

St. Lawrence County Recreational Trails Advisory Board Meeting
St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators Chambers

DRAFT Minutes for June 21, 2011

Present: Dawn Howard, Danny Collins, Roger Bennett, Wm Swafford, Walt Paul, Warren Irwin, Judy Wendt, Deb Christy, Tom Ortmeyer, Stanley Hewlett, Bill Dashnaw, Art Wilson, Schyler Shea, Tony Arquiatt, and Hank Ford.

Guests: Ed Francis, Pat Whalen, Russell Martin, John Manson, Philip Conger, Sharon Young, Edwin Young, Jason Clark, and Charles Schloer.

Excused: Kermit Blanchard, Dave Butler, Dave Irish, Bill Lutz, Alex MacKinnon, Mark Martin, and Scott Sutherland.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Roger Bennett.
2. Quorum present.
3. Schyler Shea asked for clarification on the Snell Rd as reported in the minutes. Approval was put on hold until Bill Dashnaw arrived to answer the question. Art Wilson moved and Walt Paul seconded a motion to approve the Minutes. All were in favor.
4. There was no guest speaker.
5. Reports of Committees:
 - a. Executive – Roger Bennett. Seven members are absent tonight. Roger Bennett had a report from Alex MacKinnon. The draft coordinator contract is done and will go to the BOL Finance Comm. on 6/27. There is County budget difficulty this year. The money for the position is casino money for development and is not supposed to go into the general fund. Roger Bennett reported that Scott Sunderland left word that he will support the trail coordinator position.
 - b. Board of Legislators – Alex MacKinnon, Scott Sutherland, and Tony Arquiatt.
 - Tony Arquiatt continues to support the trail coordinator position. The SLC 2012 budget is worse than anticipated. The legislators will look at what brings money back to St. Lawrence Co.
 - Tony Arquiatt spoke with Dan Fennell on CR 53 in Brasher re utilizing his property. No motorized vehicles, but other than that the landowner is receptive.
 - John Putney presented the BOL a resolution from horse riders for a trail in Robert Moses State Park. A copy is attached to these minutes. Judy Wendt said we really need a horse person on the Board.
 - NY Assemblywoman Addie Russell was spoken to re side by side legislation. This is still in committee and they will work into fall on this.
 - Everyone was urged to utilize every opportunity to speak with NYS reps on using state land.
 - Roger Bennett asked for an Enforcement meeting follow-up. Judy Wendt has the minutes and a letter with suggestions. Both were sent to NYS reps. The secretary was given a copy. Tony Arquiatt sent thank you letters to our reps for participating. He will share the info in the letters.

- A question was asked about participation at the BOL meeting on the 27th. Tony Arquiatt will let the group know.
 - The question was asked if we had received a response from Judy Drabicki of the DEC. Judy Wendt said we had gotten a reply and that Judy Drabicki had some good suggestions.
- c. Oversight – Tom Ortmeyer and Kermit Blanchard. Tom Ortmeyer reported that he had met with Bill Dashnaw a couple of weeks ago re our next steps. The pilot trail east to the county line needs to be looked at re what of the 5 SLC forest properties to include. Kermit and Tom will scout and report back to the committee and Board. Judy Wendt asked for notice of the tour. Dawn Howard requested that the SWCD as property manager also be notified. Tom Ortmeyer reported that this will be a walk thru, not a ride. Tom Ortmeyer will also follow up with Dan Fennell the landowner in Brasher re opening his land for trails (no MV).
- d. Finance and Insurance – Dawn Howard. Nothing new to report. Deb Christy is following up on insurance.
- e. Grant Search – Judy Wendt. No report.
- f. Enforcement, Safety, and Education – Judy Wendt.
- The report was given earlier on the follow-up to the meeting that was held.
 - Someone is looking for a safety training courses.
 - Tony Arquiatt had a question on organized rides in the Brasher area. Warren Irwin gave an update on what was going on in this area re new officers for their ATV club. Art Wilson said if the new club president Jeff Truax goes to County ATV Association meetings, then that group will help out to get the club going again. Judy Wendt suggested that the education committee do a public meeting in Brasher to generate interest.
- g. SEQR – Alex MacKinnon and Erik Backlund.
- Bill Dashnaw had a handout. GEIS steps 1-8 were done in the past and have been completed. A question was asked about revisions and what has to happen. The group has to go back through the steps and publish again. The DEC requested and received a 2 month extension. Pat Whalen thanked the group for this. There were some issues incl. moving away from some state land. Bill Dashnaw thanked Pat Whalen for his work. There will be a ton of work at the end of the SEQR process. Bill Dashnaw will send out the comments he receives. They have been very constructive so far.
 - Judy Wendt and Deb Christy gave a presentation to the SLC Environmental Management Committee. Dawn Howard reported that the EMC had previously done a resolution in support of the trail for the BOL.
 - Walt Paul asked what the definition of a major revision to the trail was. Bill Dashnaw replied that he did not have a clear cut answer. A discussion was held re things that might possibly cause changes. Bill Dashnaw is mapping out neighboring towns with open roads will may eventually expand the system.

6. Unfinished Business.

- a. Warren Irwin reported that the Town of Brasher has an old backhoe arm with a brush hog and wondered if he should pursue obtaining this. Bill Dashnaw said it would need to be looked at since there was probably a reason the Town got rid of it. Bill Dashnaw prefers a grinder as there is less debris as it mulches instead.
- b. Roger Bennett asked the two new Board members which committees they would like to be on. Schyler Shea will be on the Enforcement, Safety, and Education. Hank Ford will sit on the Grants committee. Roger Bennett will correct the list and send it out.
- c. Dawn Howard thanked Judy Wendt and Deb Christy for their presentation to the EMC.
- d. Dawn Howard also reported that the St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District had sent a letter to the BOL in support of the trail coordinator position.

7. New Business.

- a. Hank Ford introduced Jason Clark, the Executive Director of the Business Development Group for a Greater Massena (BDC). Jason Clark spoke about a rooftop highway – I 98. He reported a parallel recreational trail was done with a similar project in Maine. He will do what he can in regards to helping our group connect. Jason Clark is also the new district chairman of the BSA Longhouse Council. He is interested in NYPA land too and will send the 765kv line map to Roger Bennett. This shows tax map numbers, landowners, and addresses. The County Planning office can possibly print this. There are many easements and right of ways, but the language needs to be checked. There is a new SL Gas line too from Norwood east that is being worked on. Check to make sure recreation is written into the language. Judy Wendt made a motion for Tony Arquiatt to keep working with Jason Clark. The corridor to the river is a true destination. You can't beat the combination of a river and mountains.
- b. Deb Christy reported on an article in today's Watertown Daily Times that says ATVs will be allowed on existing Snowmobile trails. This needs correction as her agreements with landowners are for snowmobiles only.
- c. Deb Christy reported that the IDA has given permission for snowmobilers to use the 23 miles of railroad bed out of Newton Falls. They are doing inventory work on washouts and bridges. Brush also needs to be removed. This could be an expensive proposition. Maybe eventually this area could include ATV use.
- d. Deb Christy reported on the Gold Mine trail. Seaway Timber is in the area. They have a temp bridge in place and Deb Christy wondered if we could buy it. There is a meeting with Brookfield on Thursday re equipment on site. (Stark to Rainbow area)
- e. Walt Paul said Franklin County surveyed the public on an ATV trail. 70% were in favor and 36% had concerns. The question was asked if we have met with the Franklin County folks so they know where we will hit the county line? Dawn Howard reported that she has met with them in the past before the trail was firmed up, but has not talked to them recently. She will make contact. Walt Paul suggested we educate the Towns. Bill Dashnaw is scheduling this within the next two months.

- f. Deb Christy reported that the Snowmobile Association rents a machine at \$95/hr to brush the 60 miles of trail from Clare to Cranberry Lake to Colton. Wants to do by 6/30. Warren Irwin will check with the Town of Brasher re their brush hog arm.

8. Announcements. None.

9. Next Meeting is 7/19/11 at 7:00 PM at the Board of Legislators Chambers.

10. Hearings and Comments. None.

11. Warren Irwin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Stanley Hewlett. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Minutes by Dawn Howard