

WASHINGTON COUNTY AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2018

AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisors Shaw, Hogan, Middleton, Rozell, Hicks; M. Traver, D. Perkins, Tim & Mary Ward; G. Stark

AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Supervisors Idleman, Moore

SUPERVISORS: Henke, Clary

Sandy Huffer, Deputy Clerk

Pamela Landi, Jr. Planner

Heather Weller, GIS Specialist RPTS

Laura Oswald, Economic Dev. Dir.

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Accept Minutes – March 14, 2018
- 3) Goals & Objectives
- 4) Trails Updates:
 - a) Empire State Trail/Champlain Canalway Trail
 - b) Fort Ann
 - c) Fort Edward – Village and Town
 - d) Granville
 - e) Greenwich
 - f) Kingsbury
 - g) Whitehall
- 5) Other Business
- 6) Adjournment

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

A motion to accept the minutes from the March 14, 2018 meeting, was moved by Mr. Traver, seconded by Mr. Perkins and adopted.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES (MISSION STATEMENT)

Chairman Shaw stated that the Goals & Objectives were distributed at the last meeting. He read the Mission Statement aloud and asked if any committee members had anything they wanted to add to it. Mr. Perkins feels it is important to include in the mission statement that we want our trail system to connect communities within the County. A motion to adopt Mission Statement Goals & Objectives as amended, was moved by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mrs. Ward and adopted (attached).

TRAILS UPDATES

EMPIRE STATE TRAIL/CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL

Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director stated that a meeting was held by Chazen and attended by several Ad Hoc Committee member to discuss the possibility of rerouting a portion of the Empire State Trail a few weeks ago. The rerouting necessitated putting in a pedestrian foot bridge over the canal at Dewey Bridge Road. However, when they got the estimate from DOT on the pedestrian bridge over the canal at Dewey Bridge road, it was over \$2 million. This is too expensive so the consensus of the committee was to abandon this idea. Will continue with the original plan to follow Clay Hill Road, Dewey Ridge Rd., and South Quarry Road to prison property. There is a second alternate route that would make use of a campground being developed in Fort Ann. The owners of the campground have offered an easement which would obviate the problem of steep slopes on Clay Hill Road. Chazen is going out to do some surveying to make sure there is sufficient width for the trail at the campground. EST has agreed in principle that if the work gets done, they will sign the trail.

Mr. Ward stated that the next project is to walk the route. Mr. Perkins stated that if we walk it, we'll have to have someone from Canal Corp. with us. Chairman Shaw stated that the Canal Corp. has a pontoon boat and they will allow it to be used for this purpose. He needs to know how many people and a date. The limit they could take is six. It should be people from the Whitehall/Fort Ann group.

Ms. Stark added that the Town Supervisor will insist on taking the route through the campground.

FORT EDWARD

Mr. Traver had nothing new to report. Chairman Shaw asked if the bridge in Fort Miller is going to be closed. Mr. Traver responded yes. It was asked if the Town of Fort Edward has designated the trail. Mr. Perkins believes the former Supervisor indicated that the Town Board did that a few years ago, stating there are signs on River Road put up by the Town Highway department. Mr. Traver will check into it.

Keith Swenson and Laurie LaFond of Friends of the IBA met with Dave about the potential for a loop off the trail through the grasslands area. This loop would follow Blackhouse Road through the grasslands, continue on to County Route 42 and then likely the route would follow East Road into Fort Edward. Ms. Clothier is including them in the preliminary planning so that it is included in the revision of the Action Plan. A dialog needs to be started about what needs to be done in the Town of Fort Edward as far as determining the route and signage.

Laura Oswald asked Bob Murphy of Barton & Loguidice to reach out to Chairman Shaw regarding making the Fenimore Bridge in Hudson Fall a pedestrian bridge. The bridge is jointly owned by Saratoga and Washington Counties. He should make a presentation to this committee and if necessary the committee can bring any requests to the County.

GRANVILLE

Mr. Hicks stated the feasibility study is done. The Town is submitting for reimbursement for the work done by Chazen. Going forward the next step is to work with Chazen to apply for a grant for construction of part of the trail. The Chairman of their trail committee, who was also their Assessor, passed away unexpectedly two weeks so the trail issue has taken a back seat. Chazen has been pushing because the time frame to apply for a CFA is May or June. They want to move forward. The committee will be meeting later this month to figure out where they are and whether they want to invest in a CFA because there is a cost to that. Laura Oswald added that she has talked with State Parks, who owns a lot of the land where that trail is going. They have offered to help with some interim work, so if you don't invest in a CFA this year, activity will continue. The next step for that trail is design.

GREENWICH

Chairman Shaw stated that the only major concern is coming off Dix Bridge onto County Route 113 where there is no shoulder. That area is wetlands. He asked Laura if it is feasible to put a boardwalk there. Laura stated there is a significant advantage to use boardwalk because in areas where there are cultural concerns, boardwalk is considered non-construction. Dave Perkins added that not all of the shoulder is unusable. The sections of the road that need something done need to be identified.

KINGSBURY

Supervisor Hogan reported that they had a Champlain Canal trail extension meeting in March with the with Canal Corp. It was well attended. This extension runs north on to Route 196 and creates two

bridges over Bond Creek. There will be a tunnel underneath State Route 196. That will connect it to New Swamp Road which allows it to go north to Fort Ann. They are anticipating that Route 196 will be closed for about a week to do this. Construction to begin in November 2018.

WHITEHALL

Mr. Ward stated that the route has to be inspected and walked. The main thing is to get to Ryder Road which involves acquiring one property that is four acres that the owner is willing to sell. The question is who will purchase/own this property. Hoping it will transferred to the Canal Corp. Laura Oswald stating there has been preliminary discussions with the Open Space Institute, an agency who has the ability to acquire and develop open space. They will be included in the conversations as the project develops.

OTHER BUSINESS:

SALEM

Sue Clary, Supervisor reported that they just received a FEMA map for the flooding in Salem. She stated that the conversation with flood mitigation and trail needs to happen at the same time. She will talk with Laura Oswald. Heather Weller, GIS Specialist added that the FEMA maps are just draft so they aren't regulatory. FEMA is accepting comments, so if you see anything that you think is wrong or needs to be included that is not, this is the time to make adjustments to those maps. These are for the Hudson River, White Creek and Cossayuna areas. Heather provided a link to the FEMA map listed below.

<http://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=cd3655d87e084b8bbaa4b71ff427eac7>

PARKING AREAS & BATHROOMS MAPPING – Heather is still working on compiling the list of points of interest. She has started to label them and categorize them and she and Pamela will work on narrowing the list down.

MEETING TIME CHANGE – Chairman Shaw asked the committee if they are okay with changing the meeting time to 11 AM. The committee members agreed with the time change.

CCT SIGNS – Dave Perkins stated that they have run out of signs and asked where to get more. Laura Oswald suggested contacting Canal Corp. Chairman Shaw will contact Canal Corp.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 11:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sandy Huffer, Deputy Clerk
Board of Supervisors*

Mission Statement:

The Trails Committee's mission statement is to advocate for support and promote the development of a county wide trail system that connects communities within Washington County as well as connections to trails outside the confines of the county for the purpose of recreation, economic development and historic appreciation.

Goals:

- Create a Master Plan
 - Promote county wide collaboration
 - Review and coordinate current Trail grants
- Coordinate Empire State Trail and Champlain Canalway Trail Efforts

Objectives:

- Promote continuity throughout the County in order to increase tourism and recreation
 - Apply for Grants as a group, not individually
- Eliminate plans that do not support the mission statement and goals
 - Coordinate all efforts that meet our goals & objectives