



# Trails & Open Space Committee

Wednesday, June 28, 2023 4PM  
40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY

## Minutes

Present: Chairman Joe Grasso; Committee Members Eric Connolly, Ed Kinowski, Michele Madigan, Matthew Veitch.

Ridge Harris, Audra Hedden, County Administrator; George Conway, Samantha Kupferman, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Jeff Williams, Planning. Michael Funk, Malta Trails Committee

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Veitch, the minutes of the December 6, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Chairman Grasso announced the appointment of Supervisor Connolly as Committee Vice-Chair.

**On a motion made by Ms. Madigan, seconded by Mr. Connolly, the committee approved the 2024 Saratoga County Trail Grant Program Application. Unanimous.**

Mr. Kemper and Mr. Grasso provided overviews of the Saratoga County Trail Grant Program and application process. Discussion ensued. It was decided that the deadline to submit applications will be June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Mr. Grasso suggested that no local match be required to help smaller municipalities. Mr. Grasso suggested additional criteria be applied toward project ranking, having a maximum number of points at 25, 1-5 points for Resource Protection, 1-10 points for Community Resource, and 1-10 points for local support.

Mr. Grasso reported his committee goals for 2024.

- Create a new County Wide Trails plan – existing trails, trails in progress, and future connections.
- Continue to spur interest in the Open Space and Farmland Protection Program.  
Zim Smith Trail – Have the trail from Ballston Spa to Saratoga State Park shovel ready by the end of 2024. Mr. Kemper gave an update on the project as it stands right now. Discussion ensued.
- Improve outreach to municipalities to better understand how their goals at a local level factor into the County's initiative.

- Consider bringing in local industry experts for regular Committee or Board updates.

Mr. Grasso encouraged each of the committee members to provide any ideas and goals they may have for the committee. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kemper provided an update on pending Open Space/farmland Protection projects, Farmland and Open Space grant application, pending Trail grants and contacts, Graphite Range Community Forest Project, and the County timber harvest. Discussion ensued.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese M. Connolly  
Clerk of the Board