

**PARKS & TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD**  
**April 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes**  
**6:00pm**

Present: *Charlotte Lomino III, Colleen O'Neil, Stacey Allott, Leigh Walrath, Ezra Schwartzberg, Jimmy Cunningham, Ashley Garwood, Mary Thill, Katrina Glynn (VSL Community Development Director), 5 students from North Country Community College (observing)*

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

Minutes:

1. Welcoming of new members:
  - a. Ashley Garwood
    - i. Passionate on focusing on improved and accessible playground equipment, especially at Garwood park
  - b. Mary Thill
    - i. Excited about bike and ped connections and helping with identifying and applying for grants. Wants to work on a new connection to the High School.
2. Updates
  - a. NALMS Firework Study:
    - i. Leigh spoke to Brendan Wiltse from Adk Watershed Institute about sampling at Lake Flower. Concluded Mirror Lake was a better fit due to flow at Lake Flower.
  - b. Baldwin Park Boardwalk:
    - i. Leigh connected with Katrina about the boardwalk at Baldwin Park. There are some possible opportunities going forward to include limited boardwalk.
  - c. Community Enhancement Committee - Ward Plumadore Park:
    - i. Stacy and Colleen have been looking into options for improving the aesthetics of Ward Plumadore Park. They discussed some short-term and easier fixes as well as some longer-term options and ideas. Short term including better vegetation and concerts. Long term including rock fascia.
  - d. Rail Trail Crossing Right-of-Ways
    - i. Right-of-way:
      1. Stacy reached out to Dave Werner (who writes traffic safety pieces and is the vice chairman of the Franklin County Traffic Safety Board) about the rules and regulations of road crossings. Specifically, who has right-of-way at the Adirondack Rail Trail crossings within the village on local roads as well as outside of the village on State roads? Dave does not want to write a piece on this topic yet because it is also not clear what the best public outreach approach should be concerning the laws and safest practices of pedestrians, and the law on the matter is a little fuzzy. We also all agreed that we are not sure what role PTAB and/or the Village should play in outreach and public education around this issue.
      2. It would appear that pedestrians have the right-of-way at crosswalks. PTAB is waiting on a traffic study from AES about crossing safety as well as input from Bachana (Village Manager).

3. All agreed that better crosswalk longevity and traffic calming at crossings is important.
  - ii. *Katrina to see if village can post some official clarity on the crossings situation*
  - iii. *Katrina to find out when AES study is supposed to be completed*
  - iv. DOT Letter:
    1. Charlotte will take this project on. Contact info has been taken from previous emails and *Charlotte will reach out via email or phone call about a follow-up.*
- e. Downtown bike racks:
  - i. This walkthrough will happen soon (late April, early May). Leigh is interested in joining. Charlotte is meeting with Doug from BikeADK about some ideas. *Charlotte to send out Doodle Poll to PTAB and DAB members to perform walkthrough for coordinating bike rack locations.*
- f. Park Manager Update:
  - i. Pisgah:
    1. Pisgah had a short ski season - 48 days. Warmest winter on record.
    2. In progress for submitting a \$1M grant for Mt. Pisgah through Northern Borders Regional Commission which would focus on a new pump and pumphouse, conveyor style lift for skiers/ tubers, and a public pavilion in the place of the green maintenance garage.
  - ii. DRI Projects wrapping up this summer
    1. Fences to be installed at Ward Plumadore above Mural
  - iii. Larger hanging baskets have been purchased for downtown that require less watering. Contract awarded to Hot House. New brackets installed on poles.
  - iv. Receiving quotes for EV charging stations at Pisgah and the Dorsey Lot.
  - v. We are hiring a Temporary Ski Area Manager to run the crew this summer as both Andy (Parks Manager) and his HEO will be on paternity leave.
- g. Lake Flower Ave Complete Streets Assessment and Grant Opportunities:
  - i. *Update: \$100,000 from Smart Growth Grant was Awarded for "Feasibility Study for the Lake Flower Avenue Streetscape"*

### 3. New business

- a. Snowmaking Pipes in path of bike trails:
  - i. Leigh pointed out that new snowmaking pipes which were installed need to be buried in a section where it crosses the "Cure" flow mountain bike trail near the summit of Mt. Pisgah. *Leigh to reach out to Andy about this situation.*
- b. Village Budget
  - i. Playground equipment: Money for playground equipment at Garwood park was removed because of lack of a clear path forward. PTAB is confused because of the existence of the Parks Vision Plan (2018). *Ashley to write a summary of what the Parks Vision Plan Proposes, approximate costs if possible, and some update recommendations.* The goal is to eventually bring this update to the town board. Potentially money can come out of the general fund for it. *Charlotte to send the Parks Vision Plan to everyone.*

- ii. Sidewalks: The village has stated that it does not know where to put money for sidewalk improvements. The most recent comprehensive sidewalk assessment is 12 years old, and much of that work was done. The village (and DPW) needs direction as to priorities for sidewalk improvements.
  - 1. PTAB will do our own study, taking pictures and taking inventory of the sidewalks in town and then providing our recommendation for the 5 highest-priority projects. This can be done on a yearly basis.
    - a. Charlotte to assign sidewalk sections to different members to document. The goal is to eventually compile a summary document, but this will likely take a few months.
    - b. Interested PTAB members are: Charlotte, Ezra, Jimmy, Stacey, Mary, Ashley, and Leigh. Ezra, Jimmy, Stacey, Mary, Ashley, and Leigh to tell Charlotte where they live so that Charlotte can designate sidewalk sections appropriately.
  - 2. Ezra has done a similar assessment in a different town, working with the Healthy Hearts Network. That can be found [here](#).
- c. Rail Trail Signage Working Group:
  - i. Katrina explained that ROOST has approached the Village with a request to help them find placements for the branded Adirondack Rail Trail logo package, which ROOST has received a grant for. Design of signs was approved years ago by DEC and is fixed. A working group that consists of Charlotte, Ezra, and members of the other Village Advisory Committees will be meeting with Katrina and representatives of ROOST to learn more and choose sign locations. While we all agree that these signs will not likely meet all of the wayfinding and Rail Trail signage needs, it may be a good opportunity to get sign posts installed as well as open doors for more opportunities for signage related to the Rail Trail.
    - 1. *Update: The committee met and signage locations were chosen. Ezra and Charlotte felt good about the outcome of the meeting. Charlotte made a map summary and can show it at the next meeting.*
- d. River St - Church St Crossing:
  - i. Leigh raised the issue about one of the sidewalk/road crossings in the Village. The button and crossing does not work effectively for pedestrians crossing River Street from Church Street. When the walk symbol is displayed for people crossing River St, the traffic does not stop coming off of Church Street. Charlotte to see if she can contact the DOT about this issue.
- e. Rte 86 shoulder:
  - i. The shoulder is full of sand from Casa del Sol to downtown, making it hard to bike. Charlotte to see if she can contact the DOT about this issue.
- f. Bike and Pedestrian Maps:
  - i. Charlotte is setting out to update a bike and pedestrian network map target. This will take many months

4. Meeting adjourned 7:35pm. *Motion Charlotte, Second Jimmy*