

WASHINGTON COUNTY AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2019

AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisors Shaw, Hogan, Middleton, Rozell, Hicks, Gretchen Stark

AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Supervisors Idleman, Matthew Traver-Mayor Village of Fort Edward, Tim/Mary Ward, Dave Perkins

SUPERVISORS: Henke, Clary

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Laura Oswald, Economic Dev. Director

Pamela Landi, Planning

Tim McInerney, Canal Corp.

Media & Public

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1) Call to Order

2) Accept Minutes – January 16, 2019

3) 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

4) Other Business

A. Review Economic Data – Erie Canalway Trail Study – Dave Perkins

5) Adjournment

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 11:02 A.M.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2019 meeting was moved by Mr. Rozell, seconded by Mr. Middleton and adopted.

Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director, introduced Emily Walters who took over the position formerly held by Cathy Varney at the Glens Falls Hospital. She works with the Healthy Communities and Healthy Places grants and trails projects.

TRAIL UPDATES:

Empire State Trail/Champlain Canalway Trail:

- Whitehall – Mr. Rozell stated moving forward with the trail sign for the trailhead and bike rack that is going in the park.
- Fort Ann – Mr. Moore stated the Greenway has contacted them regarding putting signs on the trail as you enter the town of Fort Ann. Tim McInerney, Canal Corp., stated when the new trail is in there will be blacktop and room on each side for snowmobiles.
- Kingsbury – Mr. Hogan stated nothing new that he is aware of. Tim McInerney, Canal Corp., stated after school is out they are going to start digging under Rt. 196. The road will be closed for one week. They have already cut trees from Rt. 196 to the T-bridge and started Baldwin's Corner yesterday.
- Fort Edward Village and Town – Mr. Middleton stated nothing new, getting ready for the trailhead. There has been some talk at the village about putting in a mountain bike course but just in the preliminary stages of looking at that. Unknown when the village will be signed. Andy Beers, Empire State Trail, is the contact for signs.
- Greenwich – no representative present.

Slate Valley Rail Trail:

- Granville – Mr. Hicks stated he has received the paperwork which is extensive and will take months to complete. It is progressing but very slow.
- Salem – Mrs. Clary stated no action on the rail trail yet.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Pam Landi, Planning, addressed the following items with the committee:
Champlain Canalway Working Group – Provided a brief update on the Champlain Canalway Working Group and Fort Ann/Whitehall Working Group are looking at getting out and thinking about bicycles bringing business and how to be ready once the trail opens in 2020. Strategic talks going on in both groups. Janet Kennedy, Executive Director of Lakes to Locks, was at the Champlain Canalway Working group to talk about lakes to locks and docks. She has already mapped out twelve bike routes that loop into the trail system. They are looking at Schuylerville as a model. Lakes to Locks is involved in all types of projects dealing with a variety of subjects: trailhead signage, bike loops, kiosks, from Mechanicville to Ticonderoga.
- Historic Hudson Hoosic River Partnership – They are working out the nature of what their policies are as a committee and how they are governing themselves. A lot of dialogue on the visitor center but there is movement within the group to start moving beyond that and every agenda includes their mission statement to keep that in front of them. They have been inviting presenters to their meetings, Tracy Clothier, ASA and in April the Power Authority is coming. Chairman Shaw stated members are Supervisors or their delegate representing towns that border the Hudson or Hoosic Rivers.
- She provided copies of the NYS Municipal Code, General Obligations Law, GOB§9-103 in relation to liability on the trails, attached.
- Points of Interest – Chairman Shaw asked if any more rest areas and bathroom facilities have been identified. Ms. Landi stated more follow up work needs to be done. The GIS Specialist is working on taking the tax identification number of the points of interest and geolocating them.
- The updated Champlain Canalway Trail 2018 Action Plan, draft plan, is posted on the Planning Department website.
- FA/Whitehall Trail Grant Status – The Economic Development Director stated the State had an issue with the County's equal employment opportunity policy and the contract went back and forth several times but it has been finalized and she anticipates receiving the fully executed copy any day now. Chazen is doing the engineering and design work and that contract has already been executed. As soon as the snow is off the ground, they will commence the survey work. Snow cover is all that is holding them up right now. She stated it is a forgone conclusion that the trail will go up Clay Hill Road unless we proactively try and find additional funding to enable them to do something different.
- Outdoor Magazine – The Economic Development Director displayed an article in Outdoor Magazine about outdoor adventures and trails published through the tourism budget. The article has been very well received and the magazine has a total circulation of half a million.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 15th at 11:00 A.M. in the Supervisors large conference room.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Washington County Board of Supervisors

New York Consolidated Laws, General Obligations Law - GOB § 9-103. No duty to keep premises safe for certain uses; responsibility for acts of such users

1. Except as provided in subdivision two,

a. an owner, lessee or occupant of premises, whether or not posted as provided in section 11-2111 of the environmental conservation law, owes no duty to keep the premises safe for entry or use by others for hunting, fishing, organized gleaning as defined in section seventy-one-y of the agriculture and markets law, canoeing, boating, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, tobogganing, sledding, speleological activities, horseback riding, bicycle riding, hang gliding, motorized vehicle operation for recreational purposes, snowmobile operation, cutting or gathering of wood for non-commercial purposes or training of dogs, or to give warning of any hazardous condition or use of or structure or activity on such premises to persons entering for such purposes;

b. an owner, lessee or occupant of premises who gives permission to another to pursue any such activities upon such premises does not thereby (1) extend any assurance that the premises are safe for such purpose, or (2) constitute the person to whom permission is granted an invitee to whom a duty of care is owed, or (3) assume responsibility for or incur liability for any injury to person or property caused by any act of persons to whom the permission is granted.

c. an owner, lessee or occupant of a farm, as defined in section six hundred seventy-one of the labor law, whether or not posted as provided in section 11-2111 of the environmental conservation law, owes no duty to keep such farm safe for entry or use by a person who enters or remains in or upon such farm without consent or privilege, or to give warning of any hazardous condition or use of or structure or activity on such farm to persons so entering or remaining. This shall not be interpreted, or construed, as a limit on liability for acts of gross negligence in addition to those other acts referred to in subdivision two of this section.

2. This section does not limit the liability which would otherwise exist

a. for willful or malicious failure to guard, or to warn against, a dangerous condition, use, structure or activity; or

b. for injury suffered in any case where permission to pursue any of the activities enumerated in this section was granted for a consideration other than the consideration, if any, paid to said landowner by the state or federal government, or permission to train dogs was granted for a consideration other than that provided for in section 11-0925 of the environmental conservation law; or

c. for injury caused, by acts of persons to whom permission to pursue any of the activities enumerated in this section was granted, to other persons as to whom the person granting permission, or the owner, lessee or occupant of the premises, owed a duty to keep the premises safe or to warn of danger.

3. Nothing in this section creates a duty of care or ground of liability for injury to person or property.