

WASHINGTON COUNTY AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2019

AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisors Shaw, Hicks, Gretchen Stark, Tim/Mary Ward, Dave Perkins

AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Supervisors Idleman, Hogan, Middleton, Rozell, Matthew Traver-Mayor Village of Fort Edward

SUPERVISORS: Clary

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Laura Oswald, Economic Dev. Director

Laura Chadwick, Director Real Property

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

Pam Landi, Jr. Planner

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1) Call to Order

2) Accept Minutes – May 15, 2019

3) Presentation – Survey Results – Fort Ann to Whitehall Trail & Project Status – Chris Rounds, Chazen

4) Trails Updates:

A. Empire State Trail/Champlain Canalway Trail

1. Whitehall

2. Fort Ann

3. Kingsbury

4. Fort Edward – Village and Town

5. Greenwich

B. Slate Valley Rail Trail

1. Granville

2. Salem

5) Other Business

6) Adjournment

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:33 A.M. no quorum.

TRAIL UPDATES:

Empire State Trail/Champlain Canalway Trail:

- Whitehall – Mary Ward stated they met last month and tried to trace out loop trails. Next goal is the drive and bike these loop trails. She stated Janet Kennedy, Lakes to Locks, spearheaded this idea and would like them to have a loop trail booklet that attaches to the bike handle bars.
- Fort Ann – Gretchen Stark stated Whitehall covered everything that has been happening.
- Kingsbury – Dave Perkins stated the bike path from New Swamp Road north to Fort Ann has three sections: Baldwin Corners section almost done except stone dust, Baldwin Corners Road to Lock 9 has had a tremendous amount of work done this year creating two trails one paved and one with a grassy area next to the bike trail for snowmobiles and also working on two bridges and the southern section is roughly graded with some culverts and will be covered with stone dust. Next year looking at connecting the section from McIntyre Park to New Swamp Road. Some rehab work will be done on the Tow Path Road which will join the trail from Fort Edward to Fort Ann and should be completed next summer.
- Fort Edward Village and Town – no representation. Mr. Perkins stated waiting on signs to mark the route through the village and some along Rt. 4 from Fort Miller up to the village.
- Greenwich – no representation. Chairman Shaw stated the new bridge between the towns of Easton and Greenwich along the Battenkill is open and it was designed for snowmobiles to cross it.

Slate Valley Rail Trail:

- Granville – Chazen Engineering has a meeting this afternoon in Granville to talk about the status of the Slate Valley Rail trail. The town was awarded a grant for construction with respect to materials and regarding design the State has been very generous with funding. Chazen has done all the preliminary work, reached out to property owners and working with

the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation on design. The design has moved along in terms of design and moving forward after today's meeting hoping to reach out to landowners with a few minor design details. The next step is the work plan.

- Salem – Mrs. Clary stated they have met with Chazen and conversations are happening; noting Salem Art Works is very supportive of a trail. Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director, stated the Slate Valley Rail Study encompassed Granville to Salem. Work has been proceeding in Granville and Salem is trying to catch up. Requested funding from the Adirondack Glens Falls Transportation Council to do some planning and they are voting on those projects in January and will know if funding is available.

Presentation Survey Results – Fort Ann to Whitehall Trail & Project Status – Chris Rounds, Chazen - Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director, stated the County applied for funding through the CFA process to do the design work for the Fort Ann to Whitehall section of the Empire State Trail with the goal of getting it off road. Chazen was hired to do that work and initially the survey work. Chazen was here today to report on the survey findings, where we are and the next steps. Chris Rounds, Chazen, presented a power point, attached, and video – an aerial flight of the entire corridor. The Empire State bike trail alignment was proposed to be on Route 4 and everyone including the State of New York realized that is not the ideal location. A feasibility study was done to look at an alternate route. The big issues with siting this trail are wetlands and property ownership. This alignment was staying on public lands, Canal Corporation, but there are several stream crossings. The primary landowners on this route are the Canal Corporation and CP Rail. Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director, stated the original ask for funding was to both the Department of State and the Canal Corporation. The Department of State provided funding but not the Canal Corporation. She stated there is a CFA application in this year for the same ask as previously. Have met with the Canal Corporation and they are very very positive about this project and interested in helping which is very good news. The Empire State Trail is set to be finished by the end of 2020. Information on the alignment has been provided to CP Rail. Chazen's goal during January and February is to have a face to face meeting with CP Rail. This is still early in this process. Chazen did some preliminary costs and originally, they had seven (7) bridges and that would cost millions of dollars.

Chazen's next steps are trying to define this preferred alignment after follow up communications/meetings with Canal Corporation and CP Rail and then the design development process.

Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director, thanked Chazen for going over and above with this project given the fee schedule attached to it. She stated the way the funding was awarded we had to do some level of construction so the ask to Canal Corporation at this point is materials cost. The end goal of this project is to have design ready documents. This trail will be completed in sections.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Pam Landi, Planner, is working with Heather Weller, GIS Specialist, on an interactive online map which will allow the public to make maps. Chairman Shaw suggested using I Love NY funding for the loop trail brochures.
- Bicycles Bring Business meetings are being held. Mary Ward, Whitehall, believes you also need paper copies of the loop trails besides the interactive map and stated the Whitehall Chamber of Commerce is encouraging more Airbnb rentals.

- Dave Perkins reported in October the Supervisors and Mayors meeting was held for Washington and Saratoga Counties with excellent presentations.

The meeting dissolved at 11:26 A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors



Champlain Canalway Trail Ft. Ann to Whitehall

Status Report to:

Washington County
Ad Hoc Trail Committee

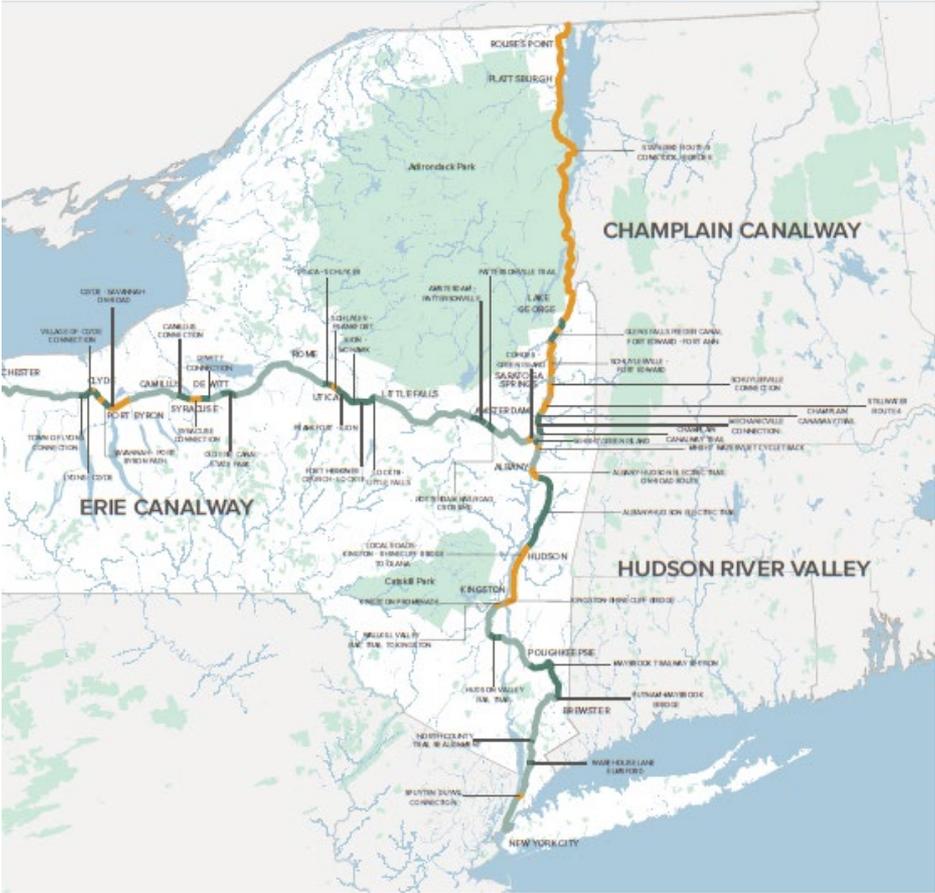
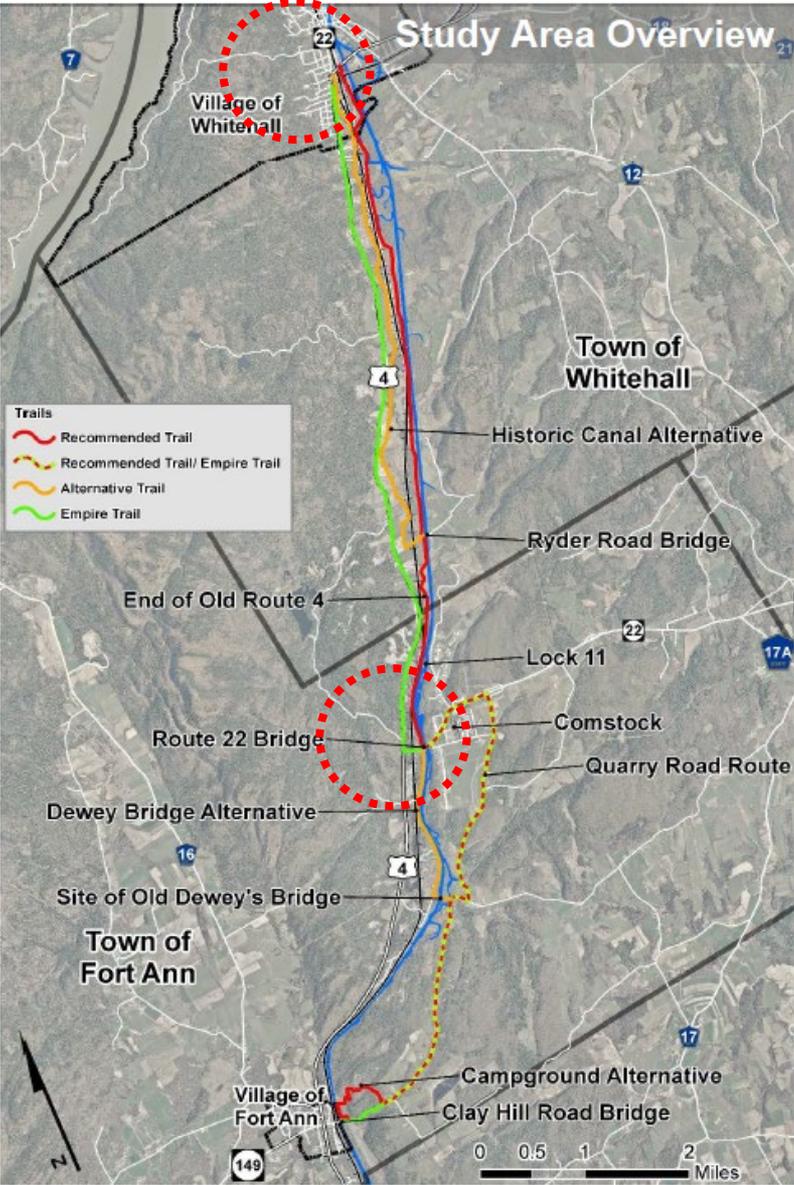
December 18, 2019



Agenda

- **Background/Overview**
- **Survey (Aerial & Ground)**
- **Wetlands Evaluations**
- **Stakeholder Meetings**
- **Preliminary Route Evaluation**

Background Comstock - Whitehall





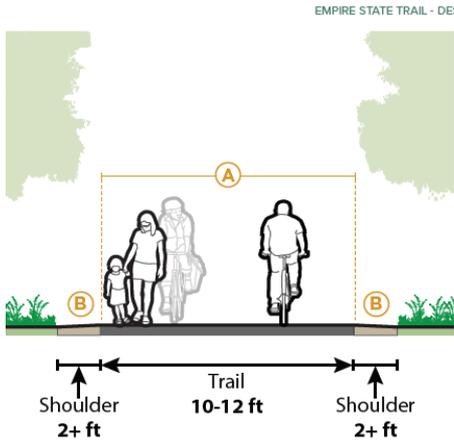
Wetlands Walkover & Delineation



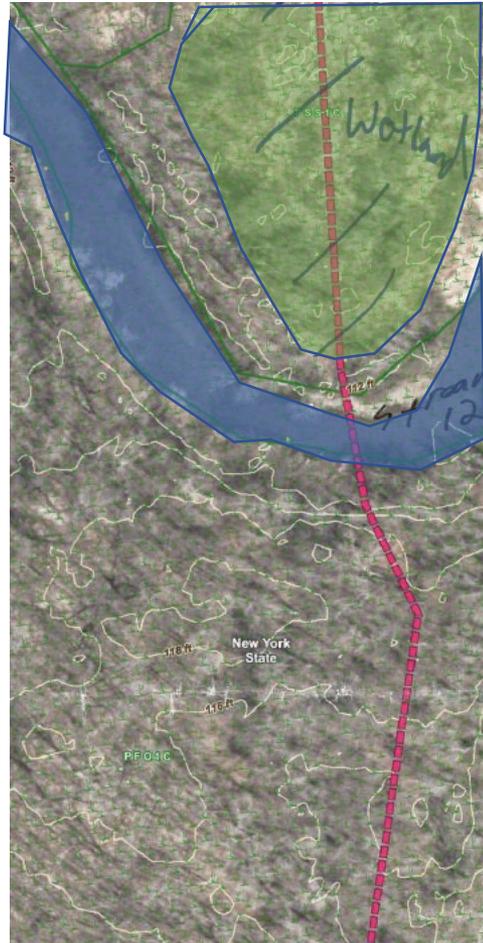
Stakeholder Meetings

- Empire State-Greenway
- NYS Canal Corporation
- CP Rail/D&H – Ongoing-Conference TBD

Route Evaluation



and crusher fine trail material types are considered to be source: National Trails Training Partnership)



BOARDWALKS

A boardwalk is a constructed pathway, slightly elevated over a natural surface otherwise unsuitable or inappropriate for at grade path construction. Boardwalks are usually constructed of wooden planks or recycled material that form the top layer of the boardwalk. A number of low-impact support systems are also available that reduce the disturbance within wetland areas to the greatest extent possible.



Next Steps

Establish Preferred Route Alignment

- Additional Communications/Meeting(s):
 - D&H/CP Rail
 - Canal Corporation
- Design Development

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY

From the Capital District north to Whitehall, several new off-road sections of Champlain Canalway Trail are being constructed through the Empire State Trail Initiative:

- **Waterford to Mechanicville.**
Status: In the fall of 2019, Saratoga County will open a new trail section north of Waterford. In December 2020, the Town of Halfmoon will complete a second project, creating continuous trail to Mechanicville.
- **Schuylerville.**
Status: In June 2019, the Town of Saratoga opened a new off-road trail section connecting to Hudson Crossing Park and Washington County.
- **Fort Edward to Fort Ann.**
Status: The NYS Canal Corporation has started construction of this new 9-mile trail section, which will open to the public in November 2020.
- **Fort Ann to Whitehall.**
Status: In the fall of 2020, NYSDOT will complete a series of on-road and off-road improvements to this trail section.

The 110-mile Empire State Trail from Whitehall north to Canada Border at Rouses Point will be designated on the shoulders of public roadways, creating an on-road route appropriate for experienced bicyclists. By the end of 2020, NYSDOT will complete installation of signage designating the entire Champlain Valley route.



Construction is underway for the off-road trail between Fort Edward and Fort Ann as part of the Champlain Canalway Trail.

Empire State Trail Progress

EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

PROGRESS REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2019