

MEETING MINUTES - HALFMOON
TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE (TOSC)
Sept 19, 2022

1. OPENING – We opened our meeting at 7:08 pm, in the Halfmoon Town Hall and on-line via MS Teams.

ATTENDANCE –Mike Meyer, John Mitchell, Paul (PJ) Maiello, and Henrietta (Henny) O'Grady attended in the Bold Room. The Town Board was represented by Supervisor Tollisen and we were visited by Halfmoon residents William (Bill) Herman, Thea Hotaling, Arthur (Art) Palmer and Jeffrey (Jeff) Slater. Matt Shea and Sandy Rohner were absent. No one joined us on line.

2. MEETING MINUTES – Meeting minutes from July 18, 2022 were approved, as submitted. John will send to the Town Clerk for a public record of our TOSC open / public town meetings.
3. GRANT PROJECT UPDATE – The September 2022 Grant Department Report was discussed. PJ and the Park and Highway Departments continue various Crescent Park work, especially the parking area expansion and trail paving. The Park Department continues restoring the damage to the Vosburgh Road Preserve. The Floud Memorial Preserve should make progress in the spring. The town is pursuing a 1,350 foot trail and a trailhead parking for the Champlain Canalway Trail north of Upper Newtown Road.
4. TOWN SPONSORED TRAIL WALK ON ERIE CANAL TOWPATH –We discussed the final 2022 town walk on the Erie Canal Towpath Community Connector Trail, on 9/24. Henny will ask the Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway to share their activity and resources, during this walk. TOSC Members will participate as good ambassadors for trails but recruit less than we did at Lighthouse Park on 8/20. We agreed to work for these walks to continue in 2023.
5. VOSBURGH & SWATLING FALLS PRESERVE STATUS – The Vosburgh Nature Preserve trail damage is still being repaired as weather, time and resources allow. Unfortunately, an official opening this year is not expected. The Swatling Falls Nature Preserve is fully functioning and will become more active as the adjacent Creekview Estates and Betts Farm PDD's are built and populated over the next few years.
6. HANKS HOLLOW, CREEKVIEW ESTATES, BETTS FARM, MOTT ORCHARD and other PDD's –Rich Harris advised that Betts Farm and the Creekview Estates are both building their infrastructures. However, they are not doing any official trail work, at this point. All of the other trail-containing PDD's have no active building work.
7. TOSC ORGANIZATIONAL DISCUSSIONS – All of our visitors expressed interest in joining TOSC, for 2023. John asked them to follow up by contacting the Town Board, thru Supervisor Tollisen. TOSC continues to benefit from our pre-meetings with Kevin Tollisen and others in Town Hall. Henny has drafted revisions to our Trail Map and Rich is working to make those changes. Our TOSC 2023 meeting dates will be agreed on and proposed in our next meeting. We plan to schedule four (4) meetings, in 2023, and will have other extraordinary meetings, when appropriate.
8. NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAILS – We agreed to pursue extending the NRT status of the Champlain Canalway Trail (CCT) south of Brookwood. We also agreed to pursue NRT status for the Zim Smith Trail. John will work with the Town Board on this process.
9. CONCLUSION – The meeting adjourned by 8:10 pm. Next meeting is 7:00 PM on Monday, 11/21/22.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mitchell. TOSC Chair