

Trails & Open Space Committee Minutes
May 5, 2021 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Kevin Tollisen; Committee Members Phil Barrett, Ed Kinowski, Mo Wright, Benny Zlotnick; Supervisor Bill Peck; Steve Bulger, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning .

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Zlotnick, the minutes of the March 3, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Zlotnick, seconded by Mr. Wright, to amend Resolution 258 of 2019 to comply with a reduction in funding for the Open Space Grant. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper said that the open space project in the Town of Milton was approved under Resolution 258 of 2019. The total original project estimated cost was \$179,854, with the County covering 50% or \$89,927. Saratoga Plan has notified the County that the total project cost after all expenses has been reduced to \$152,994. So therefore 50% of the total project cost brings the County share down to \$76,497. The amendment will reflect the reduced costs and the difference of \$13,430 will remain in the Open Space Reserve fund.

Mr. Kemper said that late last year, Saratoga County was approached by Saratoga Plan to apply to the US Forest Service for their Community Forest Program Project. The Planning Department worked closely with Saratoga Plan as well as the Open Space Institute to draft the application for this possible community forest project. They submitted a 202 acre parcel on Route 9 in the Town of Wilton, which also touches the tip of Greenfield in the upper corner along the Palmertown Ridge. Awards came out a little over a month ago and the project ranked #5 nationally. The one page summary from Saratoga Plan regarding the project was distributed with the agenda. The total project cost was \$781K and the grant is \$391K. At this point, they are still working on a proposed budget and once that is finalized, Mr. Kemper will bring it back to submit for full Board approval.

Mr. Kemper announced that the Zim Smith trail was awarded 2020 Project of the Year Award in the Transportation Category from the American Public Works Association, Capital Region Branch. Mr. Tollisen thanked Mr. Kemper for all of his and his teams work on this project.

Mr. Kemper said that one open trail application has been received and they are also working on a few open space applications.

On a motion made by Mr. Zlotnick, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board