

MEETING MINUTES - HALFMOON  
TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE (TOSC)  
February 22, 2022

1. OPENING – We opened the meeting at 7:15 pm, in the Halfmoon Town Hall and on-line via Whereby. ATTENDANCE –Paul (PJ) Maiello, Mike Meyer, John Mitchell, and Henrietta (Henny) O’Grady attended. Sandy Rohner and Matt Shea were absent and there were no Town Board Liaisons present, either. We were visited by Darlene McGraw who advocates for pedestrian and bicycle accessibility.
2. MEETING MINUTES – Meeting minutes from November 15, 2021 were approved, as submitted
3. GRANT PROJECT UPDATE – The January 2022 Grant Department Report was discussed. PJ provided good insight into various Crescent Park work, including the parking area expansion and ongoing trail paving, starting from the west. Unfortunately, the design for the “Erie Canal Towpath LINK Trail,” which continues that trail along Towpath Road between Beach Road and Clamsteam Road has more wetlands than expected. The pavilion being funded by Momenive is near the Historical Society building.
4. TOSC ORGANIZATIONAL DISCUSSIONS – We confirmed the 2022 TOSC appointments and that our meeting dates remain as 2/22, 4/18, 5/16, 7/18, 9/19, and 11/21/22. John will send emails to solicit 2022 input on TOSC commitment, organization and Town Board priorities.
5. Map review and distribution – We reviewed Hudson Valley Greenway map of the EST and the Southern Saratoga County Chamber road map and agreed that they should be made available from the Town Clerk and to all travelers coming into Halfmoon on any major trail. PJ will identify and mount map kiosks and John will make sure we have enough maps available. We also looked at the Saratoga County Bike Study map but struggled to understand how it will be used or how it should be interpreted. John will find out more details and will advise, no later than our next meeting.
6. Champlain Canalway Trail toward Mechanicville – We again shared the 2020 rolled drawing of the abandoned EST effort and further clarified our communications with the Planning Department and Albany Engineering, who own the Mechanicville Hydroelectric Station.. We then approved a letter proposing that the Town reactivate this cancelled project. John will sign the letter and send it to Supervisor Tollisen.
7. HANKS HOLLOW, CREEKVIEW ESTATES, BETTS FARM, MOTT ORCHARD and other PDD’s –Rich Harris, head of the Planning Department, told John that only the Creekview Estates is active. All of the other trail-containing PDD’s are poised to have major construction activity, as market conditions drive.
8. VOSBURGH & SWATLING FALLS PRESERVE STATUS – The final section of the Vosburgh preserve thru-trail could not be finished because of wet weather. It should finish this Spring and the preserve could open this year to thru traffic. The Swatling Falls Preserve is finished and is being enjoyed by those who know about it. No Swatling Falls connection progress, yet, with the two trails from Creekview Estates or from Betts Farm.
9. REGIONAL TRAILS MEETINGS –The Countywide Trails Committee will be led by Seth Dunn, rather than Charlie Dake and meetings will restart soon. The CCTWG and the CDTC BPAG continue to meet on line. The HHHP meet in person and continues to finish up the Gateway Visitor Center and the trails around Schuylerville.
10. OTHERS – We discussed trash and ATVs on the CCT. Regardless, we support our Parks Dept. efforts
11. CONCLUSION – The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. Next meeting is 7:00 PM on Monday, 4/18/22.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mitchell. TOSC Chair

