

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

Saratoga County Farmland Protection and Open Space Grants 2022

Municipality	Project Name	Description	Acreage	S.B.L #	Original County Request	Committee Recommendation	Unfunded Amount	Total Project Cost
Ballston	Phase I Extension to Beacon Hill Neighborhood	A portion of the land is owned by the Town of Ballston and a portion is owned by National Grid. We are working with National Grid to be granted a Right Of Way through the portion of land they own which is currently an access road. This phase (1) is part of a four phase project that will connect Burnt Hills to Ballston Spa. Hundreds of residences have been developed in this area and those residents will now have access to the trail system that is planned to be connected to the Zim Smith trail.	N/A	228.14-1-26; 228.-3.-56; 228.-3-15.2; 239.-1-15	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$150,000.00
Ballston	Phase 2 Connection to the Zim Smith with railroad underpass	This property is currently owned by the Curtis Industrial park / Todd Curtis. It is used as an industrial park for businesses.	N/A	228.-3-64;	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$150,000.00
Charlton	Mill Pond Park Property Acquisition	The parcel is a vacant plot of flat overgrowth that sits along the roadside and is at the head of the walking trail into Mill Pond Park. The property borders Crane Street and blocks the head of the trail. Once acquired, the property will allow access to Mill Pond Park and serve as a parking area and trailhead for the path into the park.	0.05	246.-3-75	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00

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Municipality	Project Name	Description	Acreage	S.B.L #	Original County Request	Committee Recommendation	Unfunded Amount	Total Project Cost
Charlton / Saratoga PLAN	Scotch Ridge Farm Conservation Easement	Scotch Ridge Farm, owned by David and Kathryn Arnold, is a diverse property with fertile farm fields, well-managed woodlands on Dennison Hill, premier wetland habitat in the Consalus Vly, an extensive manicured landscape, well-groomed snowmobile, hiking and cross-country ski trails, ponds, a primary residence as well as a rental residence, and a large metal utility building / barn with an office. This grant application, which will be matched by the landowners, will conserve the 154.4-acre eastern section of the farm as an initial phase, with a second phase to complete conservation of the 46.5-acre eastern section as a subsequent transaction. This initial phase of the Scotch Ridge Farm conservation project will make the remaining acres of the farm eligible for state funding by leveraging and augmenting its chances as an adjacent protected farm and natural area; each section boosting the integrity of the other for agriculture, habitat, water quality, scenic views, and rural character.	154.4	223.-1-13.12 (partial); 223.-1-13.2; 223.-1-12 (partial)	\$262,226.00	\$220,000.00	\$42,226.00	\$524,452.00

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Greenfield	Middle Grove Town Park Expansion	This property, 426 Middle Grove Rd, has been abandoned and is in the process of going to auction later this year. It contains an abandoned trailer home, shed, garage and trees. The Town of Greenfield is been discussing purchasing the property with Real Property Services. Exact costs will be determined later this year, so we are applying for our best estimate at this time. It may cost less, which will show at the time we are requesting reimbursement. It is a parcel directly linked to the entrance of our Middle Grove Town Park and one we have long wanted to clean up and add to the natural beauty of our town's busiest park. We have detailed costs for purchase of property, as well as to clean up the	0.62	162.8-1-18	\$31,227.90	\$5,000.00	\$26,227.90	\$62,455.73

Saratoga County Farmland Protection and Open Space Grants 2022

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Milton	Woods Hollow Nature Preserve Conveyance Project	<p>The Woods Hollow Nature Preserve (Preserve) is a 130-acre property owned by the Village of Ballston Spa and maintained by the Town of Milton. The Preserve is the former reservoir property for the Village of Ballston Spa and has a network of walking trails throughout the property, which is comprised primarily of pine forest and sandy soils. The Town has honored an unwritten agreement to maintain the Village's property for decades. From recent discussions with Village Officials, they do not have the resources required to properly maintain the property. Additionally, the Village has recently solicited companies to value the timber and consider logging to increase their fiscal wellbeing. From the Town's point of view, logging may damage the public's perception of the Town since the community perceives the Town as an owner of the property due its geographic location and maintenance commitment. After considering the aforementioned items, Town Officials believe that acquisition of the property could benefit both the Town and Village. If acquired, the Town would be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create recreational amenities for residents i.e. pavilion's, docks, and campsites; Adequately maintain and improve the existing trail system; Maintain the habitat for the endangered wildlife. 	130.22	203.-3-1.12	\$100,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$200,000.00

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Municipality	Project Name	Description	Acreage	S.B.L #	Original County Request	Committee Recommendation	Unfunded Amount	Total Project Cost
Milton / Saratoga PLAN	Bombard Farm Conservation Easement	The Bombard Property, owned by Tracy Bombard, is a historic property with fertile farm fields and a wide riparian zone around a Kayaderosseras Creek tributary. The aquatic habitat surrounding the tributary is ranked as medium according to the Saratoga PLAN Conservation Plan adopted in 2014. There is a primary residence and historic barn that are restored with several additional farm buildings that are in the process of restoration. The farm operation is currently focused on fiber. The Bombard's are working to card, weave, and dye wool fibers from their angora goats, alpacas and llamas. The Bombard's have been leading educational workshops on agrarian lifestyles for groups from all over the Northeast.	42.2	214.-1-23.1	\$124,762.00	\$124,762.00	\$0.00	\$249,524.00
Moreau	Moreau Big Bend Trail Connection to Saratoga County Trails	Property is currently a residential parcel of 12.55 acres of which .81 acres is proposed to be purchased. This property would be key in connecting Moreau's Big Bend trail project to the County Forest and County Trail system.	0.81	63.-1-37.1	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00

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Northumberland/ Saratoga PLAN	18 Karat Farm Conservation Easement	18 Karat Farm is owned by 18 Karat Farm LLC (the members of which are Peter and Suzann Bobley). The Farm is a pristinely managed 75-acre horse farm located in the Town of Northumberland. The property on the East side of Beaver Street provides fertile pastures and scenic views. The West side offers a dense forested habitat and an east-west wildlife corridor. This parcel is one of the few remaining wooded tracts on Beaver Street. The farm's pastures are well-managed with four board fencing and wide gateways for easy turnouts. The horse stable on the property has all the necessities and more: eighteen 12" by 12" stalls, tack room, feed room, bathroom, laundry facilities, spacious stone dust aisles, and wide doorways. Woven metal stall doors, stall windows, the airy aisles, and a cupola provide good ventilation for the health of the horses. A separate hay barn promotes better air quality in the horse barn and prevents fire danger from the hay. A third barn is used for tool and equipment including vehicles storage and one for equipment. There are two residences on the property, both with garages, one for the farm manager and one where Mr. and Mrs. Bobley, the members of the LLC, live year-round.	75.2	143.-2-26; 143.-2-25	\$199,697.00	\$0.00	\$199,697.00	\$399,889.00
					\$755,912.90	\$399,762.00	\$356,150.90	\$1,772,320.73