

O&W Rail Trail Coalition of Municipalities – January 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes

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

Attendees: John Grossbohlhlin (Kingston) John Morrow, Gary Mulligan (Ulster) Ralph Durham (Hurley), Carl Pezzino (Marbletown), Steve Rice (Rochester), Terry Houck (Wawarsing), Hank Alicandi (Minnewaska State Park) with 6 of 7 municipalities in attendance a quorum was met.

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

o) **The December 8th meeting** that was to be held for the combined months of November and December did not reach a quorum, so no minutes were made.

o) **The October 27th minutes** were approved unanimously without comment on a motion by John M. and seconded by Terry.

o) **Financial report.** Ralph reported that, with the final municipal membership fee of \$500 from the Town of Wawarsing being deposited in November, the end of year balance in the Ulster Savings checking account is \$3505.00. No expenses were incurred in 2016. With a motion by John M. and second by Terry, and a unanimous yeas vote, the treasurer's financial report was approved.

o) **Wayfinding status.** The missing Wawarsing wayfinding sign was routed by USHECO and installed by Wawarsing. Terry may still order some more signs to be routed for Wawarsing.

As previously reported for action in the October minutes, the new Welcome Rochester O&W Rail Trail sign has been installed at the Rochester/Marbletown by line. Mile markers at the northern most section of Rochester are painted and ready to be installed in nicer weather.

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 no avail. No action was taken.

John Grossbohlhlin reported that the routed out posts for installation of electronic counters on the Kingston line have been installed. The welcome signs should go up on these same posts soon. John G. will get in touch with Tim Weidemann to discuss installation.

o) **Greenway Brochure Grant status.** Carl, and Coalition member Marbletown Brooke Pickering-Cole from Marbletown, have been working with designer Marian McCorkle on the brochure design. Carl presented it to the Coalition at this meeting and, after review and discussion, the team voted to go ahead with some small changes to the brochure prototype. It is expected that the formal go ahead to print would be voted on at February meeting. It was also agreed to talk to the printer to see if we can print the brochure in a small amount for the spring and a larger amount for the summer and fall. The reason is that completion of the trail around Eastern prison should be completed by the late spring and we will want to update the map with this important change.

o) **Rails to Trails Guidebook update.** Carl made contact with the representative from Rails to Trails. Once the brochure is completed and the website more formalized we will make contact again for proper reference in Rails to Trail guide book and website. No action was taken.

o) **Kingston Connector.** Chris White reported that Central Hudson is making changes to its high tension power lines along the trail. The changes are still in the design stage. It is hoped ROW agreements will move forward more quickly once the CH plan is firmed up. Chris also reported via email on January 4th, “we will be submitting next week to the NYS Dept. of Transportation the Final Design Document for approval. We have assumed that the current trail alignment will be the future trail, which Central Hudson was OK with. CH is still working on acquiring some right-of-way so they can reconfigure their lines, but it is moving in the right direction.”

o) **O&W Rail Trail completion discussion.** Terry reported that the completion of the trail on Eastern Prison property will be underway soon. The Wawarsing Highway Department will be doing the work. They have a 30 week window with DOCC to get the job done. The grubbing and surfacing of the trail and installation of split rail fencing on this 1.2 mile part of the O&W is an important component of our trail's completion.

o) **Project Worksheet Proposal.** Late last year Carl worked on this with the help of Lonnie and Terry since they were going to work something up for Ellenville/Wawarsing anyway. At this January's meeting Carl presented the summary list (attached) of the major projects to complete the trail end to end. It was agreed that we should go forward with filling out the project sheets for the summary list. All present at the meeting agreed to participate. Carl will send out worksheets to each project leader and ask that they be filled out. When completed we will have a combined plan of how to complete the trail. Hank offered that we should have a quick review and update of these worksheets at our subsequent O&W meetings. All agreed.

o) **Annual Report.** Carl compiled an Annual Report for 2016, attached. All agreed with its contents. By motion from Ralph, seconded by Gary the report was accepted without change. Subsequently Carl sent the report along with our trail map to Steve Rice for inclusion in the Ulster County Trail Advisory Committee's annual report.

Next meeting; Thursday, February 23rd at 3 pm at the MCC. Please mark your calendars.

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