

O&W Rail Trail Coalition of Municipalities year end 2016 Annual Report

The Coalition had a number of major accomplishments in 2016, its official year of establishment.

0 By June 2016 all seven municipalities including the towns of Ulster, Hurley, Marbletown, Rochester, Wawarsing along with the City of Kingston and the Village of Ellenville, signed the Agreement establishing the Coalition under Article 5G of New York State General Municipal Law.

0 Officers were elected. Carl Pezzino (Marbletown), Chair; Terry Houck, (Wawarsing), Vice Chair; and Ralph Durham (Hurley), Treasurer. The office of Secretary remains open.

0 All seven municipalities have paid the initial start up fee of \$500 each. A total of \$3,505 is on deposit at the Coalition's account at Ulster Savings. No expenses have yet been incurred nor withdrawals made.

0 The Coalition created a map to be used on kiosks through out the O&W and currently installed on kiosks in Hurley and Marbletown. Funding for the initial design for the map was made possible by a grant from the Mohonk Preserve. Additional maps may be purchased by each municipality.

0 Welcome and directional signage was installed throughout the trail welcoming residents and visitors alike to the O&W. All the municipalities now have at least one welcome sign at their respective trail entrances or town lines. The signs were, and will continue to be, routed out by USHECO manufacturing in Rosendale at no charge to the Coalition. The signs were then painted and installed by the member towns.

0 A website name has been applied for with the initial content being the O&W Coalition's map. We expect this to be up and online soon. Then a copy of the brochure, buttons to sister trail websites, minutes, trail pictures, etc.

0 A grant was applied for and received by the Coalition from the Hudson Valley Greenway for a new brochure highlighting the O&W map, the O&W's history and the Coalition members. The Coalition is a co-applicant with the Town of Marbletown. The grant will cover 50% of the cost (up to \$2,000) of the design and production of the brochure (20,000 pieces). An additional 50% sponsorship from Ulster County Tourism to be used toward printing costs should make up for most of the rest of the cost. The Coalition will cover any small difference that remains. The brochure design is currently under review by the Coalition and availability for distribution is expected in the early Spring.

0 The Coalition met 9 times (8 in quorum) in 2016. Discussion, in addition to the above items, focused on planning for the end to end completion of the trail from Kingston to Ellenville. A plan to track the work items in each municipality needed to complete the trail is under review. Each municipality has at least one member on the Coalition team. In addition ad hoc members from Ulster County Planning, the National Park Service and the Minnewaska State Park attend meetings.