

Trails & Open Space Committee Minutes
December 1, 2021 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Kevin Tollisen; Committee Members Phil Barrett, Ed Kinowski, Mo Wright, Benny Zlotnick; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Audra Hedden, Christine Rush, 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. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Zlotnick, the minutes of the November 1, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Zlotnick, to authorize a Memorandum of Agreement between Saratoga County, the Open Space Institute and Saratoga PLAN for the Community Forest Project. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper said Saratoga County received a US Forestry Service grant of \$391,000 which will be passed through in addition to the County's match of up to \$120,000 and this Memorandum of Agreement is to formalize the agreement between the project partners for the Community Forest Project located in the Towns of Greenfield and Wilton. Mr. Kemper said Saratoga County will retain ownership of the approximately 200 acre parcel and the County, Saratoga PLAN and the Open Space Institute will share the costs.

County Forestland/Zim Smith Trail Updates

Mr. Kemper said Siena Fence was the lowest bidder on the fence repairs to the Zim Smith Trail over Oak Street and they will try to get that work started in the next few weeks if the weather holds out. The Loudon Road parking lot repairs have been completed. New signs have been ordered for the Zim Smith Trail and the Edi Bullard Trail. The Champlain Canalway Empire State Trail construction in Waterford has reached substantial completion and a press release was issued by the Governor's Office and New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Clearing and grubbing continues on the East mitigation site while weather permits. Five trails grant contracts have been executed. A new gate lock and boulders were placed on the Zim Smith Trail where a vehicle damaged the slopes along the Round Lake bypass. Mr. Barrett asked if that damage was near the pedestrian bridge and Mr. Kemper said it was and a discussion took place regarding how the vehicle got in and locking the gate. Mr. Kemper said they have eight pending Open Space/Farmland Protection projects, three of which are close to close and thirty pending Trails projects, four of which have submitted final reimbursement requests.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Rider
Deputy Clerk of the Board