

Trails & Open Space Committee Minutes
October 6, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Joe Grasso; Committee Members Eric Connolly and Matt Veitch; Steve Bulger, Audra Hedden, Stephanie Hodgson County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, Michelle Granger, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Jeff Williams, Planning & Economic Development; Craig Hayner, Betsy DeMars, County Clerk; Barbara Conner, Malta Open Space.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Veitch, the minutes of the August 4, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to authorize amending Resolution 258-2019 to remove a condition of a Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program grant award to the Town of Clifton Park. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief overview of the history on the grants. The Town of Clifton will relinquish their 2015 trails grant, and move forward with submission of the 2019 Open Space grant reimbursement.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to authorize amending Resolution 216-2020 to reassign a grant award to the Town of Saratoga. Unanimous.

The Village of Victory was awarded a grant for the Siege Trail and has requested that the grant award be turned over to the Town of Saratoga for completion of the project.

A motion was made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to authorize awarding 2022 Trails grants and amending the 2022 County budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

12 applications were received from 12 different municipalities for a total funding request of \$118,653. Total budgeted amount is \$100K, therefore the request includes a transfer from fund balance in the amount of \$18,653 in order to fully fund each application. The total project cost of the 12 projects is \$270K.

Mr. Kemper provided an overview of the 2022 Farmland and Open Space Grant applications. Total grant request for all applications is \$755,912 which is substantially over the budget of \$400,000. Mr. Grasso suggested creating a 2 person sub committee to review all of the applications with Mr. Kemper and bring back recommendations for the full committee. The sub committee will consist of Mr. Grasso and Mr. Kinowski. **After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to create a 2 person sub-committee to review the 2022 Farmland and Open Space Grant applications. Unanimous.**

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to authorize an agreement with Greenman-Pedersen, inc. for engineering services for the extension of the Zim Smith Trail North extension. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper provide a brief update on the project. The proposed fee for the project is \$819,000 and funding is available in the Zim Smith Capital Account. \$500K of the design cost is covered by a grant which was authorized by Resolution 264-2022. Discussion ensued regarding the timeframe, phases of the project and funding.

Mr. Kemper provided an update on outstanding Open Space/Farmland Protection Projects. Mr. Grasso suggested that a timeframe be established on new applications. The committee agreed on 2 years, and can be included in the next applications.

Mr. Kemper provided updates on County Forestland and the Community Forest project. Further discussion took place regarding the stewardship and management of the Community Forest project in Greenfield when completed. The target opening is anticipated April 2023. It is also anticipated the parcel will have a high volume of use. Mr. Grasso suggested a sub-committee be made with Mr. Veitch to review the details of the stewardship and management of the Community Forest Project over the next few months and report back to the Committee. **After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to create the abovementioned sub-committee. Unanimous.**

On a motion made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Veitch, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board