

WASHINGTON COUNTY AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 16, 2018

AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisors Shaw, Moore, Hogan, Middleton, Rozell, Hicks, David Perkins, Tim Ward, Gretchen Stark

AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Supervisor Idleman, Matt Traver, Mayor Village of Fort Edward

SUPERVISORS: Henke, Clary

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director

Pam Landi, Planning

Chris DeBolt, County Administrator

Heather Weller, GIS Specialist RPTS

Media & Public

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Accept Minutes – April 18, 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
- 5) Other Business
- 6) Adjournment

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2018 meeting was moved by Mr. Middleton, seconded by Mr. Rozell and adopted.

TRAIL UPDATES:

Empire State Trail/Champlain Canalway Trail:

- Fort Ann – Do not want to see the Canalway Trail on Clay Hill Road working with a private landowner to get the trail off the southern section of the road to avoid a steep hill. The private landowner wants the trail and it would go across the campground and they are trying to get a trail of their own to get down to the canal and have applied to NY Canal Corp. for a docking permit. They are very willing to make it work with the Canalway Trail. Progress made and continue to address this section of the trail with town officials, Canal Corp. and private landowner.
- Kingsbury – Canal Corp. has stated the designs for the two bridges have been released and that is a big step forward. Have not heard anything about NYS DOT design for tunnel under Rt. 196 but assumes they are bringing that forward. Once Canal Corp. and NYS DOT complete their projects, the Town of Kingsbury is going to be in good shape regarding the trail.
- Fort Edward – Village and Town – The Mayor of Fort Edward and State personnel have recently walked the trail that is going through the town and village. Mr. Shaw asked Mr. Middleton if the town was interested in looking at the mule barn (last standing mule barn on the canal and an old lock at the same location) down on Rt. 4. He stated the State is really pushing with money on the trail right now and possibly Fort Edward could get a grant for that. He has not addressed this matter with the Town Board but he will. The town does have resolutions regarding the trail route.

- Greenwich – No report. Mr. Perkins stated the inspection of the shoulders on Rt. 113 is about the only item to be done. Mr. Shaw spoke with Bruce Ferguson about using the rail tracks to get part of the trail off Rt. 113 but he needs more information.
- Whitehall – Mr. Ward reported they are meeting with Paul Cummings today to finalize the feasibility study and a boat tour next week. Also need to start looking at the entire route by foot. Not much happening with old Rt. 4 to Ryder Road but it better start happening soon. They need to purchase a parcel and get an easement on another. Otherwise the trail looks good to Whitehall with the landowners. Need a fence near the sewage treatment plant. Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director, stated this afternoon the draft plan of the results of the greenway study will be produced to the group and they can select the final route. Once that plan is finalized, we then move in to initiating the County project in terms of the LWRP that the County contributed to begin that phase of the project which is once the final route is selected we start design.

Slate Valley Rail Trail:

- Salem – Mrs. Clary stated there is a lot of interest in Salem in the trail. Mr. Hicks provided her with maps. Interesting things happening.
- Granville – Mr. Hicks stated they have issues with the trail going north but open from Granville to Salem. He stated the Chairman of his committee passed away and they are reorganizing. Chazen has finished the study and they will accept it next month and they have applied for reimbursement. The next segment will be from Middle Granville to Raceville which is 22A. Once they get to Raceville, they have a couple different options and the primary option is to go up 22A put no one wants to be on Rt. 22A. This segment would be amount 1.5 miles. They are talking to Poultney, Vt about trail options.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review from Last Meeting:

- Friends of IBA – Mr. Perkins met with them on where the loop would go and that information has been present to the LA Group who is doing the plan.
- Fort Edward - dialogue started on determining the route and signage. Resolution was passed.
- Running out of signs – Mr. Perkins needs trail signs where it is designated. Mr. Shaw will follow up.
- Points of Interest – Pam Landi, Planning, and Heather Weller, Real Property, have meet and have a plan to address the points of interest; historical/cultural, bathroom, parking. They should have a list by the end of the year and plan to send a survey to the Town Supervisors to have them indicate anything they might have missed. Mr. Perkins would like a winter component to this database.

New Business:

- June 1st Trails Lunch – Lighthouse Park in Halfmoon from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM.
- Update next month on points of interest project.
- Signage – Supervisor Shaw and Mr. Perkins will report next month.
- Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director, stated this group seems to be considering multi-use trails across the County and it might be worth considering Blueway Trails under

this committee's umbrella. Similar mapping and consideration for waterway trails – where you can go, bodies of water, canoe/kayak launches.

- Foothills ATV Riders – Jon Wood, President, stated he has been working with Heather for years on maps. He asked if there is anything he can do to help and is there something that might be available to them also. This organization is self-funded and regulated and limited to 250 families. They travel on to 100 different landowners' property and they have family that ride the trails. They pay for the trail signage and maintenance. They have about 104 round trip miles.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 13th at 11:00 A.M. in the Supervisors large conference room.

The meeting adjourned at 11:51A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors