

PARKS & TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

11/15/23

6pm

Present: Ezra Schwartzberg, Ashley Milne, Leigh Walrath, Charlotte Lomino III, Colleen O'Neil, Rich Shapiro (Board of Trustees), Jimmy Cunningham, Stacey Allott.

Guest Visitor: Kendra Omerod (NYSDEC)

Kendra Omerod – Rail Trail Signage

1. Rail Trail, safe crossings and signage

- Updates on DEC/DOT jurisdiction.
- Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor Report is available online.
- Signage: since 2016 stakeholders have been meeting regularly through the Signage and Historic Preservation Sub Committee. Four stages identified: Safety signage, mileage posts, wayfinding signs, Interpretive signs, prioritized in that order. Signage plan for each Phase. Unit Management Plan (UMP) recommends half mile increments. Assessment still needs to be complete.
- DEC only has jurisdiction on the corridor (minus road crossings). Recommendations to adjacent private land for adjacent signage will be forthcoming. DEC cannot promote individual businesses adjacent to the trail. Rail Trail logos from the DEC will be on every sign. Signage should be a “cohesive” story along the trail.
- Kendra Shared the Rail Trails Unit Management Plan, which the DEC is very strictly following.
- There will be the opportunity to work with the DEC for decking on wayfinding signage and kiosks (which will include maps).
- Questions regarding Fowlers Crossing mountain bike maps off the main corridor. Will there be some sort of flashing lights to indicate crossings? Concerns over Fowlers crossing signage in the 45mph zone. Kendra will provide contact info for her DOT equivalent to reach out to regarding our concerns.
- BETA – request to have trail names near Fowlers Crossing be named after Vaudeville theme, aligning with the history of Saranac Lake.
- Action Item Request – PTAB to reach out to local government/DOT to address crossings in 45mph zone. Write a letter of support for extension of 30 mph zone and/or other traffic calming measures.
- Kendra will continue to be the NYSDEC liaison for PTAB, especially regarding the Adirondack Rail Trail.

2. Approval of October 18th minutes

- Ezra, motion to approve 10/18 minutes. Motion passes

3. Old Business

- No individual updates were given, as no major milestones on projects have been accomplished in the last month.
 - If PTAB members have any ideas or updates on current projects, update Google Drive.

4. New Business

- Main Street Reconstruction Complete Streets Analysis
 - Rich and Charlotte performed a complete streets analysis of Main Street between River St and Broadway (as well as a resurfacing from Broadway to Church).
 - Primary recommendations:
 - Have a consistent travel lane width
 - Improve the entrance to the downtown parking lot for pedestrians but making the vehicle entrance travel lanes narrower, widening the sidewalk, and potentially having some kind of grade separation between sidewalk and Main St with a curb cut instead of having them both be at the same level as they are now.
 - Use bicycle-safe inlet grating.
 - Include traffic calming at crosswalks as either:
 - Shallow raised crosswalks (preferred)
 - Faux brick/stone embossed into asphalt with a mid-street bollard stating “Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk” (in MUTCD)
 - If PTAB members have any comments on this assessment, please contact Charlotte by Wednesday, November 22. Otherwise, it will be sent to the Village Manager unchanged.
- Workshop – discuss priorities for Capital Improvement Plans
 - Multiple different relevant documents to reference that are helpful:
 - Parks Vision Plan
 - This is the Capital Improvement Plan for Parks. Use it for reference.
 - 2012 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
 - Including Charlotte’s summary of the projects proposed in this plan plus other projects that might be helpful.
 - Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
 - Overarching discussion on how to prioritize projects.
 - Per Colleen and Ezra’s recommendation, PTAB members (before the next meeting) should go into Charlotte’s spreadsheet and choose what they think are the three most important road safety issues affecting our community (feel free to add a new priority if you do not see it there). Also pick which larger initiative (such as intersection improvements, rail trail, sidewalks, etc) you think is the most pressing.
 - The plan will be organized into categories similar to, for example:
 - Intersection improvements
 - Sidewalk improvements
 - Rail Trail Connections
 - Miscellaneous

5. Meeting Adjourned: 7:35