

St. Lawrence County Public & Private Lands Recreational Advisory Board Meeting
St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District Office
7:00 PM

DRAFT
Notes for August 17, 2010

Present: Roger Bennett (Chairman), Aaron Earl (acting secretary), Judy Wendt, David Irish, Walt Paul, Warren Irwin, Art Wilson, David Butler, Wm Swafford, Danny Collins, Pat Whalen, John Manson, Erik Backlund, Kermit Blanchard, and Thomas Grow.

Guest: Jim McCulley, Edwin Francis, Aaron Graves, Ken Kogut,

Absent Excused: Dawn Howard (Secretary), Tom Ortmeyer, Stan Hewlett, Russell Lawrence, & Bill Lutz.

Absent: ...

I. Called to Order @ 7:00

II. Quorum present

III. Warren Irwin made a motion to accept the previous meetings minutes, Judy Wendt seconded, motion carried.

IV. Guest Speaker Jim McCulley was introduced by Danny Collins

Main premise for presenting to the RTAB was to get a resolution from the RTAB supporting the proposed recreational trail creation, making use of dilapidated, underutilized railroad extending from Thendara to Tupper Lake, and to broaden the interest.

Walt Paul made motion that: a resolution is forwarded to the St. Lawrence County Legislature requesting their support for a study being conducted by North Elba regarding a multi-use rail trail corridor from Thendara to Tupper Lake and more specifically support for the study to include sections of the rail extending into St. Lawrence County.

Motion seconded by Danny Collins. Motion carried.

Jim McCulley extensively described the trail and detailed the following:

-[Adirondack Rail Trail \(Remove the Tracks\) on Facebook](#) for more links and info.

-Canada and Vermont have had great success with multi-use trails, 80% of users surveyed, stated the trail was the sole reason for being in the area.

-Tourist Railroad is a flop and it has been difficult to get riders on a rail corridor.

-Bridges along the corridor would be intact after adding decking.

Additional commentary:

-ADK in favor of the trail.

-May be easier to facilitate the movement for this multi-use recreational trail project w/o an initial big push for including ATV's... That can be broached after the trail has been established.

-The project would create around 43 miles of trail within St. Lawrence County.

V. Committee Reports:

A. Executive

1. Roger Bennett informed the Board that Russell Lawrence needs two more months before he will be able to return to the RTAB regular meetings.

Motion made by Judy Wendt: Extend Russell Lawrence's leave by two months.

Seconded by Aaron Earl. Motion carried. R. Lawrence has until November 2010 before reporting back to the Board.

B. Board of Legislators-

1. Tom Grow: No recent news to report.

C. Trail Oversight/GEIS Mapping

1. Kermit Blanchard: No report

2. Walt Paul (for Tom Ortmeyer) Letter to the DEC addressing problem spots, letter for MOU had been signed and sent. Tom Grow suggested that they present this issue to the BOL at their next finance meeting.

3. Addition of roads to the pilot trail (Trail Expansion) was brought up at the meeting and was reaffirmed that it is presently tabled as the current legal opinion suggests it would be "segmentation."

4. Walt Paul: Letter to Brookfield hasn't had response in regard to Rainbow Falls crossing. Propose a follow up letter, initiating contact for a 2nd meeting to move forward. Judy Wendt made a motion for the aforementioned 2nd letter to be drafted. Seconded by Danny Collins, Motion Carried.

The Trail Committee will arrange a meeting to confirm connector routes, and draft letter.

D. Finance Committee: No Report

E. Enforcement, Safety, & Education: No Report

F. Grant Search Committee: No Report

G. SEQR: No Report

VI. Unfinished Business:

A. By Laws Description:

Judy Wendt- will have the description for the by-laws available before the next meeting.

VII. New Business:

A. Warren Irwin requested the draft minutes be sent out sooner than a few days prior to the meeting. Judy Wendt followed, suggesting ten days prior to the actual meeting would allow adequate time to prepare. And a simple meeting reminder a few days prior to the actual scheduled meeting date. Suggestion noted.

VIII. Announcements:

A. Pat Whalen introduced two guests: DEC Region 6 Natural Resource Supervisor Ken Kogut, and DEC Region 6 Forester Aaron Graves (Brasher State Forest).

B. Discussion ensued regarding recurring topics:

-V&T Law restricting cooperative use of motor vehicles and ATVs.

-Some legal ATV roads are indeed town roads, and a town issue before the state.

- C. Walt Paul reminded members that it would be prudent to promote the trail and its potential to political representatives so they have some awareness of the magnitude of opportunity the trail presents as it gains momentum.

IX. Set The Next Meeting

- A. Next meeting will be held on September 21st at 7pm at the USDA Bldg/SWCD Meeting Room.

X. Hearing and Comments:

No Comments

XI. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Judy Wendt at 9:00 pm

Notes by Aaron Earl