

MEETING MINUTES - HALFMOON  
TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE (TOSC)  
Oct 16, 2023

1. OPENING – We opened our meeting at 7:07 pm, in the Halfmoon Town Hall and on line.

ATTENDANCE –TOSC Members William (Bill) Herman John Mitchell and Henrietta (Henny) O’Grady attended in the James Bold Room. Mike Meyer and Paul (PJ) Maiello were absent and excused. Unfortunately, the Town Board was not represented. We were visited by three Halfmoon residents Therese Dolen, Carolyn Sitko and Jeff Slater who all expressed interest in joining TOSC. No one joined us on line, as far as we know.

2. MEETING MINUTES – Meeting minutes from July 17, 2023 were approved, as submitted.
3. GRANT PROJECT UPDATE – The September 2023 Grant Department Report was reviewed. Unfortunately, John had printed and distributed a highlighted version and many very significant words (one of the color choices) were not readable. Regardless, we talked thru the list and discussed updates on the Crescent Park (Canal Road) Trailhead parking, the Floud Memorial Preserve design, the Erie Canal Towpath Link Trail work plan, the Sitterly Road Pedestrian Safety Trail, and the process to revise the 15-year-old Halfmoon Waterfront Vision Plan. For each of these items we had good dialog with our visitors and were able to focus on the role and results of TOSC.
4. THE CCT towpath North of UNR- We discussed the Champlain Canalway Trail (CCT) trail and new trailhead parking north of Upper Newtown Road Halfmoon. Bill briefly shared about Saratoga PLAN and their plan/interest in helping us to complete the missing CCT link to Mechanicville.
5. VOSBURGH & SWATLING FALLS PRESERVE STATUS – We did not have any news to share about the Vosburgh Nature Preserve trail work, the Swatling Falls Nature Preserve or the Floud Memorial Preserve design beyond the information from the September 2023 Grant Department Report.
6. 2023 TOWN SPONSORED TRAIL WALKS – The Town accomplished the Zim Smith walk and picnic on June 3, which is National Trails Day. The next walk will be on the Champlain Canalway Trail, on 9/16/23, with a picnic in Lighthouse Park. The final one will be the Erie Canal Towpath with a picnic at the Historical Building. TOSC would like them better advertised. As an example, the Summer Navigator does not advise of the Erie Canal Towpath walk.
7. HANKS HOLLOW, CREEKVIEW ESTATES, BETTS FARM, MOTT ORCHARD and other PDD’s – John got a brief update from Rich Harris and shared that Hanks Hollow, Creekview Estates and Betts Farm PDD’s continue building infrastructures and buildings and are doing some casual trail work. All of the other planned trail-containing PDD’s show no active construction.
8. TOSC ORGANIZATIONAL DISCUSSIONS – All three TOSC members in attendance agreed to continue next year; however, Henny indicated that this could be her last year. We encouraged all three of our visitors to consider joining TOSC – which they indicated as real possibilities. John told them they should quickly contact the Town Board, thru Supervisor Tollisen, if they want to be official for 2024. However, TOSC membership can happen during the year and not just at the January Organizational Meeting.
9. Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) – Bill Herman, who represents TOSC on the CPUC, spoke briefly about their progress and the open meetings which are scheduled.
10. CCTWG, CDTC ATC, Countywide Trails, ABC, HHHP, et al- John shared that the various committees that he has followed are getting back to “a new normal” operation, following the COVID pandemic. However, he cannot participate at the same level as before. He will encourage others in Halfmoon to both volunteer to the attend these meetings and to seek Town Board authorization to represent the town.
11. CONCLUSION – The meeting adjourned at about 8:00 PM. The TOSC 2024 meeting dates proposed are 1/16, 4/15, 7/15, and 10/21/23, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mitchell. TOSC Chair