offer my sincerest congratulations for this honor.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Zongol', is positioned above the typed name.

Joseph Zongol, P.E.  
Awards Chairman  
APWA Capital Branch