

O&W Rail Trail Coalition of Municipalities Quarterly Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2020, 4 p.m., at the Marbletown Community Center

Member Attendees: John Grossbohlín- Kingston; John Morrow, Gary Mulligan-Ulster; Ralph Durham- Hurley; Carl Pezzino, Eric Stewart, Jill McLean-Marbletown; Mike Baden, Flynn O'Connor-Rochester; Terry Houck, Roger Buchwalter-Wawarsing; Hank Alicandri (via phone)-Ellenville. With all 7 municipalities in attendance, the quorum was met.

Guests: Chris White, Ulster County Planning Department; Karl Beard, National Parks Service.

Carl called the meeting to order at 4:05.

o Treasurer's Report: Ralph reported that, after paying the Coalition's post office Box 111 Stone Ridge mail box bill, the balance on hand at Ulster Savings is \$1,366.20. The report was accepted and approved unanimously.

o New January 2020 members were welcomed following the November local elections. New members are: Flynn O'Connor and Adam Paddock- Rochester; Roger Buchwalter-Wawarsing. Note: Post meeting Mike Warren was appointed by Mayor Jeff Kaplan as a new member representing Ellenville.

o Municipal Project Status

K01: Work on the "Kingston Connector" continues to move forward with 2 of the 3 rights of way offers being accepted. The third right of way log jam continues with the eminent domain right of way deliberations for the privately owned 1 mile portion in the City of Kingston still in litigation. Chris White continues to be optimistic and that construction might begin by 2021.

H01: Hurley has applied for a grant to have new plantings of trees and shrubs along the open area from Russell Road south to the wooded parking lot approximately one mile. Plantings to be made between Route 209 and the trail. This will aid in beautification, cutting down car noise and providing shade. Decision on this grant is expected around March, 2020.

M04: The grant application submitted on January 31, 2019 to Rails to Trails for funds to formalize the connection between the O&W and High Falls was rejected.. However, new member item funds from State Rep. Kevin Cahill have been approved for the sidewalk construction from Lucas Turnpike to the north side of the Kathy Cairo Davis bridge.

M05: Rest Plaus Road parking. The property swap between the town of Marbletown and a private land owner for parking was approved. Construction was completed on August 1, 2019 by the Marbletown Highway department and paid for out of the Marbletown trails budget. Historic canal blocks were used from the D&H canal and gates were provided by Garland Construction. Preliminary parking striping was provided gratis by Tom Lawler Striping. A total of ten spaces are now available alongside the trail off of Rest Plaus road.

M06: The Coalition website is now being managed and updated at our request by town of Marbletown Assistant to the Supervisor Michelle Solcberg. Post meeting the new members names were updated to the website on 1/30/2020. Go to: theoandwtrail.org

M07: The trail connector from SUNYUlster to new public parking at the back of Ridgewell Gym on Main Street Stone Ridge is moving along. Two ROW statements of intent have been proposed by the town attorney and need to be signed between the town and the property owners. A trail cost estimate is being developed by the highway superintendent. Town planning department approval is also required.

M08: Ten new historical trail signs, a la those at Hurley, are being created by an ad hoc trails sign committee in Marbletown. Each was shown at this meeting with unanimous tacit approval. Final edit will be in April, target date for final print is 5/20/2020. Expense is borne by contributions in memory of Dave Sheeley former town of Marbletown highway superintendent and trail advocate. Installation will be by the Marbletown Trail Committee and Highway.

R01: Mike Baden reported that the new Rochester Trails Committee will be headed up by Flynn O'Connor as Chair. The potential small parking area next to DeJaeger Lane and Lucas Turnpike has been surveyed by Bill Eggers.

R02: The Williams Lumber legal right of way for the trail on the north west side of the property has yet to be discussed with the owner. Drainage along the north traverse of the trail south of the Marbletown line has been opened up by Flynn O'Connor and the Rochester trail committee as well as the removal of a large fall of dead trees in that area.

W01: Work proceeds on clearing the northern section of the trail in Wawarsing by the Renegades Bike Club. A change in scope has been requested for the FHWA grant there.

W02: Wawarsing Highway Dept. has been actively reconstituting and resurfacing this part of the trail on the prison easement. The trail south of Institution Road has been completed for the most part. North of Institution Road still needs resurfacing. Split rail fencing separating the trail still needs to be installed. Trail is not for public use until DOC signs off after completion of the project.

W03/E01: Design consultants Clough Harbor have reported design progress on this connection between Berme Road Park and the entry point of the trail at the Ellenville sanitation building. Updates are expected regarding the combined Wawarsing/Ellenville Parks and Recreation committee as it relates to the O&W and this project.

New Business

0 Potential new Eagle Scout Project (John G.) A discussion followed regarding the potential for a new Eagle project along the Trail. A kiosk area was proposed near the Kathy Cairo Davis bridge in High Falls or/and the O&W parking area near the Kerhonkson fire house were offered. John Grossbohlin, Eric Stewart (High Falls) and Roger Buchwalter (Wawarsing) to meet and discuss.

0 Half mile marker bird house suggestion from John Morrow. Post meeting John M. contacted me and suggested building bird houses customized for the expected occupant breeds. He will contact SUNY New Paltz to see if any one there is interested from their ornithology department to help determine what breed(s) should best be considered.

0 It was decided to wait until further improvements are made to the entire trail (expected in 2020) before we update and print a new brochure.

0 According to the by laws we need to elect a chair, vice chair and treasurer at the April quarterly meeting. Carl hopes that, after six years, someone will want to take over the chairmanship. We also need a Coalition secretary.

0 Next meeting date is April 29th at 4:00 p.m. Marbletown Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m. Motion by John M. second by Carl.