

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

Present: Vice Chairman Tom Richardson; Committee Members Phil Barrett, Ed Kinowski, Mo Wright, and Benny Zlotnick; Ridge Harris, Audra Hedden, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Jeff Williams, Planning; Mike Horn, Saratoga Plan.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Zlotnick, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the minutes of the August 4, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Zlotnick, to authorize approval of the 2022 County Farmland Protection and Open Space Preservation Grants. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper said that in the 2021 budget, there is \$100K devoted to open space preservation. The current balance in the Open Space Reserve account is \$571,685, of which \$311,000 is committed to previously approved projects, leaving \$139,738 in uncommitted funds. Mr. Kemper said that he would not be comfortable in expending all of the remaining funds in the reserve account as there could be current projects that come back for an increase in funding.

Three applications were submitted for funding. The Town of Corinth for \$32,900; joint application from the Towns of Greenfield and Wilton for \$100K, and one from the Town of Malta for \$100K. A spreadsheet detailing the applications was distributed and is attached to these minutes.

Discussion took place regarding funding of each of the projects. It was decided to fully fund the Town of Corinth project and fund the remaining two projects at 95% of the requested amount. Mr. Kemper clarified that as in previous year's awards, the resolution would include authorization for the Committee to approve increases or decreases in the total project costs by 10%.

Open Space/Farmland and Trails Grants Update

Mr. Kemper gave an update on ongoing projects. Mr. Kemper said that on August 17, 2021, the County Board of Supervisors voted to fully fund all ten 2021 proposed Trail Grant projects with the amended cost of \$82,011.44. Contracts for each individual 2021 trail grant project are currently being processed. Mr. Kemper reported the following:

- 2015 City of Saratoga Spring project has been completed and closed.
- 2018 Town of Halfmoon Vosburgh Preserve Trail Grant has been completed and closed.
- 2018 City of Saratoga Springs Bog Meadow Trail has been redesigned and construction should begin in 2021.
- 2019 Town of Halfmoon Crescent Trail has been completed and closed.
- 2020 Town of Greenfield Middle Grove Park Trail grant is being reviewed for completeness and will soon be closed.
- 2020 Town of Galway contract is executed.
- 2020 Town of Ballston contract is executed.

- 2020 Town of Wilton project should be completed by the end of the year.
- 2019 Town of Milton Smassanow Farm protection grant is completed and closed.
- September 14, 2021, withdrawal letters were received from the Towns of Greenfield and Milton open space grant projects.

County Forest and Zim Smith Trail updates

Mr. Kemper reported the following:

- RFP is out for fencing replacement on the Zim Smith Trail
- Improvements are scheduled for this fall at Louden Road Parking Lot
- New aluminum signs ordered for County Forestland and Zim Smith Trail.
- The Champlain Canalway Trail Construction in Waterford (Saratoga County is project sponsor) is well underway and will be completed this fall.
- Clearing and grubbing is underway on the East Mitigation Site in the Town of Northumberland

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board

