

Trails & Open Space Committee Minutes
July 7, 2021 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Kevin Tollisen; Committee Members Phil Barrett, Tom Richardson, Mo Wright; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Jason Kemper, Planning; John Safford.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Richardson, the minutes of the May 5, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Wright, to authorize an agreement with Saratoga Land Management Corporation for timber harvest management services on the East site in the Town of Northumberland. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper said that this is an ongoing project, the mitigation required for the Karner Blue habitat. Mr. Kemper referred to maps that were provided with the agenda. The North and South sites have been harvested, cleared, grubbed and planted. The East site is currently cleared and awaiting grant funding for seeding. The timber harvest included removing every piece of timber over three inches. Trees that would not interfere with the Karner blue habitat were identified with the help of a consultant.

Mr. Kemper said that Saratoga Land Management is Saratoga County's consultant that works with the Planning Department to manage the timber sales on county forestland. Typically the firm receives 10% of the revenue associated with the timber harvest. There is approximately 3,000 acres of County Forest land and the County still pays school taxes on these lands. These taxes are paid from timber harvest revenue.

This project was an extensive project. A minor contract of up to \$15K was awarded for each parcel, whereby the consultant would receive 15% or up to \$15K. The revenue on the North Side was \$110K, the contractor maxed out at \$15K and lost a little due to the increased harvest revenue.

The revenue for the South site was \$52K, and the consultant received \$7,800.

Total revenue received on the East Site was \$163,580. The consultant has requested that they be compensated at 15% of timber revenue for the harvest of the East site. The 15% equates to \$24,537 and will require a major contract, \$15K of which is already budgeted. Mr. Kemper said that he believes this is fair. There was definitely a significant amount of effort at the East parcel more than the North and South sides.

Trails and Open Space Application update:

Mr. Kemper said that the trails applications are due this Friday, he anticipates coming back to the Committee with the applications next month. Open Space is due the following month.

Mr. Kemper said that he will give a full detailed summary on trails at the next meeting, however since the last meeting, six additional contracts with municipalities have been executed and two

projects paid out. Mr. Tollisen requested that a reminder email be sent to Supervisors regarding the trail application deadline.

Mr. Kemper said that trails usage is constantly increasing. A feasibility study looking into an extension of the Zim Smith from Coons Crossing up to Saratoga Springs is in its final stages. The Waterford project is out to bid currently. Almost 30 bid packages were picked up so far. The funding for this is pass through from the Hudson River Valley Greenway.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Richardson, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board