

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

DRAFT Minutes for April 20, 2010

Present: Dawn Howard, Roger Bennett, Walt Paul, Deb Christy, Kermit Blanchard, Aaron Earl, Warren Irwin, Alex MacKinnon, Bill Dashnaw, Bill Swafford, Stan Hewlett, Bill Lutz, Tom Ortmeyer, Spencer Thew, David Irish, and David Butler.

Guests: Danny Collins, Ed Francis, Pat Whalen, Jason Gilbon, Mike Gonyea, Don Gonyea, Kelly Baldwin, Mike Morse, and Neil Bartu (sp?).

Excused: Tom Grow, Russell Lawrence, Judy Wendt, and Art Wilson.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Roger Bennett at the SWCD office.
2. Quorum present.
3. The Chairman asked if we could deviate from the Order of Business to accommodate our guests. Mike Gonyea spoke on ATV drag racing. The Norwood Volunteer Fire Department has offered to build a track on Morgan St. The group is looking for money to help build and to buy timing lights. The current track in Harrisville is not being maintained. They would like to go from a dirt track to a sand track. The cost is approx \$32,260 with guard rails and an additional \$9,000 for lights. They will maintain and advertise. They would like to hold two day events and attract folks from out of NYS. This track will accommodate all sorts of events – from 3-4 year olds on electric vehicles to big bikes to golf cart classes, etc. Roger deferred the request to Bill Dashnaw who had a handout re the project finances. The grant money is stipulated for a cross county trail. Alex Mackinnon asked who would own and Mike Gonyea said that the VFD would. Several other questions were asked. Alex MacKinnon thinks that this is a good project, but it will need more money if an engineer is required and there are other questions that need to be answered. He suggested they talk to the IDA or Chamber of Commerce and also the folks in Pitcairn. Alex MacKinnon asked them to come back next month with the VFD and an Engineer and the Adirondack ATV Club from Pitcairn.
4. Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Kermit Blanchard and seconded by Walt Paul. All were in favor.
5. Reports of Committees:
 - a. Executive – Roger Bennett. Marshall Weekes' letter of resignation was received.
 - b. Board of Legislators – Alex MacKinnon.
 1. The County Attorney will be calling Dawn Howard and Aaron Earl re opening more County parcels and new road segments in Parishville to expand the pilot trail. A new local law will be drafted. There will be 3 SEQR- pilot, expansion, and the whole. Bill Dashnaw asked about doing other county pieces, but it was decided to only do the pilot area now.
 2. Roger Bennett reported that Ton Grow had called him today.

- c. Oversight – Kermit Blanchard.
 - 1. Committee met last Wednesday. Seven people cleared the whole pilot trail. There was little damage. Eight to ten of our signs were painted over with blue paint in one spot. The time sheets went to Bill Dashnaw.
 - 2. Walt Paul met with Brookfield re a crossing to get off Stark Rd. The Snowmobile Assoc has insurance and Deb Christy will check on the extent of their coverage. A letter will come from the Board at this address. Walt Paul asked Bill Dashnaw to check with the Colton Supervisor and he will also check with Parishville. He will also check with Dan Parker at Brookfield.
- d. Finance and Insurance – Dawn Howard. Dawn Howard deferred to Bill Dashnaw who reviewed the report he had handed out earlier. His staff has been working on this. See special provisions - 3rd paragraph, second sentence re money. We need Board and SWCD staff rates. Our Empire State Development contact retired. The new contact is Wai Shiu in NYC. Bill Dashnaw is also working with the consultant.
- e. Grant Search – Judy Wendt. Not present.
- f. Enforcement, Safety, and Education – Judy Wendt. Not present.
- g. SEQR – Vacant. No report. Erik Backlund had a question on when the last proposal comes to the SEQR committee. Kermit Blanchard asked if the Oversight Committee should look at the new county properties and Alex MacKinnon said yes.

6. Unfinished Business.

- a. Dawn Howard reported that we have two new members – Dave Butler (after a longer than normal wait) and Wm Swafford. Danny Collins will probably be appointed at the May 3 Board of Legislators meeting.

7. New Business.

- a. Dawn Howard has been contacted by the Franklin County Trails Board about doing a presentation at their next meeting on May 6 in Malone. Anyone interested in going can let her know.
- b. Alex MacKinnon reported that Jon Montan from the SLC Planning Office had contacted him about a May 7 meeting in Speculator on biking in the 14 county Adirondack North County Association area. We need a rep from our Board to attend. Dave Butler volunteered to represent us. Alex MacKinnon suggested that Benson Mines may be a site.
- c. Walt Paul announced that a proposal to change DMV law re ATVs is out there.
- d. Bill Dashnaw reviewed the corridor trail map. He thinks we may need to purchase easements in a couple of areas such as the Picketville Rd and Tooley Pond Rd. Dawn Howard will discuss with the Franklin Co. group where to meet at the county line. Bill Dashnaw will have a map for her to take to the meeting on May 6. Discussion followed re insurance. Telling folks we will have, but may be a show stopper. Deb Christy asked about the Tooley Pond Rd to River Rd to the South. Bill Dashnaw said this may be an option and he will talk to the DEC. Need to move forward to meet our 2012 grant deadline. Bill Dashnaw said the consultant is preparing. David Irish asked about the Picketville area. Bill

Dashnaw talked about a source of gravel. Bill Dashnaw will find out about authorization for purchasing from the grant and the BOL (in case the money does not come thru). Deb Christy expressed concern that if you pay for an easement, everyone may want payment. Alex made a motion to pursue purchasing and Kermit Blanchard seconded. All were in favor.

8. Announcements.

a. Walt Paul announced that there will be a Raquette River Blueway Stakeholder meeting on May 3 from 10-2 at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake. This concerns recreation.

9. Next Meeting is 5/18/10 at 7:00 PM at the SWCD office.

10. Hearings and Comments.

11. Motion by Deb Christy and seconded by Stan Hewlett to adjourn. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes by Dawn Howard