

MEETING MINUTES - HALFMOON  
TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE (TOSC)  
April 17, 2023

1. OPENING – We opened our meeting at 7:05 pm, in the Halfmoon Town Hall and on line.

ATTENDANCE –William (Bill) Herman, Mike Meyer, John Mitchell and Henrietta (Henny) O'Grady attended in the James Bold Room but no one joined us via MS Teams. The Town Board was not represented and Paul (PJ) Maiello had Matt Hickok sit in for him. We were visited by Halfmoon residents Jane Adams, Gail Mitchell, Jeff Slater and Morgan Waite. Morgan was accompanied by her uncle and aunt - Tony and Patty Zappala, of Latham,.

2. MEETING MINUTES – Meeting minutes from Jan. 17, 2023 were approved, as submitted.
3. GRANT PROJECT UPDATE – The March 2023 Grant Department Report was reviewed. The Vosburgh Road Preserve spine trail work is ready to commence. The Crescent Park Trailhead parking work continues. The Floud Memorial Preserve design is in the hands of Jason Kemper. The Erie Canal Towpath Link Trail grant is being studied by Bob Murphy, of B&L. We have had no progress on funding for the Sitterly Road Pedestrian Safety Trail or for the 1,350 foot trail and trailhead parking for the Champlain Canalway Trail (CCT) north of Upper Newtown Road. Lynda Bryant shared the final wording for the new Historical Markers for The Champlain Canal and the McDonald Weir - both of which will go on the CCT. The proposed Erie Canal Historical Marker was not approved.
4. VOSBURGH & SWATLING FALLS PRESERVE STATUS – The Vosburgh Nature Preserve trail work has not restarted from winter: however, an official 2023 opening is still targeted. The Swatling Falls Nature Preserve is fully open and ready for trails from Creekview Estates and Betts Farm PDD's.
5. 2023 TOWN SPONSORED TRAIL WALKS – We will not have the requested first walk on or near April 22 - which is designated Celebrate Trails Day, Earth Day and Canal Clean Sweep Day. We anticipate that our first walk will be June 3, which is National Trails Day. John will find all details and share later. TOSC would like them advertised.
6. HANKS HOLLOW, CREEKVIEW ESTATES, BETTS FARM, MOTT ORCHARD and other PDD's – Rich Harris advised that Hanks Hollow, Creekview Estates and the Betts Farm PDD's continue building various infrastructures and structures but are not doing any official trail work. All of the other planned trail-containing PDD's have no active building work. Mike and Bill met with Rich Harris about the Betts Farm trail details. However, they will continue to pursue more answers and are considering a TOSC tour of Betts Farm and other PDD's, as appropriate.
7. TOSC ORGANIZATIONAL DISCUSSIONS – We encouraged potential members to consider joining TOSC during the year and not just at the January Organizational Meeting. Candidates should contact the Town Board, thru Supervisor Tollisen. Rich Harris is planning to revise our Trail Map and John will coordinate to get the desired updates. .
8. Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) – Bill Herman, who represents TOSC on the CPUC, described the meetings and the surveys, so far. CPUC Public Workshop #2 will be Thursday, May 25th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM and Meeting #3 will be Thursday, June 15th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.
9. NYS CANAL CLEAN SWEEP – Saturday, April 22nd. Help keep the Erie Canal area clean & beautiful. Meet at Terminal Road at 10:00 AM. TOSC will try to pursue a larger community-wide clean-up day, next year, to address more parks, nature preserves, trails, and along both major waterways in Halfmoon.
10. CCT in Waterford - On May 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 AM to Noon, the Waterford Historian, Russell Vandervoort, will lead a Walking Tour of the Champlain Canalway (2 miles Round Trip). Starts from Lock E- 2 and includes Old Champlain Canal Lock # 5 (aka lower 2 Lock (at Mohawk River)) and return. On May 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Albany Bicycle Coalition members will lead a Bicycle Ride along the Champlain Canalway Trail (CCT) (11 miles Round Trip). We will start at Hurst Harbor Center and turn around at Upper Newtown, in Halfmoon. John will be riding with them.
11. CONCLUSION – The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. The remaining 2023 TOSC meeting dates will be on the Monday evenings of 7/17/23 and 10/16/23, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mitchell. TOSC Chair