

Trails & Open Space Committee Minutes
December 8, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Joe Grasso; Committee Members Ed Kinowski and Matt Veitch; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Stephanie Hodgson, Matt Rose, County Administrator; Michelle Granger, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Jeff Williams, Planning.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, the minutes of the November 3, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to award the 2022 Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program Grants. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper presented the item and gave a brief overview of each of the projects. Total requests were for approximately \$755K with \$400K of funding. A subcommittee was created to review the requests and provide recommendations to the full committee. A spreadsheet of the amounts requested and awarded is attached to these minutes. Mr. Kemper gave a brief description of the projects being awarded. Discussion ensued. It was decided that projects will be reevaluated two years after the Resolution is approved to determine if significant progress is made.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, to authorize an agreement with Saratoga PLAN for stewardship of the Community Forest Project in the Towns of Greenfield and Wilton. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief overview of the item. The agreement will be for a period of two years in the amount of \$25,000 per year and will take effect upon the closing of the property. Discussion ensued. Mr. Kemper thanked Mr. Naughton from the County Attorney's office for his assistance with the agreement.

Mr. Kemper gave an overview of pending open space projects, pending trail projects, Agricultural District inclusion, Zim Smith trail and County Forestland as provided with the agenda back up.

Mr. Kinowski requested that Cristina Connolly from the Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District be invited to present to the Committee at a future date.

Mr. Grasso thanked the Committee and County staff for their participation this year.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese M. Connolly
Clerk of the Board