



Trails & Open Space Committee

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4PM
40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY

Minutes

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

Ridge Harris, Stephanie Hodgson, Renee Law, Matt Rose, Christine Rush, Anne Van Vorst, County Administrator; George Conway, Samantha Kupferman, Jenny Marcotte, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Kim Lambert, Planning.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Ms. Madigan, the minutes of the February 7, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Madigan, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, approving the reimbursement for Trails Grants projects in the Towns of Halfmoon and Northumberland and authorizing the transfer of funds from the Trails Reserve Fund and amending the 2024 County Budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Reimbursement amounts are as follows: Town of Halfmoon \$10,000 and Town of Northumberland \$10,000.

Mr. Kemper provided an update regarding the NYS Open Space Plan as distributed with the agenda. New York State is currently undergoing an update to its New York State Open Space Plan and they are reaching out to each of the Counties across NYS for their list of “priority recommendations”. A list of potential projects recommended to be included within the Plan was distributed with the agenda. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kemper provided a brief update on pending Open Space Farmland Protection projects. 2024 applications were released on January 10th and are due on March 29th. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kemper provided a brief update on pending Trail grant projects, 2024 Trails Applications were sent out on February 21st and are due back June 28th.

Bids have been awarded for the County fish stocking program. This will be brought up a future meeting, as well a stocking dates. Supervisors are welcome to participate in the events.

Mr. Kemper reported that there has been significant discussion on the development of a county wide trails map or app being undertaken by the Planning & Economic Development Department. This would potentially include historical information. The Planning and Economic Development Department will begin the process of reaching out to municipalities. Mr. Grasso reported that the Committee will be updated as meetings with the Planning Department occur and the project moves forward. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kemper reported that the NYS Comptroller are doing an audit of the NYS Farmland Protection program administered by NYS Dept. of Ag. and Markets. Saratoga County representatives met with the Comptrollers office recently to discuss problems that are encountered, benefits of the program, and what can be done to improve the program. Discussion ensued

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board