

PARKS & TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD
February 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes
6:00pm

Present: *Charlotte Lomino III, Stephen Langdon, Colleen O'Neil, Jimmy Cunningham, Stacey Allott, Leigh Walrath, Rich Shapiro (VSL Board of Trustees), Katrina Glynn (VSL Community Development Director)*

Approval of meeting minutes: *Motion Jimmy, Second Steve*

Minutes:

1. Letters of Interest and open positions
 - a. Ashley Milne has resigned. As a result, there are now two vacancies in PTAB.
 - b. No letters of interest were submitted, partly due to a communication error. The position was posted on the website but not promoted.
 - c. *Katrina to make sure post is promoted on social media, so that PTAB members can share.*
 - d. *Katrina to let us know when the post is made so we can send it out to people who we personally know are interested in PTAB membership. Ezra knows two people and Jimmy knows one, and they will reach out to their prospectives.*
2. Project updates
 - a. Complete Streets
 - i. A month was spent gathering input from planners in town. Document should be ready this week. *Charlotte to finish this document and send to village before week starting February 26.*
 - ii. Route 86 Complete Streets Assessment was performed with Ashley Milne, and that document should also be ready in the next week. *Charlotte and Ashley to finish this document and send out to all members by March 1st.*
 - b. Rail Trail Education
 - i. Not too many updates, but *Colleen plans to talk to DEC representatives soon at the 3P race.*
 - c. LWRP
 - i. Katrina informed the board that the LWRP includes a pavilion for Lake Colby Beach!
 - d. Pisgah
 - i. Has had a hard year. Sadly, due to a scheduling conflict, Andy Testo's schedule no longer allows him to attend PTAB meetings.
 - ii. PTAB would love some type of update. *Charlotte to reach out to Andy about giving us some sort of update.*
 - iii. "WE LOVE PISGAH"- Steve
 - iv. Multiple productive discussions started during the Mt. Pisgah conversations which are in the "new business" portion of these minutes, see below.
 - e. Saranac Lake Trail Stewards
 - i. *Steve to reach out to Kendra at the DEC about including the Adirondack Rail Trail and other potential trails (McKenzie Pond Trail, for example) in the SLTS agreement.*
 - f. Annual Report
 - i. *Katrina to forward the info that Ezra gave her to all PTAB members.* Report is being done by Cassandra Van Cott (Community Development Assistant) and is in progress.

- g. Bike Racks
 - i. Some discussions were had regarding the downtown bike racks, including noting the existing locations, noting areas with larger sidewalks to avoid blocking the sidewalk with improperly parked bicycles, covered bike parking, vehicle parking forfeiture, etc. Further discussions to be had at the Advisory Board Summit with the Downtown Advisory Board.
- h. New Bandshell
 - i. Conversations were had regarding stakeholders and placement of bandshell. Further discussions to be had at the Advisory Board Summit with the Downtown Advisory Board and Arts & Culture Advisory Board.
- i. Baldwin Park
 - i. SEQR is under review.

3. Discussion

- a. 2024 Priorities have been agreed upon as:
 - i. Downtown Bike Racks *Jimmy and Rich*
 - ii. Rail Trail Crossing Safety *Charlotte and Colleen*
 - iii. Rail trail education signage *Colleen and Stephen*
 - iv. Bandshell rebuild *Jimmy*
 - v. Community Bike Ride *Rich*
 - vi. Saranac Lake Trail Stewards Expansion *Stephen*
 - vii. Capital Improvement Plan and further pedestrian and cycling improvements around the village *Charlotte*
 - viii. Expand pollinator habitats in the village and integrate climate change into park planning *Stephen*
 - ix. *List may expand scope with new members*
- b. Note: the January meeting minutes erroneously said “2023 Priorities” instead of 2024.

4. New Business

- a. A question was raised regarding the status of rail trail closures, sparking a conversation about better communication from park managers to the public. This conversation was sparked again per a comment from Katrina regarding Dewey Mountain and Mt. Pisgah. We discussed the possibility of having all of the village’s and town’s recreational resources and information in one place, especially regarding rail trail status and promoting Dewey Mountain.
 - i. **ALL MEMBERS: Please send Charlotte any relevant links that you would like to be on the Saranac Lake PTAB landing page.** This can be a link to the snowmobile association’s snowmobile trail status map, Dewey Mountain’s website, ROOST, the Mt. Pisgah facebook page, etc. Once Charlotte compiles these links, **Katrina will ensure that these links make it onto the village’s website.** While this may not be the ideal long term solution, it will be a good start!
 - ii. Some possible links discussed:
 - 1. NYS Snowmobile Association website - closures for trails
 - 2. John Warren and Adirondack Almanac discussing conditions
 - 3. ROOST website
- b. Leigh noted that the Mt. Pisgah mountain bike trails have a sign that prohibits ATVs, but not other high-speed motorized vehicles, notably Class 2 and 3 e-bikes. Class 2 and 3 e-bikes have the potential to cause significant damage to the trails, and Leigh requested that the signs be changed to prohibit all motorized vehicles with the exception of Class 1 e-bikes. **Charlotte to reach out to Andy about this sign change.**
- c. Ward Plumadore Rendering
 - i. Will be unveiled at the Advisory Board Summit on Feb 22. Discussion tabled.

- d. Saranac Lake Budget Requests
 - i. The village has requested the village's Advisory Boards request their own budget items this year for the village budget. While there was no consensus on how to estimate project costs, PTAB member unanimously agreed on two projects which we will request money for, which will be:
 - 1. Downtown Bike Racks
 - 2. Band Shell Rebuild Study
 - ii. **Charlotte to send an email to Katrina by Friday March, 1 with the requested information, including costs. ALL PTAB MEMBERS: Charlotte would appreciate help with choosing a budget. If anyone has any expertise in the subject or time to do some research, please reach out.**
 - iii. Additionally, PTAB has identified two other projects that will require funding but are not PTAB-exclusive projects and will likely be covered by other avenues. These include:
 - 1. Rail Trail Crossing Safety Improvements
 - 2. General Sidewalk Improvements
 - a. **Charlotte to reach out to Dustin (VSL DPW) about if he has sidewalk repair priorities.**
 - iv. Other important active transportation projects that were not discussed for funding but are also being otherwise pursued by the village. These are:
 - 1. Lake Flower Avenue (Route 86) Reconstruction
 - 2. Capital Improvement Plan
- e. Fire Pits
 - i. Stacey brought up expanding the firepits downtown and having them be used more often. It was briefly discussed to potentially add this to the budget request, but a consensus was not reached. Rich noted the ethical concerns of expanding firepits, which pollute the air with particulates in the dense downtown and contribute to carbon dioxide production. **Further discussions to be had at the Advisory Board Summit with the Downtown Advisory Board and Arts & Culture Advisory Board.**
 - 1. **ALL MEMBERS: Do we want to include this as a budget item or focus on the bandshell and bike racks?** Katrina noted that the less things we ask for, the more likely we are to get those things.

5. Adjourn: Moved by Charlotte, seconded by Leigh