

TRAILS COMMITTEE
August 10, 2016 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Chairman Tom Richardson; Committee members Preston Allen, Paul Lent, Matt Veitch, Tom Wood, Jason Kemper and Devin DalPos; Chairman of the Board Mo Wright; Jaime O'Neil, Planning; Caroline Ross, Planning Intern.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the March 2, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Kemper introduced Caroline Ross who is interning in the Planning Department.

Mr. Kemper gave an update on the County Forestry Program. He said parcels will be harvested in the Town of Northumberland. The County has received a down payment on that harvest. He will report back to this Committee and the Board the time line for this parcel's harvest. Due to the various activities on this parcel, signs will be posted when the harvesting will begin so everyone is aware. It is a two year harvest.

Mr. Kemper said he received fabulous news with regards to the Zim Smith Trail. It is now public that the County will be receiving a \$4.94M Federal Grant. DOT is seeking comments on this. This is different than the \$2.01M that was received from CDTC. He said there will be a process for returning those funds. The Federal Grant will be a 20% match and is conceptual as of right now. This will be for the 2018 budget year which will delay the project a bit. This will cover the County's concerns as to where additional funding would come from. He said this opens possibilities for the upgrades on portions of the trail with regards to paving, signs and crossings. He said he has been meeting with landowners and they have been very supportive. He has been in touch with DOT with regards to guidelines. He and Mr. Valentine are working on questions and will be seeking answers. Mr. Kemper said CDTC has had volunteers on the Zim Smith Trail doing surveys. They will also be placing sensors on the trail. This will help with the trail counts which will be able to differentiate between walkers, bikers and those on horseback.

Mr. Richardson said he has had conversations with Mechanicville School District as a portion of the trail runs through there; and they have said they are very happy and thankful in talking with Mr. Kemper. Mr. Kemper said with the grant they could look into going further into Mechanicville.

Mr. Kemper reported there would be a resolution before the Board this month with regards to the Hudson-Hoosic River Partnership. They were originally going to provide timber for the construction of the Visitor's Center. There were some logistical issues with the Timber Frame Guild and timelines. So that will not be happening and the formal resolution will be rescinded. There was a budget impact associated with this resolution and the Partnership will be reimbursing the County for their costs. There were a number of trees marked for that project and Mr. Kemper said that at some point a small harvest could occur. He said in conjunction with that there was an agreement with Saratoga Land Management for permission to cross County property. They would have fixed the road that would allow the County to haul the logs out. As of right now, that may not happen.

Mr. Kemper distributed a map of County forestland in the Town of Providence that Ms. Ross worked on. It is a very large hardwood parcel. The northern portion shows property owned by Saratoga Plan that is equine trails and is referred to as Henning Preserve. The map shows about 9 miles of existing trails. He has been working with a representative from the equine community. The map shows a 1.6 mile loop that is being proposed for addition which will include a small parking area. Mr. Lent asked if this proposed trail could tie into the existing trail. Mr. Kemper said the trails would be less than ¼ mile and would be able to connect. He said this is moving ahead quicker than the Moreau parcel due to a change in administration in Moreau. He is awaiting a signed contract with Moreau before he can move forward. The agreement is between the Town of Moreau, BOCES and the County. The County would supply material which has already been done. BOCES would supply the equipment and labor. The Town of Moreau would supply the fuel and any minor repairs less than \$500. Mr. Richardson and Mr. Wright said they would speak to the Moreau Supervisor to find out the Town's intentions.

Mr. Kemper distributed a report on the 2015 County Trails Grant Program. There are three (3) grants that have not been closed out yet. He spoke with Clifton Park and they will be executing their agreement at this month's town board meeting. The Town of Wilton has executed their agreement and is wrapping up their study. Mr. Kemper does not know where the City of Saratoga Springs stands and believes the City was counting on CFA funding. It is his understanding the funding fell through. He said the funding is in the Reserve Account and the funding was moved into this budget year and if this doesn't happen it will free those funds up. All the other checks have been sent to the other municipalities that were awarded funding. Mr. Richardson directed Mr. Kemper to get a time line from the City or if they are declining the funds. Committee members agreed.

Mr. Kemper said there is \$53,000 in the 2016 budget for the County Trails Grant Program. He distributed a spreadsheet of this year's applications. These applications total \$48,000 from five (5) municipalities; Town of Saratoga, Stillwater, Hadley Halfmoon and the Town/Village of Corinth. The request from the Town/Village of Corinth was for \$8,000. They were concerned with providing more of a match so their request will remain at the \$8,000. Mr. Kemper said he believes each of the other applicants would be able to meet a higher match if they were to receive more grant funding by distributing the \$5,000 that would be left in the budget. Mr. Kemper said if this Committee decided to distribute the \$5,000 he would contact the 4 remaining applicants to see if they would be interested in receiving additional funds. Mr. Veitch said he would be less likely to do that because with a reserve those funds could be set aside to save it for later if another project comes or it could be used next year if the program continues. He said that's what the reserve is for; it's for unspent funds. Mr. Wright said when the Budget Committee is putting the budget together and see that the money wasn't spent one year, they will question putting money in the next year. Mr. Richardson said this Committee had this conversation last year and the Committee at the time was concerned about sending money into the next year for fear the program wouldn't be funded again. Mr. Kemper said last year the Committee upped the funding level from \$10,000 to \$12,500 because of the requests that came in versus the funding in the budget. Mr. Richardson said if the Committee gave the four (4) applicants another \$1,250, if they would be able to come up to the match, the total \$53,000 would be committed. Mr. Wood's Town was one of the applicants and he said his Town would be able to do the increased match. Mr. Wright said his Town would be able to as well.

On a motion by Mr. Lent, seconded by Mr. Allen the grant of up to \$1,250 additional funds for a total of \$11,250 would be awarded to the four municipalities: Towns of Saratoga, Hadley, Halfmoon and Stillwater. Unanimous.

On a motion by Mr. Lent, seconded by Mr. DalPos the following municipalities/applicants were awarded 2016 County Trails Grant funding based on their grant submission: Town of Saratoga - \$11,250; Town of Hadley - \$11,250; Town of Halfmoon - \$11,250; Town of Stillwater - \$11,250; Town/Village Corinth - \$8,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper commended Mr. Valentine on the work he did at the CDTC meeting to secure the funding for the Zim Smith Trail. Mr. Richardson agreed and stated he has been at CDTC meetings with Mr. Valentine and he is prepared and does a great job.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Wright, Clerk