

## Village of Saranac Lake Parks and Trails Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2023

Steve Langdon - Acting Secretary

Present: Ezra Schwartzberg, Steve Langdon, Ashley Milne, Leigh Walrath, Charlotte Lomino, Colleen O'Neil, Rich Shapiro (Board of Trustees), Bachana Tsiklauri (VOSL), Brian Woods (ARTA)

1. Approve September meeting minutes.
  - a. Moved by Steve Langdon, Seconded by Charlotte Lomino
2. Special Guest: Brian Woods from ARTA: Rail trail discussion.
  - a. Progress updates. Actual date of opening of the trail is unclear. NYSDEC/Contractor reported November 8, now November 20-29.
  - b. When does the snowmobiling begin? Who has the answer to this? Is it in the Unit Management Plan? Some say Dec 8, some say when there will be usable snow.
  - c. Signage has been referred to as a Phase 4 component of the rail trail plan for DEC. However, it seems that safety signage is likely going to happen before this, and that the Phase 4 is for auxiliary signing such as wayfinding.
    - i. ARTA is trying to change this to get signage up right away and is trying to get on a committee to address signage. Rail Trail stakeholder group has not met since pre-pandemic.
  - d. Safety - Crossings
    - i. What is being considered for street crossings other than white lines on the road? How is the DOT going to respond to the need for trail/state highway intersections? ARTA advocating for flashing lights/Hawk signals. However, a plan with the DOT has not been established.
    - ii. Five of seven crossings within the Village are under Village DPW jurisdiction. Rich/Bachana will ask the village board to get DPW to assess all rail trail crossings within the village for pedestrian crossing signs.
  - e. Should we be documenting social trails with photo documentation to establish baseline conditions?
3. Old Business
  - a. Individual Updates
    - i. Andy Testo
      1. Pisgah snowmaking bill - passed utilizing reserve account to purchase pipe. Awaiting business account and updated quote to open Purchase Order.
      2. Accessible playground (metallophone and drums) were installed at Depot St. entrance of William Morris Park.
      3. Code updates are ongoing at Mt. Pisgah lodge. AEDs new/renewed, fire alarm panel installation in scheduling phase, knock box to be installed once it arrives.
      4. DRI project at Ward Plumadore is moving ongoing. Blasting/ rock drilling required for hydrodynamic structure on buried ledge

between two pavilions. Benches and flatwork are getting finished up including sidewalk. Plantings above upper terrace to be done this week.

5. Street Trees- will receive 3 street trees that are being replaced on Main St. Friday. New trees to go in with tree guards on them to finalize this project. 3 trees will go in to replace mortality of 3 in Prescott Park.
  6. DRI - Luck Brothers has mobilized again on the Woodruff St. section East of Church St.
  7. Surplus items from Dec '22 Village Board meeting have been sold and 5/6 have been picked up.
  8. The 3 public art projects are complete and installed.
  9. Playground equipment for Garwood Park is being scheduled to arrive the first week of November, and be installed sometime after 11/7.
  10. Parks/Pisgah staff attended a day long Ski Areas of New York - Lift Maintenance program held at Whiteface - in conjunction with the annual meeting.
  11. Leaf cleanup throughout the Parks is on-going and will wrap up by 10/31.
  12. 4 large hazard trees were removed in September 2 in Mtn. Mist Park, 2 in Garwood
  13. Hanging baskets and urban vase planters are down, cleaning and storing in progress.
  14. Re-stained stairwell from Main St to Dorsey Lot.
  15. Scheduled to begin installing new adjustable height basketball hoop at William Morris tomorrow. Will take at least 7 days for concrete to cure - so hope to have hoop up next Friday.
- ii. Jimmy Cunningham
1. Jimmy and Laura Cunningham would like to form a committee with Kiki and Eric from The Waterhole and Chris Morris regarding bandshell upgrade. Some research is being conducted for available grants. *Jimmy to continue to work on bandshell committee and grant research results.*
  2. Waiting to see how the NCCC feels about connections to the college. *Jimmy will keep PTAB updated on NCCC connections.*
- iii. Rich Shapiro
1. Corrected a mistake from previous meeting's minutes. The Grant proposal for the Woodruff St connector was not yet submitted. It had to be reviewed first. It will be submitted soon.
  2. Possible funding avenue: <https://www.dot.ny.gov/TAP-CMAQ>
- iv. Steve Langdon
1. Asked for an update on the proposed 4 way stop sign at Catherine Street and Park Ave. It seems that the mayor and DPW want to

start doing engineering studies to warrant new stop signs? Unsure how to move forward.

- v. Charlotte Lomino III
  - 1. Sketches of road section rec will take some time. Charlotte will continue to work on this, but progress will be slow.
  - 2. Development of a Complete Streets Capital Improvement Plan info (see below in New Business)
- vi. Ashley Milne
  - 1. Development of a Complete Streets Capital Improvement Plan info (see below in New business)

#### 4. New Business

- a. A New Community Development Director has been hired!
    - i. They will start November 20
  - b. Depot Street Station use
    - i. NYSDEC has asked the public to submit ideas for uses for the Depot Street Station.
    - ii. Shaun Kittle (of SL ACAB) is starting a committee to discuss uses with members across PTAB, DAB, & ACAB.
      - 1. Ashley will join committee, Charlotte will reach out to Shaun.
      - 2. PTAB Members to give ideas ASAP
      - 3. Can the building be leased to local businesses?
  - c. Development of Complete Streets Capital Improvement Plan
    - i. VOSL is working on a comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan. The plan will have to be approved by the board
    - ii. The town would like PTAB to take a look at the Parks Vision Plan for inspiration and then create a similar list of priorities for complete streets. We will do this next meeting.
      - 1. Organize priorities by year and by whether it is a long or short term project (long term is more than 1 year)
    - iii. NBT Bank - Turtle Pond Corridor Road Replacement information
      - 1. Town is looking into replacing the water and sewer along Rt 86 from NBT to Turtle Pond.
      - 2. Maybe some road safety improvements can be done in the interim? Will need funding. new CCD can help?
        - 1. BILL Act?
        - 2. Bond Act?
        - 3. Complete Streets Funding through the state?
    - iv. Charlotte will send out meeting minutes from meeting with Charlotte, Ashley, and Buchana with these minutes. Also will send out an email halfway to the next meeting with resources and things to consider with priorities discussion.
  - d. After Baldwin Park, which Park should be next for large improvements?
5. Adjourn Motion: Schwartzberg , Second: Milne

## MINUTES FROM CHARLOTTE AND ASHLEY'S MEETING WITH BACHANA - 10/17/2023

### -Goals

- Open broader communication between PTAB and village beyond CDD
- Discuss Capital Improvement Plan

### -No consolidated document with all plans

### -Ampersand Ave

- Working with engineer for pedestrian safety
- VOSL is talking to Town of Harrietstown for Ampersand Corridor

### -There is an idea to have a SL Parks and Rec department instead of it falling under DPW

- Lake Colby Beach, Mt. Pisgah, other parks, etc.

### -After the new accounting software is implemented...

- New software has a module for a Capital Management Tool.
- Implemented should be done by April

### -Plan will need to be approved by board:

- We will have to give our opinion on what needs to be done and when
  - Have a suggested list:
    - 2024/2025 - Need to do this project
    - 2025/2026 - Need to do this project
    - etc

### -Village in process of figuring out the water and sewer pipes for the road from NBT to Turtle Pond - doing a study

- Working with two firms - one for water, one for sewer
- Planning to start the project in 2024

### Would love to find funding and do street safety improvements (with DOT approval)

- Utilize BILL Act?
- Bond Act funding?
- Look into Complete Street Funding?

### -Look into former budgets to see what is recommended for yearly budget

### -There are two project types - we should talk about:

- Short term - 1 year
- Long term - 5-10 years
- What is priority? What do we want to prioritize?

### - Our Sections:

- Parks (already exists)
- Complete Streets section - we need to develop
  - Look at Park plan for inspiration?

### - Ask PTAB who reached out to the artist for park signs - we need the design files

- Kelly Brunette will know