

Trails & Open Space Transcript 4-7-2022

SPEAKERS

Steve Bulger, Jason Kemper, Michael Hartnett, Matt Veitch, Joe Grasso, Kevin Tollisen, Several Supervisors, Eric Connolly, Jeff Williams, Bridget Rider

Joe Grasso

All right, we'll get going. Good, Bridget?

Bridget Rider

Yes.

Joe Grasso

All right, like to welcome everybody today April 7, Trails and Open Space Committee meeting. Attendance has been taken. We have a quorum, I think we've got everybody present except Supervisor Kinowski. And Supervisor Connolly, we can see on the feed. So thank you for joining remotely. The first item on the agenda is approval of the minutes of the February 3 2022 meeting. We did not have a meeting in the month of March. So this is our last meeting that we were in attendance. Do I have a motion to approve those minutes as drafted?

Kevin Tollisen

So moved.

Joe Grasso

By Supervisor Tollisen. Do I have a Second?

Matt Veitch

Second.

Joe Grasso

Seconded by Supervisor Veitch. All in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Joe Grasso

Nay? Ayes have it thank you. Next on the agenda is action on the County Forest timber harvest program in the Town of Wilton on our County forest lands. And I've asked Director Kemper to give us a description of this. This will require a resolution from the committee to move this item forward.

Jason Kemper

Thank you, Chairman. So every year well, let me back up just a little bit, we have three different county owned forestry parcels throughout the County. And every year we harvest either a parcel, or a portion of a parcel, or a couple of parcels, to make up the revenue that is basically associated with some of our maintenance of those parcels, but we also pay all school taxes on those parcels. So this is done on a rotational basis. Back in 2012 the Board approved, Saratoga Land Management Corporation performed a forest assessment of all our county forest lands. So sort of my role is to make sure this forestry these objectives align with our current forest management plan. So and like I said, there's about 3,000 acres across the county. The parcels we're looking at are in the Town of Wilton. They're on the west side of Edie road. I'll say that they were on the on the radar probably three years ago, before we had the mitigation work that came up out in the Town of Northumberland So it was sort of put on pause at that point in time and now we're back to harvest those parcels. I'll go through just you know, this one is it will probably cause a little bit of angst with some folks, there is an existing trail system on this parcel. We've accommodated that in the past. But there's a couple of reasons for trying to get this out of the way as well. Number one is on our management plan. Number two, if you look, if everyone's got the attachment, if you go to the fifth page, you'll see a map there. So the reforestation area, if you look immediately to the left, there are projects being proposed within the Town of Wilton for those parcels to be developed. So in close proximity to our county forest land, in the near future, there will be residential housing of some sort, in very close proximity to our county forest land. I'll say that when we originally did this estimate, I was off you know, we use we try to use our average for the last several years to gauge what the timber prices are. And we go out there and mark the appropriate amount of timber to meet our to meet our budget objections. We were low in or about \$7,000 low on our estimate. So we went out there and grabbed about another 12 to 14 acres which you could see we went down into other two parcels and come to find out you know, as you'll see in our bid results, timber prices are, are like nothing I've ever seen here at the County, our numbers are two to three times higher than our highest received in the past. So there's a couple of different factors right there. This parcel has a large amount of red pine, which is used for telephone poles, the market right now is extremely tight with red pine poles. So basically what's happening is, the large amount of interest are five bidders. We also had a company come out of Canada and one out of Maine that came down to take a look at this timber. So there's just such a demand right now for the timber, which basically resulted in a very high demand and interest in this parcel. Usually, I like to see two to three bids. I don't think we've ever gotten more than that, you know, like I said, there was five that showed up this year for this parcel, and one didn't make it in time. So extremely large interest. So if you look at, you know, I can go down through the specifics, but is that, you know, the large amount of, of red pine, you know, it's 296,000 feet, they measure that and what they refer to as MDF, and that price, like I said, was through the roof. And if you look at the bid results, that's what that's what drove that overall number very high. So we're here to get approval, this is a revenue bid. So it's kind of a little bit different, you know, so it's a revenue bid. And I will say that, you know, I'm responsible for overseeing some of the harvest, but we also have a timber management company. So the way this works is they get paid 10% of whatever our revenue is. So there is an expense here, you know, we're going to have to raise our expense line, but our revenue line at the same time, we're going to greatly increase because of a large amount of increased revenue. You'll see in my third paragraph, I've got a breakdown of all the bidders, I will request the committee, we've done this on for other bids, that if for some reason, the top bidder backs out that we automatically awarded to the second highest bidder, that gives us the ability to move quickly on this to get the harvest done. If it works out for the for the bidders to move quickly. And I will say, you know, this is in

accordance with our management plan, we do have, and I've got an email here from our land management company, some of the red pine does have a red rat disease in the woods, which we're seeing in some of our parcels. So we are going to cut the red pine to try to isolate some of those areas. And we will cut that a little higher harder than we normally do. Because we do have some disease on this parcel. I will be back we're currently marking the south half of this parcel. So I will be back, you know, probably, you know this Fall to go out to bid on the southern parcel, the southern portion of it, and then these three parcels will probably be done, in my opinion for 15 to 20 years, we won't be back to these parcels. And then we'll move on to other parcels into management planning. And obviously, the trails are a concern. The woods will look different, you know, it is a timber harvest, we will be going to trails back up. And well work with us, the Town Supervisor has already been notified. And then we'll work with Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park and try to get it posted. You know, people will, I have gotten a couple of calls, they see the blue marks on the trees, they are concerned. So I just want the committee to be aware of that as well.

Joe Grasso

All right, I'll open it up to questions from the committee.

Matt Veitch

I got questions.

Joe Grasso

Yep.

Matt Veitch

So I this is actually on one side, very great, because you know, I've never seen numbers like that either. I've been around timber harvests resolutions for a long time and that's really quite quite a number. So I totally,

Jason Kemper

I tried to use an average over the last several years, and it just

Matt Veitch

not even close

Jason Kemper

wasn't even close.

Matt Veitch

So I think on that side of it, I have no issue supporting this, obviously, it's a great revenue contract. So one of the things I do think we should do on this is if there's any way we can, whether it's formally or informally use some of this extra revenue for the trail maintenance. So I know that Edie Bullard has a couple of wet spots, you know, where we need to put boards down so people can walk on them. And I know that there's other parts of that parcel that probably need a little bit of work, the signage there is bad like a lot of them, and you know, those kinds of improvements. So I know we put some money in

our budget generally for trail, you know, maintenance and upgrade. But using some of this extra revenue, we might be able to get some more done with in that space. So I don't know how we do that as part of a resolution but or whether we just informally say hey, we think you could use five or ten thousand dollars more out of this revenue to just put into that line. Maybe it can be part of the resolution that we move it into that line that we create. I think we create a line for that.

Jason Kemper

We did and we worked with Stephanie obviously we created a county forest land line just for maintenance and then we've got a separate Zim Smith so

Matt Veitch

Right there's a forest land for sure because it's coming out of the forest. Yeah.

Jason Kemper

And you and I have talked you know, one of our issues there is especially when you come in from the parking lot, go down that first step you know that those couple of mud holes are now 40 or 50 feet wide, because everybody used to going out to get around Oh, right, you know. You know, I think we need some sort of, like we discussed, you know, pressure treated timber, you know, planking across those. There's a couple different options. In my opinion, you can either do it now, or I could come back later in the year, once we get some numbers for that stuff. And we do a budget amendment realizing that you have, you know, significant more revenue. I mean, it's really up to you guys. So I could do it. I am looking at as soon as they're done. Problem is, you don't know when they're going to they could they could harvest that up to November, they have to November to harvest that. So I don't really know what I'm gonna have to do afterwards, because they're not gone yet. But it was one of my concerns.

Matt Veitch

I mean, it's whatever costs, you know, like maybe replacing signage, doing some of that planking. And there's a few other things that I remember from when I walked in a couple of years ago that are out there for that one, but not a lot for Edie Bullard. If I remember

Jason Kemper

No, the main things those couple of wet areas. And then we were talking about a small little parking lot coming off of Bullard. But that's directly next to a residence so we sort of steered away from that.

Matt Veitch

Yeah. So I mean, if it's, you know, a couple 1000 or whatever, maybe, maybe when the amounts are known, you do that. And rather than do it then.

Steve Bulger

When would you typically see the money when would the county see the money?

Jason Kemper

So, we get half down and contract signing and then either the rest of it usually comes at commencement of harvest. But there is a trigger in there, that if and I'll get to what concerns me of this

one, there is a trigger in there, you know, if they don't give us money at contract signing, or they're delaying it, then we automatically have been building for a second better, the unique thing here with this. And I want to point this out, I've never seen this. Your highest bidder is the company that all the lower bidders sell their logs to. I've never seen this. So what's my concern is your highest bidder, the second highest bidder was still going to cut all that timber and sell it to the highest bidder. Now, the highest bidder just paid us 119,000 for timber, he still has to hire someone to go cut the wood. So it's kind of a I've never seen, like I said, there's a lot of

Matt Veitch

It's that profitable.

Jason Kemper

Right now. Yes, you know, and they just don't, they don't have the timber available,

Matt Veitch

Right. Because when they go to the telecoms or the National, they're gonna pay even higher for it. So it doesn't matter to them.

Jason Kemper

You look at the single pole prices, it's in the hundreds of dollars, when I first started looking at these, you know, wholesale prices were 100 152. Wholesale. Now, that's two or three times that. And the concern is there's just not enough red pine poles in the market. Our trees are not big around, but they're very tall, they're very straight.

Matt Veitch

And I've seen them go.

Jason Kemper

So especially our red pine.

Matt Veitch

Yeah, I mean, that is one of the nicer features of the trail system. But yeah, you know, it is what it is we've always said, these are active logging parcels. So one year, you may see a great stand with red pines the next year, it may be cut. So it is what it is,

Jason Kemper

You know, you're gonna see what comes in afterwards. If you look to other ones, you know, that lower brush, the habitats greatly improved, you know, it's definitely much better, it's not as wide open for the trail users, I will say that, you know, when it does, that always does raise some concern, you could see Loudon, and in some of the other ones, it takes time for that understory to come back up. But it is it is definitely a large change. If someone's walking that parcel. I don't want to I don't want to understate that.

Kevin Tollisen

Do you need a motion here?

Joe Grasso

So and I Yep, will get there. So I like the concept of the of the revenue generation being somewhat tied to this, you know, these county forest lands, you know, it ties the revenue with the impact that we're creating here. I'd rather do that as a separate thing come back when we have more information or understand exactly how it should get memorialized. So we don't handcuff ourselves. Other questions?

Joe Grasso

I did. So in terms of the trails, the all three parcels are going to be closed to fair usage?

Jason Kemper

Yea we'll close it down, we'll put signage up my life, I'll announce it the Town will know, we'll put some because what happens is I should have attached a trail map to it, which would have been a wise thing to do, but there's a loop trail that, you know, all the bottom parcel feeds directly into the topic, one large loop with another small group.

Joe Grasso

Okay, so Alright, so the trails get closed to all three parcels and the duration of that closure. Is it just tied to right before the active logging starts? And then

Jason Kemper

Whenever we deem it safe, what happens is afterwards the timber, our management company will allow, they'll give me an email that that signifies I can release the security deposit before I that I go out and check.

Joe Grasso

So what's the expected duration of the trail user impacts? Is it months? Is it years?

Jason Kemper

No, no. It all depends because keep in mind the bidders depending on if it's a I don't know who the top bidder is going to use to sell it to harvest it. It'll be definitely mechanized equipment, all mechanized high volume, you know, I'm thinking of 74 acres, ballpark 30 to 45 days.

Joe Grasso

Okay. All right. So it's a pretty short winter, I would just like to make sure that we, you know, whatever contract we enter into it somewhat tightened up so that we understand what the schedule is. And we can hold them accountable so that we can let the Town and the trail users know

Jason Kemper

Usually the contractors will play the markets as well, the last thing you want to do is be here longer than necessary. You know, so usually, it's, it's pretty fast once they start.

Joe Grasso

Yeah. And in terms of the volumes of materials, that's from our consultant that estimates those volumes, and that's what gets bid on.

Jason Kemper

Yea so what happens I can send out to committee, we get a full tally sheet, every tree is counted, we know more feet per tree. And then there's a total number of trees.

Joe Grasso

I think it's just more about the process. So these come from our consultants. But these aren't, this isn't a quantity, thing where the number of trucks or trees or volumes,

Jason Kemper

So these we found out, it's much easier to do a lump sum bid. We used to monitor by the truck. And we're finding that we're doing we're getting better interest. And ironically, a little higher dollars when we go lump sum, we do have a small buffer in there to make sure that we guarantee these amounts are present on that parcel.

Joe Grasso

All right. I'm comfortable. Any other questions? All right. Do I have a motion to, and I see the draft resolution in the packet. Do I have a motion to approve the resolution as drafted?

Eric Connolly

So moved.

Joe Grasso

Moved by Supervisor Connolly. Thank you. Do I have a second?

Kevin Tollisen

Second

Joe Grasso

Seconded by Supervisor Tollisen. All in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Joe Grasso

Nay. Ayes have it. Thank you. Thank you, Jason, for the description. Next on the agenda is Saratoga County, Ag District 303A updates. And we're gonna do these sequentially. Or

Jason Kemper

Yeah, I can just go together.

Joe Grasso

Okay.

Jason Kemper

My reason for providing an update in the memo is we've got several towns we're working with right now, because the Ag district stuff. So I mean, we've got two things going on, we got an eight year review going on in half the County, and other half we got our annual review going on. So I just, this is a quick summary of where we're at in those processes. I've got Jeff here, who's sort of living and breathing ag districts every day these days. So just a summary for the town's briefly the eighth year review the next thing, our next big step to you will be back in probably July to set a public hearing for that, you know, all the background is there in the memo, the annual review is basically completed. And we've emailed that information out to the town assessors. So our annual review is totally done. Very quick and simple. Every eight years, you can add or subtract from an ag district and ag district 1 ag district 2 on a rotational basis. 303 b every year, you can add to either of those ag districts during the annual inclusion period. So there's two different things going on simultaneously.

Joe Grasso

All right, no resolutions required any questions from Supervisors? Are we generally growing the Ag districts or shrinking the Ag districts every eight years?

Jason Kemper

Well we're going up? Well, this one's going to be interesting, because this one's covering some of the more towns that are more developing. So we're in the process, you know, some of those parcels will be coming out. We do have some additions. I don't have, you have a good answer on eight year?

Jeff Williams

I don't. I know that about 400 acres being asked to be removed at this point. We did a map review with Troy, our GIS specialist and Real Property, Anna in Real Property. We've kind of got the map, boundary map kind of set up to reflect the way historically how it's been and been added to then that review actually added I think, like 500 acres that were either not coded right, with Towns and stuff like that, but we've kind of corrected that whole measure. So right now we're at a balancing act of maybe 100 acres shifted out and then.

Joe Grasso

Yeah, I think it would just be when, when the numbers are all finalized, you know, rather than go another eight years, it'd be good for the Supervisors to understand, you know how the changes are so that we can be aware of long term trends.

Jeff Williams

Well recorded in the report that we're doing, (inaudible).

Jason Kemper

And I will say the last two years, the processes that we've gone through these last eight year reviews, when this year and then two years ago, we are checking every single parcel with the local assessor in

Real Property to make sure they're coded correctly. There's been a large amount of coding errors in the past. So we are doing much more detail than has ever been done in Ag Districts in the past.

Joe Grasso

Okay, great. Good update. Any questions? All right, next on the agenda is the Town of Northumberland 2019 Open Space Grant amendment.

Jason Kemper

So this was approved by Resolution 258 of 2019. This is the Bolesh farm in the Town of Northumberland. Oftentimes the open space projects usually they go up, this is a second one to go down, which is pretty shocking. But so we approved in total estimated project cost of 261. The Committee allows basically, you know, a variation of up to 10%. You know, if we could do within committee approval, so this is within committee approval, it's over that 10%. So we're looking for, you know, approval to basically change the project costs. County contribution remains the same.

Joe Grasso

Yep. 100,000. So the ratio goes up, you know, we're covering more of the total cost.

Jason Kemper

Still within our project limits. Yeah, I'm still within, beats every other guideline, it's just above that 10% that we can do within the Committee approval.

Joe Grasso

And we're still less than 50% of the total project costs. So it seems to be a good leverage of our resources. So this one will require resolution. Questions from the committee on this.

Eric Connolly

The easements are in perpetuity.

Jason Kemper

Yes.

Joe Grasso

Any other questions? All right. Again, we have another draft resolution in the packet. Do I have a motion to approve the draft resolution as drafted?

Matt Veitch

So moved.

Joe Grasso

By Supervisor Veitch. Do I have a second?

Eric Connolly

Second

Joe Grasso

Second by Supervisor Connolly? All in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Joe Grasso

Nay Ayes have it. Next Director Kemper County Forest Lands Zim Smith Trail updates and I think this is just covering the section.

Jason Kemper

Yeah, I mean, if you want me to go through each one what's going on? You know, I can just sort of just quickly it's up to you. Just I'm trying to keep the Committee updated on what we're spending money on and what's going on?

Jason Kemper

Okay, so basically we've got our, you know, garbage cans and stuff were just ordered and will be placed at the Floud Memorial parking lot. Our part our signs, we got our signs for Kalabus Perry, they'll be placed. Jim's got him so they'll be going up shortly. Those are aluminum signs and working a lot better than our paper ones with Plexiglas. We're still doing aluminum sign and put a little bit of Plexiglas over it. So worst case scenario, they break the Plexiglas we get new plexiglass rather than the whole new sign. So we closed out the Empire State Trail, we worked, we're the project managers that trail down in Mechanicville, Waterford, mainly Waterford. We closed that out. We did get our final reimbursement. That one's done and over with. Then we finally I was tired explaining to Stephanie when we weren't getting it, but you know, we submitted our final reimbursement for the Zim Smith on 4/21 of 2021. And we got our final reimbursement on 3/14 of 2022.

Joe Grasso

Yeah.

Matt Veitch

Pretty fast, they're working pretty fast.

Jason Kemper

So that's closed out. That project is done. We will now seek our reimbursement from New York State Parks and that's all for this section from Coons Crossing down to the City of Mechanicville. We're gonna have to get a gate we've got that access road to the would be to the west of the golf course, we did have some people were coming down in access road sneaking through the golf course and we're gonna have to get a gate up there. I'm working with Bruce Tanski, his groundskeeper on that, just to stop people from coming down and getting vehicles on the trail there. We've got eight pending Open Space Farmland Protection projects to right now as submitted for reimbursement. They'll be going out one you've got a resolution for it today. The other one has been approved by the Auditor we'll be getting that out the door. So two of those will be coming off the table this month or very shortly. We're down to

21 active trail projects 24 the last updates. We've done three since then, the three that have closed are the City of Saratoga Springs, You'll be happy to know Mr. Veitch. Got that one out the door. Town of Charlton and the Town of Clifton Park both have theirs and we have several reimbursements right in front of us right now, we've got one a joint project was Stillwater Mechanicville, Northumberland, and Saratoga and we've got both the Town of Galway 2019 and 20. In front of us for review. Town of Edinburg is called their two are coming in. So trying to get that number down and more manageable before we go out with our new applications.

Joe Grasso

And just talk a little bit about that new application process.

Jason Kemper

So we have an application usually goes out probably next month or the month after. Usually I will present it to the committee, and they would make any recommendations on changes. One thing I would suggest for this year because our project limits have significantly gone up especially for open space. You know, our budget limit, should I say what we funded, we probably ought to look at, you know, if the Committee wants to change our either our percentage or our total project cost limit right now that total project cost limit is 100,000 for farmland or 50 for open space. So something you may want to look at is you know, raise that if you want because of the higher amount of funding available and some other things we've looked at I think Mr. Peck stated at the last meeting, you know, there's always questions I have, what costs are eligible? What will we fund versus what can you use as a match? So we could I could get you a summary of what the applications are. And then obviously, that decision is ultimately up to the Committee.

Joe Grasso

Yeah. So I think this is this Committee is a good place to start with this. So if we could ask you to, you know, send out an email with some information for this Committee to review with maybe some of your Planning Departments thoughts about possible changes. You know, and then, you know, we can provide some, you know, suggestions and then roll it into a, you know, at the next meeting, move it forward.

Jason Kemper

Yeah. And typically, in the past, it's always been an internal action. We've never gotten Committee approval.

Joe Grasso

Okay.

Jason Kemper

(inaudible) application, but we are, you know, the, the project limits have, or the funding has gone up. So that's entirely.

Joe Grasso

Okay. So, so the, just changing the application form or process doesn't have to go through the series of Committees? That full board approval.

Jason Kemper

We have not in the past.

Joe Grasso

Okay

Jason Kemper

I would ask Attorney Hartnett.

Michael Hartnett

It hasn't historically gone for a resolution.

Joe Grasso

All right. So we can keep it at this committee then. Okay. Yeah. So if we can get that working set, we'll maintain our schedule there with the program, that'd be great.

Jason Kemper

Is your goal, I'll get that out. Do you want to sort of me get it out? We get comments back from anyone, and then just summarize those comments at the next meeting.

Joe Grasso

Correct yes.

Jason Kemper

And then get it out right after that?

Joe Grasso

Yep.

Jason Kemper

Okay.

Joe Grasso

Everybody good with that process? And then, Zim Smith North, in the northern section.

Jason Kemper

So, we did not we were, we were ranked 10 out of 19 in the latest CDTC Grant round. So I don't anticipate any funding there for that. We're waiting to hear on one more grant that we've got out, which would have drawn us from Oak Street a short segment up to Malta Ave. I would. I'm hoping but not optimistic. I guess the way to put it. You know, I don't think it will receive funding there. At that point in time, I think we should, you know, as I said, during the capital planning meetings, go out, get a design

engineer on board and start looking at number one right of way acquisition, what do we need for right of way and start to move forward on design. And you do have, you know, the money was placed in the capital budget to do that.

Joe Grasso

For this year?

Jason Kemper

Yeah.

Joe Grasso

So yeah, I mean, I, I would, I would like us to, you know, kind of establish what we think a potential project implementation schedule would be, you know, these are multiyear projects. And, and then, so the committee and ultimately, the Board can understand, you know, the steps involved, make sure that we get commitments throughout the process, and understand the capital investment and the grants and how they're going to dovetail in with those. Those capital investments. I know we've already allocated money for the design portion this year. So I think once we have that schedule we just have to get, you know, slowly get the ball rolling and get some momentum behind us.

Jason Kemper

The other portion was very slow until we got design done right of way and instantly, we received two very large grants to get

Joe Grasso

Yeah, we're going to hope for the same. So that's great. All right. Any other updates from your end? So other business from the other?

Matt Veitch

Just one question related to what we were just talking about? So. So I don't I don't know what the original timeline was for Zim Smith, or how it all came together, way back in the day. But do we have any thoughts about any further extensions in the Zim Smith like north?

Jason Kemper

Are you saying past Saratoga Springs?

Matt Veitch

Past Saratoga.

Jason Kemper

So just sort of info honestly, you know, trying to, I think this one's gonna be a very big nut to crack.

Matt Veitch

Oh, yeah. No, I know.

Jason Kemper

I would think, just off the top of my head, I think we're looking at probably two months designing right of way acquisition and maybe 24 months, and then we'd be ready for design.

Matt Veitch

Yeah. So I mean, I'm not really saying anything concrete like that, right. So like, the idea of sending it up to Saratoga Springs was all always kind of part of the idea, right? And so for years and years and years, that was the we were always going to do this northern section. Right. But that was always on the docket.

Jason Kemper

It absolutely was.

Matt Veitch

There's no discussion about any further Zim Smith, like we're not as a group, we're not talking about oh, hey, we want to go all the way to Moreau, or let's connect to the Warren County bikeway. Right. But I think we should talk about that if we really want to do that. Because you got to go through that whole process. Again, it takes years if we don't have anything planned than even informally, then we have nowhere to go. So I'm just thinking do we talk about that or not? That's all.

Joe Grasso

So that's a good point. To raise. I appreciate it. And it segways into something I wanted to talk about because I think

Matt Veitch

Stole your thunder.

Joe Grasso

No I know it's a good offshoot of it. You know, I see the need for us to kind of take a fresh look at our existing County wide trail system. But also we want to, you know, we should update that plan to show what the Towns are doing on their own. So that we kind of have a holistic view. So that we can start to think about alright, are there interconnections or additional extensions that we should be thinking about that, so that it all starts to come together?

Joe Grasso

I think, not to I step on Supervisor Connolly, but I know he's got plans to run north on that railway.

Joe Grasso

Yeah, so I would just like, you know, the Jason's department to be the one that pulls it all together, and shows it on a map, I think, if we've got something visual that we can look at, and share with all the Towns, but it requires some work on the Town. So I'm hoping that the Towns can, you know, identify a point of contact, if it's not the Supervisor, somebody in your Town that, you know, Jason's office can work with, he probably already knows most of these folks, and then get the input from the Towns in terms of your you know,

Matt Veitch

How they connect to the Zim Smith.

Joe Grasso

Do you have any maps that show your trails? Or do you have any plans in the works, and let's get it shown some way that we can get it all collected. And then we can decide if, you know, once we have this map, maybe there is a planning study that we need to start to advance maybe at certain areas, or mark maybe thinks on a countywide,

Matt Veitch

Right, like, I know, for example, in the City, we have the Greenbelt Trail plan, right. And so that that actually, part of it is designed to be in the Town of Wilton, Greenfield, actually, and that likes now, if you have the Zim Smith coming into State park, you don't have to do much in the city, because we already have some trails that get you to the point where we would do the Greenbelt. But then you really don't have to do too much once you get up to the, you know, wherever that is, trying to think Denton Daniels Road, it's kind of like we're the kind of like, where the trail goes back to the City. So then you've already got like that section kind of done. So the County doesn't need to necessarily design the Zim Smith through that area. Right? But we have to start there, and then go further north and maybe Wilton has some plans? I don't know.

Jason Kemper

I want to thank Attorney Hartnett's office as well, Mike Naughton's been watching a couple real estate transactions north of here along viable corridors. So we are absolutely watching it, you know, and sort of staying on top of it. It's always in the back of my mind, you know, what, where can we go from there?

Matt Veitch

Yeah. But we need to kind of state it, you know, so that we know that we haven't gone that direction. Right? So that's all Thank you.

Jason Kemper

Coons was a very, very big nut to crack, we were able to do it thanks to the town and some, you know, landowners. This one's gonna be just as difficult but, you know, I truly believe we can get to Saratoga Spa state park.

Joe Grasso

Alright, so the other thing I just wanted to mention for the Committee and get any feedback is Saratoga Plan is an organization that meets in a lot of towns and the County partners with on, you know, land conservation efforts, whether it's Farmland Protection, trails, open space, whatever. And they've gone through some recent changes at the Executive Director level. Rob Davies is, I think he's retired from DEC, I think Jason's got had worked with him in the past. He is the new Executive Director of Saratoga Plan. Maria Trabka, the former Director that I'm sure a lot of us have worked with, you know, is retiring, but she's still on temporarily through a transitional period, I would like to invite Rob Davies to come to this Committee, and then introduce himself. And so we can, you know, understand, you know, what his

vision for Saratoga Plan is in the future, make sure that we don't miss a step with all the work that we're trying to do with Saratoga Plan. So, you know, I think in terms of the timing, I would like to do it within the next month or two, but this month, you know, we've got a heavy agenda. So I didn't want to overload us this month. But as long as everybody's on board with that, we'll get that on a future agenda and work out the logistics.

Eric Connolly

And Mike Horne also moved on. He was a stand-up guy and a really good resource. So yeah, it'd be good to meet the new leadership and for them to start relationships with all of us.

Joe Grasso

Yeah, so we'll start with this Committee and then decide Steve if it needs to get a broadcast or wider group, but it would be good for us to have more smaller setting discussion with your office.

Steve Bulger

Awesome.

Jason Kemper

Is that something you want me to reach out to Rob, do you want to how do you want t?

Joe Grasso

I'll take the lead on that one.

Jason Kemper

Fair enough.

Joe Grasso

I think you have enough on your plate this month. Anything else for the Committee? Jason or Jeff? All right. Do you have a motion to adjourn Trails & Open Space Committee meeting?

Eric Connolly

So moved.

Joe Grasso

Moved by Supervisor Connolly.

Matt Veitch

Second.

Joe Grasso

Second by Supervisor Veitch. All in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Joe Grasso

Nay, Ayes have it. Thank you, everybody.