

MEETING MINUTES - HALFMOON
TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE (TOSC)
Jan. 16, 2024

1. OPENING – We opened our meeting at 7:07 pm.

ATTENDANCE –TOSC Members William (Bill) Herman, Mike Meyer and John Mitchell attended in the Halfmoon Town Hall’s Large Conference Room. Henrietta (Henny) O’Grady was absent. Paul (PJ) Maiello was absent but represented by Matthew (Matt) Hickok who, unfortunately, couldn’t speak for his boss in all things. Also unfortunately, the Town Board was not represented. No one joined us on line, as John had computer problems.

We were again visited by Halfmoon resident Therese Dolen. Therese said that both she and Carolyn Sitko had tried to contact the Supervisor’s office to apply for TOSC membership. However, they did not receive any feedback.

2. MEETING MINUTES – Meeting minutes from Oct 16, 2023 were approved, after listing names of our three Halfmoon visitors - specifically Therese Dolen; Carolyn Sitko and Jeff Slater.
3. GRANT PROJECT UPDATE – The December 2023 Grant Department Report was reviewed. We talked thru the list and Matt Hickok gave us great insight into the Crescent Park (Canal Road) Trailhead parking, the Floud Memorial Preserve design, the Erie Canal Towpath Link Trail work, the Outdoor Recreation Pavilion, and the CCT / EST Trailhead Parking and handicap trail extension north of UNR. John recently submitted a letter in support of funding for the proposed Sitterly Road Pedestrian Safety Trail.
4. CONNECTING SHELDON HILLS AND CREEKVIEW - We discussed the potential of connecting the Sheldon Hills Town Trail with Swatling Falls, by way of Creekview Estates. John agreed to discuss the subject with the Town Supervisor and, if appropriate, the Town Board.
5. VOSBURGH & SWATLING FALLS PRESERVE STATUS – There was no news shared about the Vosburgh Nature Preserve trail work, the Swatling Falls Nature Preserve or the Floud Memorial Preserve design beyond the information in the December 2023 Grant Department Report.
6. 2024 TOWN SPONSORED TRAIL WALKS – The Town will reportedly repeat the walks and picnics on the Zim Smith Trail, the Champlain Canalway Trail, and the Erie Canal Towpath. However, little information will be available before a new Town Recreation Director is in place. John agreed to discuss the subject with the Town Supervisor.
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 infrastructure and buildings and that the official trail work will happen, later. Mott Orchard is also planning to start some active construction, in the Spring.

8. TOSC ORGANIZATIONAL DISCUSSIONS – John advised that the four current TOSC members were approved to continue next year with John as the Chair. TOSC meetings were approved and scheduled for 1/16, 4/15, 7/15, and 10/21/24. John will follow up on the TOSC applications of Therese Dolen and Carolyn Sitko. Rich Harris is anticipating that the Trail Map will be updated by an outside engineering firm. Rich will reach out to TOSC when that activity progresses.
9. Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) – Bill Herman, who represents TOSC on the CPUC, spoke briefly about their progress and the remaining meetings which are scheduled.
10. CCTWG, CDTC ATC, Countywide Trails, ABC, HHP, et al – John shared bits of progress on these groups and answered some questions. He also pointed out that Bill Herman is involved in some of the various committees that John had followed prior to the COVID pandemic. However, John encourages others in Halfmoon to both volunteer to attend these meetings and to seek Town Board authorization to represent the town. For the record, CDTC is now renamed as the Capital Region Transportation Council.
11. CONCLUSION – The meeting adjourned at about 8:30 PM. The next TOSC meeting will be 4/15/24, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mitchell. TOSC Chair