

MEETING MINUTES - HALFMOON
TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE (TOSC)
July 18, 2022

1. OPENING – We opened our meeting at 7:04 pm, in the Halfmoon Town Hall and on-line via MS Teams.

ATTENDANCE –Mike Meyer, John Mitchell, Paul (PJ) Maiello, Henrietta (Henny) O'Grady, and Sandy Rohner attended in the Bold Room. The Town Board was represented by Supervisor Tollisen and we were visited by Glenn Swatling, again. Matt Shea continues to be excused. No one joined us on line.

2. MEETING MINUTES – Meeting minutes from April 18, 2022 were approved, as submitted, and there were no negative comments on the May 16, 2022 meeting report. We discussed the purpose and significance of these meeting minutes and Supervisor Tollisen suggested that they should be sent to the Town Clerk as appropriate public record of such open town meetings.
3. GRANT PROJECT UPDATE – The July 2022 Grant Department Report was discussed. PJ continues various Crescent Park work, especially the parking area expansion and trail paving. The Park Department also continue restoring the damage to the Vosburgh Road Preserve. Supervisor Tollisen shared that the town has bought all the property for the Floud Memorial Preserve and that development is continuing. We have so far failed (but will continue to pursue) to get funding for the Sitterly Road Pedestrian Path and / or the Erie Canal Towpath Link. We also spoke about renewed hope for the Champlain Canalway Trail north of Upper Newtown Road.
4. TOWN SPONSORED TRAIL WALKS ON ZIM SMITH and CCT – Henny, Kevin and John shared their good experiences around the 6/4 Town Walk on Zim Smith. We discussed the plans and the flyers for the 8/20 walk on the Champlain Canal(way) Trail (CCT). We generally agreed to participate as much as possible in these walks and, as TOSC Members and good ambassadors for trails, to individually engage with those we contact. Finally, we agreed, when we do a future walk on the Erie Canal Towpath, it should be on the Community Connector section rather than the Crescent Park section.

On 8/20, we will conscientiously hand out Trail Maps and to support a table set up, in Lighthouse Park, to answer any questions and to identify and invite appropriate candidates to join TOSC.

5. VOSBURGH & SWATLING FALLS PRESERVE STATUS – The Vosburgh Nature Preserve trail damage is being repaired, as time and resources allow, and an official opening this year is still a remote possibility. Regarding the Swatling Falls Nature Preserve, Glenn Swatling, PJ, and Kevin discussed tree management in this Nature Preserve and the adjacent PDD.
6. HANKS HOLLOW, CREEKVIEW ESTATES, BETTS FARM, MOTT ORCHARD and other PDD's –Rich Harris advised John that Betts Farm and the Creekview Estates are both active but are not yet doing any trail work. All of the other trail-containing PDD's have no building activity.
7. TOSC ORGANIZATIONAL DISCUSSIONS – We discussed the positive results from several meetings with Kevin Tollisen and others in Town Hall. John was especially pleased that the CCT North of Upper Newtown Road has become an active project, again, because of our meetings. Our TOSC meeting dates remain as 9/19, and 11/21/22. Finally, we agreed to schedule only four (4) meeting times, in 2023, and to convene additional meetings, when needed.
8. CONCLUSION – The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm. Next meeting is 7:00 PM on Monday, 9/19/22.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mitchell. TOSC Chair