Trails & Open Space Committee

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 4PM
40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY

Chair: Joe Grasso
Members: Dave Ball, Michael Gyarmathy-VC, Ed Kinowski, Ram Lalukota, Scott Ostrander, Minita Sanghvi

Agenda

I. Welcome and Attendance

II. Approval of the minutes of the July 7, 2026 meeting

III. Authorizing the necessary agreements to apply for, accept, and administer a New York State Snowmobile Trail grant-in-aid program grant and authorizing the issuance of a negative declaration under SEQR – Jason Kemper, Planning & Economic Development

IV. Discussion: Office of Planning & Economic Development Updates – Jason Kemper, Planning & Economic Development

V. Other Business

VI. Adjournment

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
JASON KEMPER, DIRECTOR

518.884.4705
SARATOGACOUNTYNY.GOV
50 WEST HIGH ST, BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trails and Open Space Committee Members

CC: County Administrator's Office
County Attorney's Office
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jason Kemper, Director of Planning and Economic Development

DATE: July 29, 2026

RE: August 2026 Trails and Open Space Meeting

New York State Snowmobile Grant Program

On behalf of the Saratoga County Association of Snowmobile Clubs, the Planning and Economic Development Department is requesting acceptance by the Trails and Open Space Committee – and to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors – an application for a NYS Snowmobile Trail Grant-in-Aid Program estimated not to exceed $110,000. These are pass through funds that go directly to the clubs of the Saratoga County Association of Snowmobile Clubs, so there is no budget impact.

According to the 2025-2026 NYS OPRHP Snowmobile Season Report (the latest report); based on information received from the Department of Motor Vehicles, 109,353 snowmobiles were registered in New York State during the 2025-2026 season. $7,373,033 was collected in registration fees.

The Snowmobile Trail Grant-In-Aid Program establishes a mechanism for allocating funds to local governmental sponsors who engage in the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails designated as part of the State Snowmobile Trail System. There are over 10,600 miles of trails in NYS. These funds are distributed by their Local Sponsor to over 220 TMEs.

Since 1994 Saratoga County has served as the Local Municipal Sponsor for the NYS Snowmobile Trails Grant-in-Aid Program administered by NYS OPRHP. The Saratoga County Association of Snowmobile Clubs, comprised of the Charlton, Country Trailblazers, Galway, Lincoln Mountain, and the Saratoga Snowmobile Association; develop, maintain, and operate 178 miles of state funded trails through 19 municipalities within Saratoga County. The trail mileage proposed for the 2026-2027 season is 177 miles.

In the 2025-2026 season the Saratoga County Association of Snowmobile Clubs spent over $230,000 on trail maintenance, signs and materials, groomer usage, and miscellaneous expenses. The Saratoga County Association of Snowmobile Clubs received $89,562 through the grant program and distributed the funds to each club based on mileage. Additionally, the county will be receiving $7,650.01 in grant funds for

administering the program. The 2026-2027 awards have not been released but are expected to be in line with 2025-2026.

Permission is received from landowners for the clubs to operate the trail system on their respective properties. Municipal and county approval is necessary where those trails cross or occupy the local or county right of way. The 2025-2026 award packet is attached to the memo. There is no cost to the individual landowners to operate the trail system. Additionally, the grant program creates no budget impact to Saratoga County as snowmobile registrations fund 100% of the grant awards. These funds are received from NYS and passed on to the snowmobile clubs in Saratoga County.

County Forestland / Zim Smith Trail Updates / County Grant Updates

- There are currently 4 pending Open Space/Farmland Protection Projects, including three 2025 awards, and one from 2021. The 2021 project, the applicant was advised to reapply in the 2026 grant period as the original parameters of the conservation easement project were changed. The Town of Northumberland for 2023 and 2024 were closed out on July 24, 2026. Town of Clifton Park's 2025 (2023 amended project) project closed out on July 24, 2026.
- The 2026 Farm Protection and Open Space grant program collected five grant applications, four farm protection and one open space protection, with a total request of $1,331,530 of funding. A subcommittee has been set up to meet and discuss the 2026 Farmland Protection and Open Space grants on July 29th.
- Currently, there are 17 pending Trail Projects being administered by the Planning Department. Of the 18 projects, eight are 2025, six are 2024, one is a 2023 award, one is 2021 and one is 2020. The 2025 Trail grant awards for the Town of Halfmoon has closed. A 2025 Town of Greenfield trail award has cleared the Auditor review, and the reimbursement will be paid shortly. The Town of Milton has indicated that they will not be seeking reimbursement for their 2025 grant and is relinquishing the funds.
- Supervisor Grasso and Jason Kemper have been attending regular meetings of the Graphite Range Community Forest Advisory Committee. Trail usage, signage, maintenance, and event policies have all been discussed.
- The Graphite Range community Forest North Parking Lot appeared before the Greenfield Planning Board on 5.26.26, and 6.30.26 for a public hearing. The project will next be on the agenda on 9.8.26. A GML-239m county referral has been received from the Town of Greenfield and will be entertained at the Saratoga County Planning Board's August 20, 2026 meeting. The county will acquire the parcel once all improvements on the site have been made.
- The 2026-2027 Timber Harvest is due on August 14th. Vendors have expressed concern with the recent announcement regarding the timber pulp market closing at the Finch Pryn mill in Glens Falls. A portion of the timber harvest goes for pulp production. Attached to the memo are some news articles highlighting the issue.
- A quarterly report for Zim Smith Trail Usage is attached to the memo. A fourth trail counter was recently installed in the Town of Malta at Shenantaha Park on 4.1.26. The peak day on the trail occurred on June 27, 2026 for the Round Lake Antique Festival, over 4500 individuals passed by the counter on this day. Two of the trail counters are averaging approximately 400 users per day.

Zim Smith Trail Usage Report (Date Range)

Saratoga County

April 1, 2026 → June 30, 2026

Total

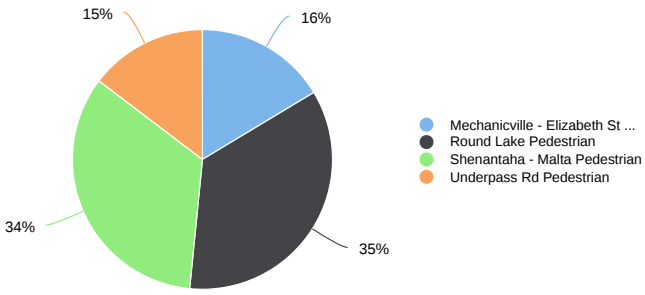
106,228

Peak Day

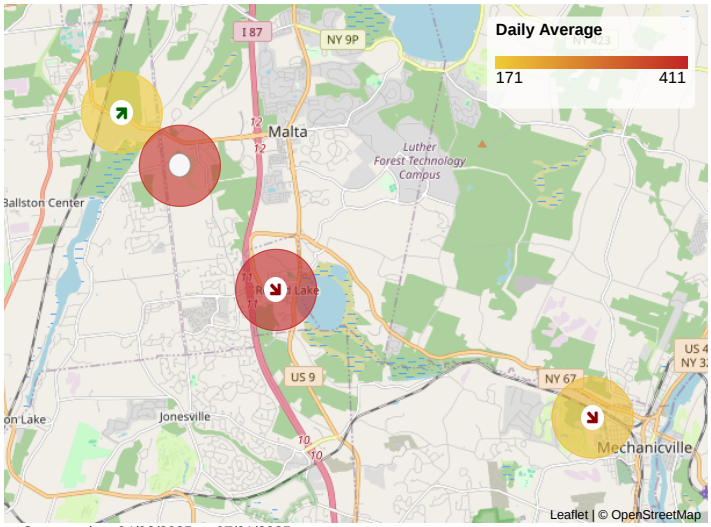
Saturday
Jun 27, 2026

5,868

Distribution



Key Figures Map

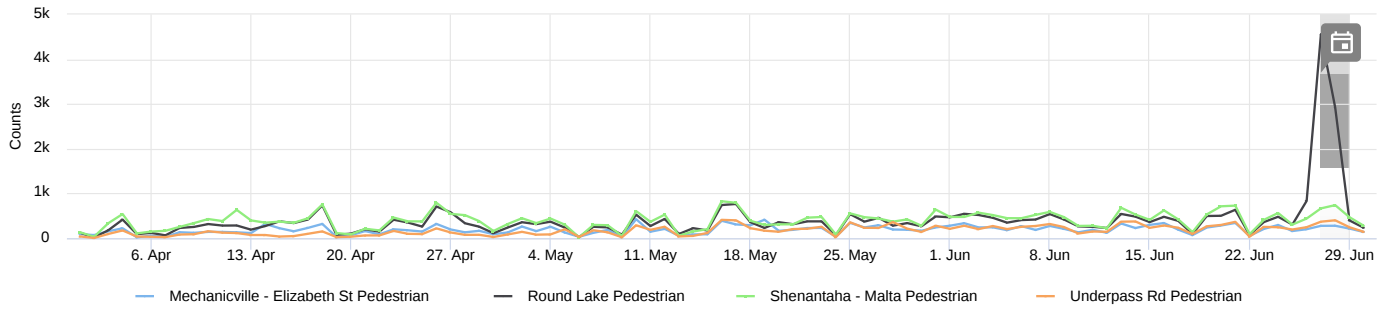


Compared to 04/02/2025 → 07/01/2025

Key Figures Summary

Site	Total	Daily Average	Peak Day	Peak Count
Mechanicville - Elizabeth St Pedestrian	17,417	191	Sun May 10, 2026	424
Round Lake Pedestrian	37,381	411	Sat Jun 27, 2026	4,557
Shenantaha - Malta Pedestrian	35,879	394	Sat May 16, 2026	826
Underpass Rd Pedestrian	15,551	171	Sat May 16, 2026	410

Daily Traffic



The Post Star - Finch Paper announces transition to purchased pulp

Jul 17, 2026

GLENS FALLS – Finch Paper announced today that it is completing a significant investment to expand its capacity to receive greater volumes and a wider array of pulp purchased from third-party producers.

According to the announcement, this investment will enable Finch to expand its paper product offerings to customers and “create a stronger, more resilient operation focused solely on its core business of paper making.”

As a part of this transition, Finch Paper will discontinue making its own pulp. Finch Paper has historically used a combination of its own pulp and third-party pulp to make the high-quality papers for which it is known. In the last 20 years, the market has shifted dramatically, the company explained, and Finch can now reliably purchase pulp less expensively than it can produce on site.

“This is an investment that strengthens the economics and future of our business in Glens Falls,” said Drew Gardner, CEO of Finch Paper Holdings. “We are first and foremost a paper company, and the long-term success and resilience of our business requires that we put our management focus and future investment entirely there.’’

Gardner added, “Finch Paper, at 161 years old, continues to thrive in the ultra-competitive paper industry by being the most long-term oriented and stable uncoated freesheet mill in North America. In a landscape marked by mill closures and conversions, we do that by offering the broadest range of products in the marketplace and by continuously diversifying our production so that we are insulated from secular declines and volatility in any given paper end-market. These capital investments in our mill bolster our paper production capabilities, making us more resilient than ever.”

A company spokesperson also said the transition will have "the beneficial effect of reducing odors associated with the Finch operation."

Regarding job retention, the company said that all hourly employees at the pulp mill and associated woodyard will be offered the opportunity to work in other positions throughout the company. And many of the affected salaried employees will also have the opportunity to be considered for open positions. The spokesperson did not provide a number for the potential salaried jobs lost.

When Finch transitions to purchased pulp, it will no longer be necessary for the company to purchase large quantities of logs from wood suppliers in the Northeast and New England. Finch will, however, remain active in the wood products market by continuing to purchase wood for use in its biomass cogeneration facility. This process converts bark, sawdust, and rejected wood scraps into high-pressure steam used to dry paper during production.

“Continuous adaptation and investment have been the keys to Finch Paper’s success from the very beginning,” Gardner said. “This is how we continue to meet our responsibilities to our customers, our employees and our communities for many years to come.”

Times Union - **Finch Paper to cease pulp production, closing Glens Falls mill**

Foresters: Closing will have impact on Adirondack jobs

By James M. Odato,

Adirondack Explorer

Updated July 22, 2026 1:15 p.m.

Finch Paper's long-standing purchases of timber from Northeast Forests will cease when it closes its Glens Falls pulp mill.

The termination of its Warren County pulp-making operation will leave only one major buyer of the low-grade wood in New York. That is the former International Paper plant in Ticonderoga, now called Sylvamo.

Forestry, logging, trucking and tree management jobs might be in jeopardy. It was estimated that Finch's exit from pulp making will reduce demand for Northeast pulpwood substantially.

"This is a significant loss for the region's logging and trucking industry with far-reaching economic consequences as well as serious negative impacts on the ability to properly manage forest health," the Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast said in a statement.

Third-party transition

A Finch official did not respond to inquiries on Monday. The company said it decided to stop purchasing wood from local suppliers. Instead, they will transition to acquiring wood pulp from third-party manufacturers.

"Finch can now reliably purchase pulp less expensively than it can produce on site," the company said.

The locations of the third-party pulp suppliers were not identified. But PLC Executive Director Dana Doran stated that the material would come from Canada. Others in the industry speculated it may come from the southern U.S.

Finch, at one time, had more than 100,000 acres of timberland in the Adirondacks. The holdings were sold more than 20 years ago. They have continued to support the North Country economy because of its demand for wood material used in its paper business.

Behan Communications Vice President John Brodt said Finch is setting the company up for longevity in Glens Falls even while ending pulp production and log purchases.

"The company is making an eight-figure investment to improve the company's capacity to receive and process greater amounts and a greater variety of purchased pulp," he said. "We are also making some corresponding improvements to our paper machines and energy infrastructure. This investment represents a major commitment to the long-term sustainability and success of its Glens Falls paper mill."

The company plans to continue purchasing wood for biomass cogeneration in a facility that converts bark, sawdust and rejected wood scraps into high-pressure steam used to dry paper during production.

Major impacts

Forester Timothy Burpoe, a Saranac Lake-based consultant for Timberland Assets & Management, said the loss of Finch's pulpwood consumption will have a big impact on Adirondack jobs and forest management planning. A great deal of Finch's needs were met from forests in the eastern part of the Adirondack Park, he said.

Purchases from Adirondack forests resulted in management practices that allowed forest owners to cull wood lots of low-grade material used for paper.

"It's going to cost some jobs," Burpoe said. "If a contractor can't contract that stuff, it'll remain in the woods. I think that it's going to discourage forest managers and forest owners from removing that material."

John J. O'Donnell, owner of Benchmark Forest and Land Management in Warrensburg, said the primary product Finch purchased has been hemlock. Acres of the trees will likely be left alone, which could be good for carbon sequestration, but not for the long-term health of forests.

He said the market for the tree will fall and it will be left as a target for the hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect. Hemlock woolly adelgid feeds on the hemlock and causes illness.

A possible future

The pulpwood might be sold for wood fires, which may drop the price of firewood. This may have its own negative economic impact among firewood producers and sellers. O'Donnell envisions sell-offs of forestry equipment and trucks in the coming years as the market for pulpwood drops.

Finch, in business for 161 years, said hourly employees affected will be extended opportunities elsewhere in the company. Its representatives did not provide the number of employees impacted by the restructuring.

"It is one of the most impactful events in my 50-plus-year career as a forester in Vermont," Bill Sargent of North Bennington, Vt., said. "The economic impact on loggers, truckers, landowners and anyone involved in the forest products industry in the Northeast is immense."

News York Almanack - Environmentalists Have Big Stake in Finch Pulp Mill Closure

July 27, 2026 by David Gibson

The purely economic decision by Finch Paper in Glens Falls, now part of a global company, to stop purchasing Adirondack regional trees for its pulp to paper operation and to instead acquire its pulp from far beyond New York's borders is serious – and deserves the attention it's getting at *New York*

Almanack, and the worries from forest product industries, harvesters, truckers, suppliers, and landowners elsewhere.

That the pulp mill has sourced a portion of their pulp from the global marketplace for many years, now exclusively so, does not make their recent decision any easier to swallow. While residents of Glens Falls will no longer have to breathe the sulfide smell from mill-pulping Adirondack trees, there are broadly negative effects further north.

Environmental interests also have a big stake in this matter. If a large, regional, formerly reliable market for low-grade (poor form, smaller diameter trees with no potential for valuable saw timber) pulp trees is suddenly eliminated, then the reduced income and opportunities for future management threatens the quality, diversity, and sustainability of Adirondack forests.

It also threatens the loss of Adirondack forest-related employment up and down the supply chain, as well as forest fragmentation and loss of wildlife habitats due to sale, subdivision, and subsequent development. None of these results are good for the greater Adirondack community.

If opportunities for better, more ecologically suitable, and sustainable forestry is an Adirondack Park objective, and if the recent Finch decision limits those opportunities, this may be important – but not breaking news. We have had this conversation before.

In 2015, for example, forest landowners, industrial and smaller, met informally on several occasions with representatives from environmental groups, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), and the Department of Environmental Conservation. It was called the Silvicultural Working Group.

Its goal was to improve Adirondack forestry through dialogue, applied forest science, and regulatory and statutory updates that all parties could live with. It was a rare moment for open, safe, candid dialogue about the future of private forestry.

At issue was a 2014 proposal by the APA to issue a General Permit for what the APA law defines as clear-cutting of private forests. APA argued it would be more efficient. Groups like Adirondack Wild argued that administrative efficiency should not be the goal.

We wanted APA to reject a General Permit in favor of continuing the practice of reviewing individual permits for clear-cutting (as defined in the law and regulation) 25 acres or more – and strengthening clear-cutting regulations to encourage more science-based, ecological forestry.

The existing APA clear-cutting rules were created in the early 1980s and badly needed updating.

Forest managers around the 2015 dialogue table pointed out that small and large harvest operations purposefully avoided the APA clearcut threshold by an acre and then were incentivized to “cut the best and leave the rest,” known as “high grading,” or cutting the most merchantable, valuable sawtimber trees while leaving few strongly growing, mature trees to re-seed and regenerate the next forest.

The largest forest landowners subject to conservation easements and forest certification standards pointed out all the disincentives to ruin their forest’s future potential.

Sustainable forestry was necessary for their investor return on investment, while future development was off the table since their conservation easement prohibited it. They wanted more flexibility and efficiency to schedule and manage forest harvests to ensure a decent return.

They argued that on these large owner-ships, adequate environmental protection of wildlife habitats and waterways was built into the conservation easement and certification standards.

Also, they reminded me and others that managing and harvesting the public’s Adirondack Forest Preserve land is constitutionally prohibited; therefore, harvesting and management opportunities on private lands are important for creating age diversity in Adirondack forests.

I am a bird watching enthusiast, so I was listening when Audubon representatives reminded the group that many Adirondack migratory birds prefer to forage and nest in younger forests created through forest harvesting – as well as by natural forest disturbances such as blow-down.

Those concerned about creating diverse wildlife habitats should not demonize forest harvesting of larger overstory or canopy trees so long as sufficient regeneration in the understory is present, they said.

All parties meeting in 2015 agreed that incentives to high-grade and leave the forest in that degraded condition for decades to come were the worst possible outcome, especially for smaller owner-ships unprotected by an easement or certification requirements.

Leaving a poor "residual forest" leaves a landowner with a low value forest, and limited management options in the years ahead other than land sales, subdivisions, and residential developments – in short, a fragmented, "forever unforested" condition.

There was broad consensus that all "next steps" in the silvicultural dialogue should avoid incentivizing that negative outcome. Some of those next-step objectives of the diverse members of the working group were summarized by the APA in late winter, 2015. They included:

- statutory changes to replace the definition of "clearcut" with a goal statement of "Sustainable Forestry;"
- new timber harvesting regulations to give the legal change practical, achievable regulatory meaning, and enforcement teeth;
- new harvesting standard of leaving sufficient growing stock or regeneration to ensure a healthy future forest;
- market based incentives to practice sustainable forestry, broadening certification, creating new private forest land subsidies and tax abatements;
- new forest harvest notification requirements so that neighbors know what to expect.

Unfortunately, the Silvicultural Working Group stopped working later in 2015. All parties seemed to move on to other pressing priorities and emergencies.

Dialogue is time and energy consuming, especially if the time horizon for achieving consensus on even small steps forward seem distant. Retirements of key individuals in the dialogue may have contributed.

However, the notes taken and objectives outlined in 2015 still have much relevance today. Finch's decision to eliminate all Adirondack sources of its pulp, as well as a dramatic 680-acre clear-cutting application now before the Adirondack Park Agency (see Adirondack Wild's Comment Letter to APA) suggests that it is time to invest in more Adirondack forestry dialogue.

It may again be time to consider together, in today's economic and actual climate, how to keep private Adirondack forests intact and sustainably managed in the late 2020s.

News Channel 10 - Loggers react to Finch Paper changes: "It feels like a gut punch"

by: Bianca Caputo

Posted: Jul 27, 2026 / 04:38 PM EDT

Updated: Jul 27, 2026 / 04:38 PM EDT

GRAFTON, N.Y. (NEWS10) — Loggers in the Capital Region are reeling after Finch Paper's announcement that they're stopping in-house pulp production and will no longer need to source wood from Northeast loggers. They say this change could lead to logger bankruptcies.

Stephen Day is an independent logging contractor with Day's Timber Harvesting in Rensselaer County. He has sold pulp to Finch Paper for more than 15 years, and those sales make up roughly 1/3 of his income.

Now, Day's been told his lumber won't be needed, and he says it's a gut punch. The logs he sells to Finch Paper for pulp are mainly Hemlock, typically used for more highly processed products.

"Here in Grafton, we have a lot of shallow poor soil and we have a lot of shaky Hemlock, you know, and Finch Paper was the only market for that wood."

Day said in an interview with NEWS10's Bianca Caputo that his colleagues in the industry are losing more than half of their sales. Some of those companies are multigenerational family businesses.

Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast Executive Director Dana Doran said in an interview that the outcry from older loggers who have seen similar closures before is stronger than ever as the people deal with extreme equipment debt and shrinking domestic demand.

"It has been nonstop phone calls, emails, text messages, [and] social media traffic on this situation at Finch, and rightly so," said Doran. "Undoubtedly we will see reductions in the number of contractors in the state of New York, Vermont, western Massachusetts that really heavily relied upon that Finch mill."

Finch Paper said in a statement that market shifts have made it less expensive to produce paper pulp offsite than use their traditional combination of on-site and third party logger pulp. They said the change will make them more resilient for years to come.

SARATOGA COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

TO: Steve Bulger, County Administrator
Ridge Harris, Deputy County Administrator
George Conway, County Attorney
Therese Connolly, Clerk of the Board
Stephanie Hodgson, Director of Budget

CC: John Warmt, Director of Purchasing
Jason Kemper, Director of Planning and Economic Development
Bridget Rider, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Audra Hedden, County Administrator's Office
Emily Spring, County Attorney's Office

DEPARTMENT: Department of Planning & Economic Development

DATE: 7/22/26

COMMITTEE: Trails & Open Space

This column must be completed prior to submission of the request.

County Attorney's Office Consulted Yes

1. Is a Resolution Required:

Yes, Grant Acceptance

2. Proposed Resolution Title:

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD TO ENTER INTO NECESSARY AGREEMENTS TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ADMINISTER A NEW YORK STATE SNOWMOBILE GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM GRANT

3. Specific Details on what the resolution will authorize:

Resolution will allow Saratoga County to apply for, accept and administer snowmobile grant program. These funds are passed through to the snowmobile clubs in the county.

County Administrator's Office
Consulted Yes

4. Is a Budget Amendment needed: ☐ YES or ☑ NO
If yes, budget lines and impact must be provided.
Any budget amendments must have equal and offsetting entries.

☐ Please see attachments for impacted budget lines.
(Use ONLY when more than four lines are impacted.)

Revenue

Account Number	Account Name	Amount

Expense

Account Number	Account Name	Amount

Fund Balance (if applicable): (Increase = additional revenue, Decrease = additional expenses)

Amount:

5. Identify Budget Impact (**Required**):

No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget

a. G/L line impacted A.80.3889 / A.80.000-8718

b. Budget year impacted 2026/2027

c. Details

Current budget has projected revenue and expenses for the grant.
Expense Account: A.80.000-8718 (Assn of Snowmobile Clubs)
Revenue Account: A.80.3889 (Snowmobile Trail Aid)
Fund Balance: A.80.3889: Up to 10 percent Administrative Fee

6. Are there Amendments to the Compensation Schedule?

☐ YES **or** ☑ NO (If yes, provide details)

Human Resources Consulted

a. Is a new position being created? ☐ Y ☐ N

Effective date

Salary and grade

b. Is a new employee being hired? ☐ Y ☐ N

Effective date of employment

Salary and grade

Appointed position:

Term

c. Is this a reclassification? ☐ Y ☐ N

Is this position currently vacant? ☐ Y ☐ N

Is this position in the current year compensation plan? ☐ Y ☐ N

7. Does this item require the awarding of a contract: ☐ Y ☑ N

Purchasing Office Consulted

a. Type of Solicitation

b. Specification # (BID/RFP/RFQ/OTHER CONTRACT #)

c. If a sole source, appropriate documentation, including an updated letter, has been submitted and approved by Purchasing Department? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ N/A

d. Vendor Contact Name:

e. Vendor Email:

f. Vendor Phone:

g. Is the vendor/contractor an LLC, PLLC, or partnership:

h. State of vendor/contractor organization:

i. Commencement date of contract term:

j. Termination of contract date:

k. Contract renewal date and term:

l. Is this a renewal agreement: ☐ Y ☐ N

m. Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:

County Administrator's Office Consulted

8. Is a grant being accepted: ☑ YES or ☐ NO

a. Source of grant funding:

State

b. Agency granting funds:

NYS OPRHP

c. Amount of grant:

up to $100,000 award + 10%(award) administration fee

d. Purpose grant will be used for:

Maintain the 180 miles of snowmobile trails in Saratoga County. Expenses for the 2025-2026 season totaled more than $230,000

e. Equipment and/or services being purchased with the grant:

n/a

f. Time period grant covers:

April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027

g. Amount of county matching funds:

n/a

h. Administrative fee to County:

10% (award)

9. Supporting Documentation:

- ☑ Marked-up previous resolution
- ☐ No Markup, per consultation with County Attorney
- ☑ Information summary memo
- ☐ Copy of proposal or estimate
- ☐ Copy of grant award notification and information
- ☐ Other _____

10. Remarks:

See Attached memo, 2025-2026 award amounts attached for reference.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

~~8/20/2024~~8/18/2026

RESOLUTION XXX-2026~~212 – 2024~~

Introduced by Trails and Open Space: Supervisors Grasso, Ball, Gvarmathy, Kinowski, Lalukota, Ostrander, Sanghvi ~~Connolly, Kinowski, Madigan and M. Veitch~~

AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY AGREEMENTS TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ADMINISTER A NEW YORK STATE SNOWMOBILE TRAIL GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM GRANT

WHEREAS, on an annual basis since 1994, this Board has authorized the acceptance of state aid for the maintenance of snowmobile trails, as well as the administration of such aid by the Saratoga County Association of Snowmobile Clubs (the "Association"); and

WHEREAS, the Association has requested that the County apply for funding from the 2026~~5~~ - 2027~~6~~ "New York State Snowmobile Trail Grant-In-Aid Program" in an amount of up to ~~eighty-five~~one-hundred thousand dollars ($100,000~~$85,000~~), together with an additional administrative fee in an amount not to exceed ten percent (10%) of said grant amount and to serve as the conduit between the State and the Association for the distribution of these grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the Association has submitted to our Trails and Open Space Committee a list of the ~~2024-2025~~ 2025-2026 trail mileage planned for each snowmobile club within the County, and the Committee has approved said list; now, therefore, be it

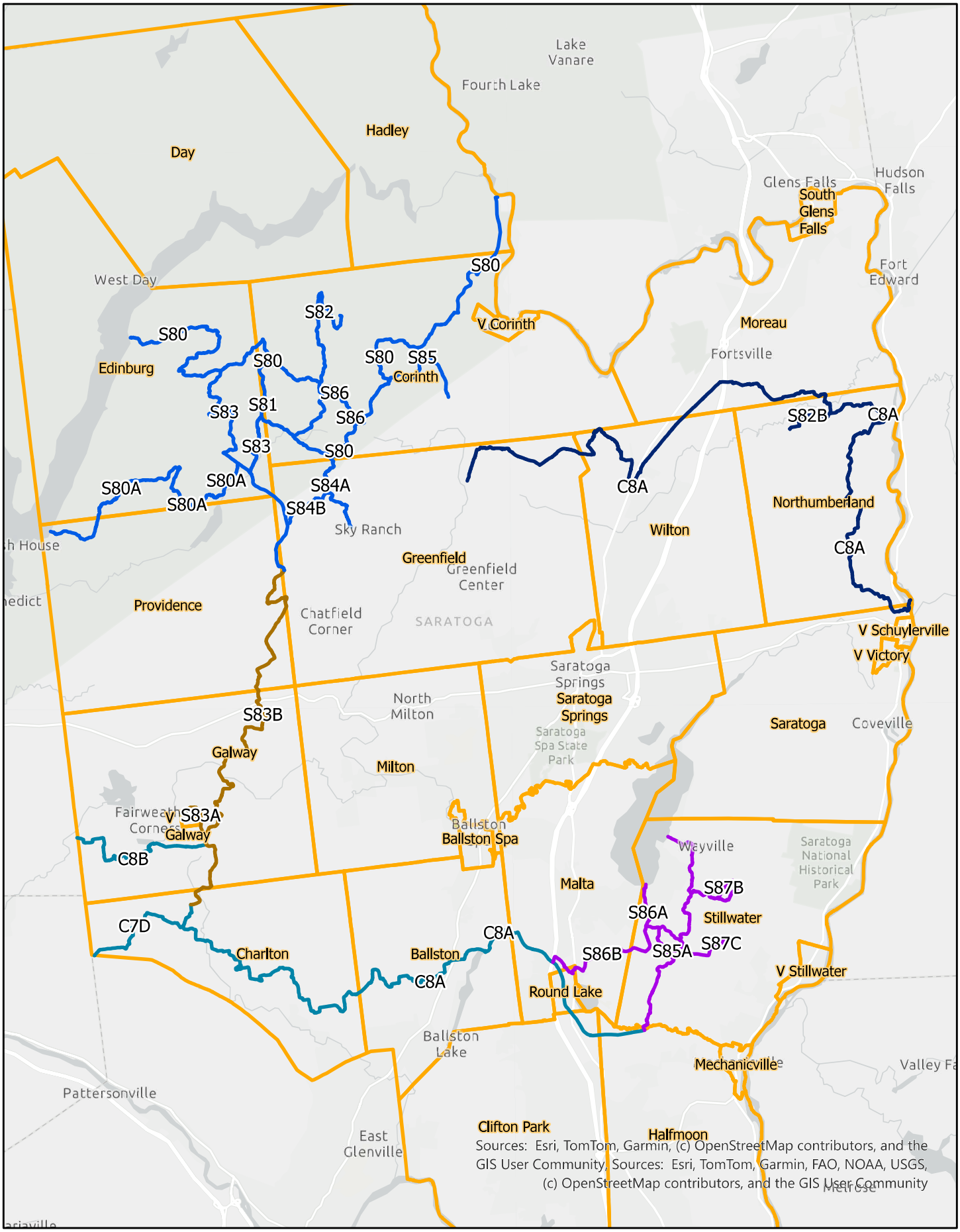
RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents to apply for, accept, and administer the ~~2025-2026~~2026-2027 New York State Snowmobile Trail Grant-In-Aid Program Grant, in an amount up to one-hundred ~~eighty-five~~ thousand dollars ($100,000~~$85,000~~), together with an additional administrative fee in an amount not to exceed ten percent (10%) of said grant amount for the administration by the Saratoga County Association of Snowmobile Clubs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the form and content of such documents shall be subject to the approval of the County Attorney; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Auditor is hereby authorized to approve payment of the actual grant funds to the Saratoga County Association of Snowmobile Clubs for use in the development and maintenance of locally maintained snowmobile trails throughout the County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.



0 1 2 4 6 8 10 Miles

Charlton
Country Trailblazers
Galway
Lincoln Mountain
Saratoga Snowmobile Association

2026-2027
Saratoga County
Assoc. of Snowmobile Clubs
State Funded Trails

2025-2026 Mileage Table - Saratoga

Trail Number	TME	Status	GPS Date	Class	Mileage Total	Funded Total	High Snow	Notes
C7D	Charlton	SF	2025	A	4.01	4	0	2025 GPS Update
C8A	Charlton	SF	2025	A	23.43	23	0	2025 GPS Update
C8B	Charlton	SF	2025	A	5.92	6	0	2025 GPS Update
S83B	Charlton	SF	2025	A	0.82	1	0	2025 GPS Update
C8A	Country Trailblazers	SF	2025	A	9.77	10	0	2025 GPS Update
S85A	Country Trailblazers	SF	2025	A	0.58	1	0	2025 GPS Update
S86A	Country Trailblazers	SF	2025	A	1.86	2	0	2025 GPS Update
S86B	Country Trailblazers	SF	2025	A	4.96	5	0	2025 GPS Update
S87A	Country Trailblazers	SF	2025	A	1.72	2	0	2025 GPS Update
S87B	Country Trailblazers	SF	2025	A	0.77	1	0	2025 GPS Update
S87C	Country Trailblazers	SF	2025	A	1.92	2	0	2025 GPS Update
S83A	Galway	SF	2025	A	1.28	1	0	2025 GPS Update
S83B	Galway	SF	2025	A	16.49	16	0	2025 GPS Update
C8A	Lincoln Mountain	SF	2025	A	28.77	29	0	2025 GPS Update
S82B	Lincoln Mountain	SF	2025	A	1.68	2	0	2025 GPS Update
S80	Saratoga Snowmobile Association	SF	2025	A	30.74	31	0	2025 GPS Update
S80A	Saratoga Snowmobile Association	SF	2025	A	10.20	10	0	New trail approved.
S81	Saratoga Snowmobile Association	SF	2025	A	3.36	3	0	2025 GPS Update
S82	Saratoga Snowmobile Association	SF	2025	A	5.09	5	0	2025 GPS Update
S83	Saratoga Snowmobile Association	SF	2025	A	7.96	8	0	2025 GPS Update
S83B	Saratoga Snowmobile Association	SF	2025	A	3.89	4	0	2025 GPS Update
S84A	Saratoga Snowmobile Association	SF	2025	A	2.70	3	0	2025 GPS Update
S84B	Saratoga Snowmobile Association	SF	2025	A	2.00	2	0	2025 GPS Update
S85	Saratoga Snowmobile Association	SF	2025	A	3.55	4	0	2025 GPS Update

Trail Number	TME	Status	GPS Date	Class	Mileage Total	Funded Total	High Snow	Notes
S86	Saratoga Snowmobile Association	SF	2025	A	2.17	2	0	2025 GPS Update

REMINDER: Beginning in the 2026-2027 Phase I, Trails with a GPS date of 2022 or later will not be required to undergo a three-year update. All trails with a GPS date of 2021 or earlier must be updated as soon as possible. Once all trails are updated to 2022 or later, Phase I applications will only be required for trail changes or new trail proposals.

Corridor A:	72	
Secondary A:	105	
Corridor B:	0	
Secondary B:	0	
High Snow:		0
Total:	**177**	

2025-2026 Snowmobile Trail Grant Mileage Award Breakdown: Saratoga

TME	Corridor A Secondary A	Corridor B Secondary B	High Snow	Max. Mileage Award Total	70%	30%
Charlton	33 1	0 0	0	$17,204.00	$12,042.80	$5,161.20
Country Trailblazers	10 13	0 0	0	$11,638.00	$8,146.60	$3,491.40
Galway	0 17	0 0	0	$8,602.00	$6,021.40	$2,580.60
Lincoln Mountain	29 2	0 0	0	$15,686.00	$10,980.20	$4,705.80
Saratoga Snowmobile Association	0 72	0 0	0	$36,432.00	$25,502.40	$10,929.60
Totals:	**177**	**0**	**0**	**$89,562.00**	**$62,693.40**	**$26,868.60**

2025-2026 Mileage Award Rates: CA: $506/mile CB: $416/mile HS: $451/mile
SA: $506/mile SB: $416/mile

This report is provided to illustrate the calculations the OPRHP Snowmobile Unit uses to arrive at the final payment value to the Local Sponsor.

Funding will be provided in two payments. The first payment represents 70% of the maximum possible award value and will be advanced upon return of a State Aid Voucher. Participating TMEs in the GPS Tracker Pilot Program will be reimbursed for their tracker(s) through this voucher. If any club does not spend the entirety of their 70% award payment by the end of the fiscal year on April 1st, 2026, your county or municipality must issue a check to New York State for the unspent amount. The second payment represents the remaining eligible 30% value of the award. If more than the 70% award value but less than the entire award allocation is spent in the grant year, it will result in a reduced or zeroed 30% award payment.

SARATOGA COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

TO: Steve Bulger, County Administrator
Ridge Harris, Deputy County Administrator
George Conway, County Attorney
Therese Connolly, Clerk of the Board
Stephanie Hodgson, Director of Budget

CC: John Warmt, Director of Purchasing
Jason Kemper, Director of Planning and Economic Development
Bridget Rider, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Audra Hedden, County Administrator's Office
Emily Spring, County Attorney's Office

DEPARTMENT: Department of Planning & Economic Development

DATE: 7/29/26

COMMITTEE: Trails & Open Space

This column must be completed prior to submission of the request.

County Attorney's Office Consulted

1. Is a Resolution Required:

   No, Discussion Only

2. Proposed Resolution Title:

3. Specific Details on what the resolution will authorize:

County Administrator's Office
Consulted Yes

4. Is a Budget Amendment needed: ☐ YES or ☐ NO
If yes, budget lines and impact must be provided.
Any budget amendments must have equal and offsetting entries.

☐ Please see attachments for impacted budget lines.
(Use ONLY when more than four lines are impacted.)

Revenue

Account Number	Account Name	Amount

Expense

Account Number	Account Name	Amount

Fund Balance (if applicable): (Increase = additional revenue, Decrease = additional expenses)

Amount:

5. Identify Budget Impact (**Required**):

a. G/L line impacted

b. Budget year impacted

c. Details

6. Are there Amendments to the Compensation Schedule?

☐ YES **or** ☐ NO (If yes, provide details)

Human Resources Consulted

a. Is a new position being created? ☐ Y ☐ N

Effective date

Salary and grade

b. Is a new employee being hired? ☐ Y ☐ N

Effective date of employment

Salary and grade

Appointed position:

Term

c. Is this a reclassification? ☐ Y ☐ N

Is this position currently vacant? ☐ Y ☐ N

Is this position in the current year compensation plan? ☐ Y ☐ N

7. Does this item require the awarding of a contract: ☐ Y ☐ N

Purchasing Office Consulted

a. Type of Solicitation

b. Specification # (BID/RFP/RFQ/OTHER CONTRACT #)

c. If a sole source, appropriate documentation, including an updated letter, has been submitted and approved by Purchasing Department? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ N/A

d. Vendor Contact Name:

e. Vendor Email:

f. Vendor Phone:

g. Is the vendor/contractor an LLC, PLLC, or partnership:

h. State of vendor/contractor organization:

i. Commencement date of contract term:

j. Termination of contract date:

k. Contract renewal date and term:

l. Is this a renewal agreement: ☐ Y ☐ N

m. Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:

County Administrator's Office Consulted

8. Is a grant being accepted: ☐ YES or ☐ NO

a. Source of grant funding:

b. Agency granting funds:

c. Amount of grant:

d. Purpose grant will be used for:

e. Equipment and/or services being purchased with the grant:

f. Time period grant covers:

g. Amount of county matching funds:

h. Administrative fee to County:

9. Supporting Documentation:

- ☐ Marked-up previous resolution
- ☐ No Markup, per consultation with County Attorney
- ☑ Information summary memo
- ☐ Copy of proposal or estimate
- ☐ Copy of grant award notification and information
- ☐ Other _____

10. Remarks:

see attached memo for summary

Updates to include:
Farmland and Open Space Grant Updates
Trail Grant Updates
Graphite Range Community Forest Updates
County Forestland/Timber Harvest Updates
Zim Smith Trail Usage Summary Report