

O&W Rail Trail Coalition of Municipalities – October 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Marbletown Community Center (MCC) at 3:00 pm.

Attendees: Tim Weidemann, (Kingston) John Grossbohlhlin (Kingston) John Morrow (Ulster) Ralph Durham (Hurley), Carl Pezzino (Marbletown), Terry Houck (Wawarsing) Lonnie Coplen (Ellenville) Chris White (Ulster County Planning) with 6 of 7 municipalities in attendance a quorum was met.

o) The meeting was opened at 3:00 pm.

o) The September 29th and August 25th minutes were approved unanimously without comment on a motion by John M. and second by Terry.

o) Financial report. Ralph reported one new membership fee was received from the Village of Ellenville. Thanks to Lonnie for making this happen. This brings the total in the Ulster Savings checking account to \$3005.00. Terry Houck stated that the Wawarsing Town Board approved the funds and that a check for \$500 would be forthcoming. With a motion by John M. and second by Lonnie, the treasurer's financial report was approved.

o) 501c4 discussion. A financial discussion followed on the Coalition filing for 501c4 status. This had been suggested by the county comptroller Elliott Auerbach if the Coalition wanted to apply for grants under our own name. (the Greenway brochure grant was applied for by the town of Marbletown with the Coalition as co-applicant.) The Coalition decided to wait before making any decision and that one of our municipalities could be the lead applicant if a desirable and relevant grant opportunity came up.

o) Wayfinding status. Terry Houck mentioned that the “WAWARSING” part of their welcome sign had been stolen. Carl will ask USHECO for a new one. Terry may order some more signs to be routed for Wawarsing.

A previous discussion about placing our routed out wood O&W signs at the Kerhonkson parking area was brought up again. Terry and Hank Alicandri have been trying to talk to the Kerhonkson Historic committee to discuss how we can work effectively with them to do a good job of using our O&W wayfinding signage in that area. Awaiting a response.

John Grossbohlhlin reported that he has routed out posts for installation of electronic counters on the Kingston line sign posts. Installation is expected in November.

As per previous minutes, Carl has contacted Steve Rice regarding their already routed signs that need to be cleaned, painted and installed. Carl offered to paint the mile marker and directional signs for the area south of Marbletown toward Lucas avenue extension. Subsequent to this meeting Carl and Andy Lutz (Marbletown trails committee) staked out the distances for the K13 and K14 mile markers and Carl picked up the signage from Steve and will get them ready for installation.

o) Greenway Brochure Grant status. The grant application was awarded by Greenway at their annual meeting in October and Carl and Supervisor Warren were at the meeting to accept it. The grant was applied for by the Town of Marbletown with the Coalition as co-applicant. The grant is for \$2,000. As per last month's minutes, Ulster County Tourism (Rick Remsnyder) will support 50% of the cost for printing of the 20,000 brochures (approximately \$1300), this will meet a good part of the match. So the brochure will have very little cost to the Coalition.

o) **Rails to Trails Guidebook update.** After our September meeting, Karl Beard was able to contact Brandi Horton, VP of Communications at Rails-to-Trails in regards to updating the information in their guide book. It has been down level for quite some time. Carl P. will contact Brandi in an attempt to get the ball rolling for some needed changes. Karl B. has also offered to help, and I agree with his note that you all received attached to October's meeting agenda note.

o) **Kingston Connector.** Chris White gave a comprehensive report on the Kingston Connector. He stated that the right-of-way discussions with Central Hudson have hit somewhat of a snag. CH is in the midst of planning for new higher capacity power lines that will replace the current ones. They are likely to be moved from their current path which is on the old O&W rail lines and used by O&W trail users under an old license agreement (revokable) with the D&H Alliance. This activity will delay the plan to have the connector complete by fall of 2017. Chris is hopeful that CH will have their plan completed soon so he can get on with ROW discussions. Chris stated that the other part of the ROW held by Ulster Savings has been under discussion but that further discussions would be held up until the ROW with CH can be resolved. Chris also stated that maintenance of the connector would be done by the county once the trail is completed. However, there is a possibility that the municipalities of Kingston (city), Ulster and Hurley would take it over at a later date.

o) **O&W Rail Trail completion discussion.** The completion of the trail on Eastern Prison property was discussed. Terry will get with Wawarsing Highway Department to get the status on surfacing the trail and installing split rail fencing on this 1.2 mile part of the O&W that is scheduled for this fall.

The trail connection between the Berme Road Park and the O&W entry point on the other side of the ball fields was discussed, along with the old canal tally building; and the Ellenville Million. Lonnie and Terry were to get their heads together and get the status on these integral parts of the O&W. There was discussion on the small private connection between the southern end of the Ellenville Wawarsing O&W and the O&W Prison Trail. Also the connector between Route 44/55 and Port Ben, (Terry was to reaffirm from DOT the type of surfacing to be used).

And the connector between Lucas Ave Ext. and restart of the O&W at the Rochester Highway Dept was also discussed. Oh yeah, the status of the trail through the old Nevele property. I probably missed something with all these connection discussions. As a way to improve discussion, Lonnie, Terry and Carl worked out the Project Worksheet discuss below.

o) **Project Worksheet Proposal.** So after the meeting I put together a Project Worksheet (attached) to keep all these O&W trail completion activities straight in our minds. Carl worked on this with the help of Lonnie and Terry since they were going to work something up for Ellenville/Wawarsing anyway. If you all could let me know if it is a good idea to do this, and let me know if you agree with the attached format and, upon agreement, fill out the worksheet for your municipal projects, I think we might be able to better move forward with our ultimate goal of completion of the O&W trail in Ulster County. **Please see the attached Project form and let me know what you think.**

o) The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Next meeting; Due to the end of year holiday conflicts, our last 2016 meeting will be Thursday, December 8th at 3 pm at the MCC. Please mark your calendars.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Pezzino, Chair. (We still need a secretary to volunteer!)