

Minutes of O&W Rail Trail Coalition of Municipalities – June 26, 2015

The meeting opened at 3 pm in the Marbletown Community Center

Attendees: Tim Weidemann (Kingston), John Grossbohlhlin (Kingston), John Morrow (Ulster), Carl Pezzino (Marbletown), Terry Houck (Wawarsing), Arthur Lukoff (Ellenville).

Not available via regrets only: Heather Hirsch (Hurley), Steve Rice and Carl Chipman (Rochester), Hank Alicandri (Wawarsing), Chris White (Ulster County Planning).

Agenda

Review of trail gap plans by Town/City/Village

Plans to complete the connection of the O&W Rail Trail from Kingston to Ellenville were expressed by all the municipalities present. Carl first presented the overview O&W map created by Ulster county planning highlighting trail gaps. It was then suggested that we request more detailed maps by each O&W municipality to show gap status and future connections. These would then become the base map for each municipality. **Terry and Tim immediately made this request to Chris White via text message and Chris agreed to do it upon his return from vacation.** All agreed it was a good beginning and one that needs to be followed up on. It was also agreed that **each municipality would bring a written synopsis of all the activities regarding their O&W trail segments and their gaps to our next meeting which will be in late August (we decided to take a summer break!)**

O&W Wawarsing/Ellenville – Terry

Terry gave a concise verbal presentation of all the activity that surrounds trail activity in the town of Wawarsing and the village of Ellenville. There are a number of obstacles to overcome not the least of which is the charge of \$55K that the town must settle with DOT in order to continue any further grant requests or current grant requests payments.

The Ellenville/Wawarsing area expects to hear the County Executive's decision on the use of the proposed \$1M grant from the county; to jump start the areas economy in the wake of the loss of the Nevele Resort proposal.

Terry mentioned a number of other initiatives which he will detail in his written status of O&W trail gaps in Wawarsing/Ellenville.

O&W Rochester – Steve

Steve was unable to make the meeting due to work requirements. **Carl will call him to request his written Rochester trail gap plans for our August meeting.**

O&W Marbletown – Carl

The town of Marbletown O&W Rail Trail is complete from Hurley town line to Rochester town line, however there is much to be done to improve the trail especially south of Rest Plaus road. Committee work parties will tackle some of this in the coming months. The town is also looking at ancillary trails from Route 209 through the apple orchard to the trail; a creek walk trail from the O&W at route 213,

proceeding across the proposed new 213 bridge and down along the creek to the middle of the hamlet of High Falls; a potential planning grant for the connection of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail north of Rosendale to the O&W near the Cottekill trail head. **As requested , written details of Marbletown's trail plans will be presented at our August meeting.**

O&W Hurley/Ulster/Kingston - John G.

John reviewed the current progress of the Kingston Connector grant. **More details to follow in August.** A work party in conjunction with a probation department community service day was held this past Saturday to cut down and widen a quarter mile stretch beginning at Washington Avenue moving south toward town of Ulster line. The work went well.

REConnect prototype testing – Chris

Chris was unable to attend, but **see his note attached to the end of these minutes requesting review of the proposed REConnect new map prototype.**

Signage committee volunteers

Tim, John and Carl will work on an ad hoc Signage subcommittee. **First order of business is to write a review of the signages currently in use.** Brief descriptions and pictures will be used for evaluation toward a future signage plan.

Right of way, easement and land acquisition records

As previously discussed, it was decided that it would be a good idea to have a copy of all legal records of the current rights of way, easements and land acquisitions of the O&W Rail Trail, by municipality. These are especially helpful when making grant applications. **Committee members agreed to start pulling these together for their respective municipalities for our August meeting.**

Final review of Coalition Agreement (attached) before TB approvals

The current May 28th version (attached) of the O&W Rail Trail Coalition of Municipalities agreement was approved for review by the seven municipalities. **Following each municipality's due legal diligence, it is recommended for final approval by each governing body/ town board.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm. **Next meeting at 3 pm at the Marbletown Community Center on August 27, 2015.**

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Pezzino

Addendum

REConnect prototype testing – Chris White

Good afternoon, all.

As many of you know, the County has developed a website that provides maps and information of recreational opportunities throughout the County, including hiking and multi-use (rail) trails. Our Information Services Department has been working on an improved, mobile-version of this "REConnect" site and presented some ideas to the Trails Advisory Committee a few months ago. With feedback from the TA Committee and others, our IS Department made some changes and would like some final feedback and suggestions on the improved test site.

We'd appreciate you looking at this site for both usability and accuracy of content. The email below describes the changes that have been made recently and provides the contact for Tom Hynes, who will take any suggestions and corrections over the next few weeks before finalizing the new site and announcing it more publicly.

Thank you,
Chris

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Here is the link to test the new REConnect site - <http://ulstercountyny.gov/maps/recreation/test/>

So a few things I wanted to mention, as this version is quite different from the previous version:

Mobile First Design - Emphasis on Speed and Reliability

- With the rapid growth of mobile web traffic, this version was developed to work on all devices, scaling accordingly with screen size
- Migrated away from traditional GIS app of toggling layers. Opted for a pre-rendered base map with more feature shown as users zoom in. All features searchable.
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Integrated Browser Geo-Location Services

- For users in Ulster County, they will have the ability to filter search results relative to their phone or PC location. Allows users to identify features near to them.
- For users outside of Ulster or those who don't allow location access, they will perform county-wide searches
- Location allow us to pass user location to Google for Directions and finding "Nearby Food"
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Searchable Content

- added new content searching, old REConnect has no search functionality
- search gets users to their actual areas of interest faster
- built pre-defined search terms for easy 1-click searching. This also allows us to drive users to specific types of features that we feel represent Ulster County
- old method of map panning with click for information is still available.

Other Notables

- Integrated feature phone numbers into Call links for mobile phones
- Styled to match Tourism's Recreation Guide and map

Please feel free to share this with anyone. **Any feedback can be sent to myself or gis@co.ulster.ny.us**

Also, the code base is being updated daily, so refresh every time you go to the site so you get the newest enhancements.

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