

WASHINGTON COUNTY AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 15, 2018

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

AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Supervisors Idleman, Moore, Hicks, Matthew Traver-Mayor Village of Fort Edward, Tim Ward

SUPERVISORS: Henke, Clary

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Heather Weller, GIS Specialist RPTS

Chris DeBolt, County Administrator

Laura Oswald, Economic Dev. Director
Public

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Accept Minutes – June 13, 2018
- 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
- 5) Adjournment

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2018 meeting was moved by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Hogan and adopted.

TRAIL UPDATES:

Empire State Trail/Champlain Canalway Trail:

- Whitehall – Mr. Rozell stated he has spoken with several landowners and that seems to be moving along. Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director, stated a grant was awarded last year to do the environmental, permitting, trail design and all the pre-development work and she is expecting the contract to come to the Chairman of the Board within the next few weeks after a very long process. She stated the majority of the in-kind is going to be time spent by the Economic Development Director, Planner, County Administrator, County Attorney and County Treasurer and estimating about \$25,000 to \$30,000 for construction in-kind and unsure if it will be from Fort Ann, Whitehall or the County. This is for the Fort Ann to Whitehall portion of the trail. The original grant description stated Comstock north and had to negotiate a change because they wanted some flexibility to possibly re-route the trail through the campground. They have permission to work on the design, surveying, environmental, permitting and some construction which they will decide what and where to do after completion of the environmental. Basically, this grant is for the section of trail from Clay Hill Road up to Whitehall. Ms. Oswald is going to start working on the RFP. This is a grant to the County and the County is contributing money. There is a project management process we are going to have to adhere to based on the Department of State workplan regulations so anything they do on this project the Department of State wants to be copied on. She is proposing to create a consultant selection committee that is composed of people that have the most interest in the project; trail group and towns of Fort Ann and Whitehall. The consultant would be approved by the County but this selection committee would have input. The contract start date is March 1, 2018 and have five years

from contract date to complete the project. The County will be the lead agency for SEQRA. Based on the preliminary design work, there is one small stretch of the trail that is along the road, Rt. 4; the crossing by Comstock as you go over Rt. 22. The idea for the rest of it is to be all off road. She does not anticipate doing the survey and environmental work on this trail until next year. The goal is to get this trail off Rt. 4. What the grant will get us is the entire section from Clay Hill Road to Whitehall designed and permitted and a small section somewhere on the trail that will be constructed; not the entire trail. In the future with more funding, they will already have the design and permitting to move forward to complete the trail. Mr. Perkins suggested targeting the turnaround area near Ryder Road as the small section to construct. The grant cannot be used for any property acquisition.

- Fort Ann – Gretchen Stark stated the campground trail needs to be figured out yet. Ms. Oswald stated there is no money to construct anything but should the alternate route through the campground prove feasible, they should be able to complete the design of that section. Ms. Stark stated they just need to meet with the campground owners.
- Kingsbury – Mr. Perkins is hoping to get something on specs from DOT on the tunnel. Everything else is just waiting on them to put out the contracts. Construction is supposed to be next year or late this fall. Mr. Hogan stated a resolution was approved at their Town Board meeting agreeing to the draft agreement with the NYS Canal Corp to manage Rabideau Lane.
- Fort Edward Village and Town – Village – Town – Mr. Middleton stated the Town Board approved a resolution for signage and they are ready to go.
- Greenwich – Mr. Perkins stated he spoke with Supervisor Idleman and it is her understanding that the Empire State Trail is going to be repairing the little bridge in Fort Miller but does not know when. He also asked her about the possibility of the trail along the Battenkill Railroad and she has not had any conversations with anyone yet. At a recent Public Works Committee meeting it was stated that it was going to cost the County \$47,000 to inspect the Dix Bridge and Chairman Shaw has asked the DPW Superintendent to find out if other pedestrian bridges will require inspections.

Slate Valley Rail Trail (13 – 14 miles):

- Granville – Ms. Oswald stated she worked with Granville on submitting a CFA application for them. They wanted to get a portion of the Slate Valley Rail trail constructed and asked for a 2.5-mile section from Depot Street in the village to Cross Street in Raceville. The County committed in-kind on administration, the Town of Granville is committing some cash and the town DPW crew will handle the construction portion of the project. Will find out in December if approved.
- Salem – Mrs. Clary stated they are meeting with Chazen tomorrow to talk about segment 1.

Points of Interest – Heather Weller, RP GIS Specialist, making progress on the points of interest and needs to meet with Pam Landi, Planner. They have a file that they both can work on. She urged members to forward to her any information they have on points of interest along the trails. Eventually they will give each town a list of the points of interest that have been identified. She feels this will be an ever-expanding data base.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Perkins addressed the following items with the committee:

- Informed the committee that Tracy Clothier has released her first draft action plan for the Canalway Trail. This is going to be organized on a town by town approach. This will become part of a marketing campaign. The draft plan will be distributed to committee members.
- Slate Valley Trail – He stated as this trail progresses to Raceville that will bring that trail to a point where we can really start looking at connecting westward to the Champlain Canalway Trail. He stated there are some options regarding town and county roads and asked committee members to start thinking about if there is a preference in terms of preferred routing to make this connection. This is a positive thing for the County to show that there are these interconnectors with the trails. The Real Property GIS Specialist will have maps with proposed routes available at the next meeting.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 14th at 11:00 A.M. in the Supervisors large conference room.

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors