



Village of Saranac Lake
Parks and Trails Advisory Committee
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday September 20, 2023 6:00 pm
Draft Minutes by S Langdon

Attending

Andy Testo
Ezra Schwartzberg
Colleen O'Neil
The Ashley Milne
Stacy Allott
Rich Shapiro
Jimmy Cunningham
Stephen Langdon
Charlotte Lomino III

1. Approve August Meeting Minutes

Moved: Steve L, Second: Ezra S

2. Old Business

a. Updates on what everyone is working on

Jimmy Cunningham

1. South St Rail trail connector (past radio station) connecting 86 and NCCC Gym. NCCC must consider their thoughts on making this public access. Stacey to check on ownership of ROW. Then we should outline a request of needs/expectation/an MOU. The idea of discussing the connection with neighboring landowners to be sure we don't overburden the right of way was floating, but maybe we should wait? It might be the best solution to open up South Street as a connector, but not advertise it.
2. Made contacts with people about a new bandshell in Riverside Park, one is talking at the Village Board meeting this Monday.

The Ashley Milne

1. "First Night" is a go this year as "North Country New Year"!
2. Wrote a letter, intended to be presented to the village board, to improve safety at crosswalks (especially near the ALDI/Will Rogers intersection). Ideas for the Village setting aside money for complete streets projects discussed below. Ashley to meet with Charlotte to discuss overlapping goals and ideas.

Rich Shapiro

1. Pickleballers want to enclose and heat the courts at Garwood Park for three seasons.
2. A grant proposal has been submitted for the connector from Woodruff St to the ADK Rail Trail. The grant has been submitted through a contract with LaBella. Mayor is against the project.
3. The mayor expressed his preference that the new Community Development Director not be involved with volunteer advisory boards. We should advocate to prevent this condition, as the CDD greatly improves our effectiveness. Ezra to get together with other advisory board chairs and attend Village Board Meeting(s) and speak.

Stacy Allot

1. Canoe and Kayak Racks: There are 2; shown below in dark blue. They were donated to the village by the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and Jason Smith/Chris Morris. The donor is open to having anyone use the racks.

Stacy has identified some other sites where other canoe racks can go (shown below). A rack at Baldwin Park may be particularly useful.

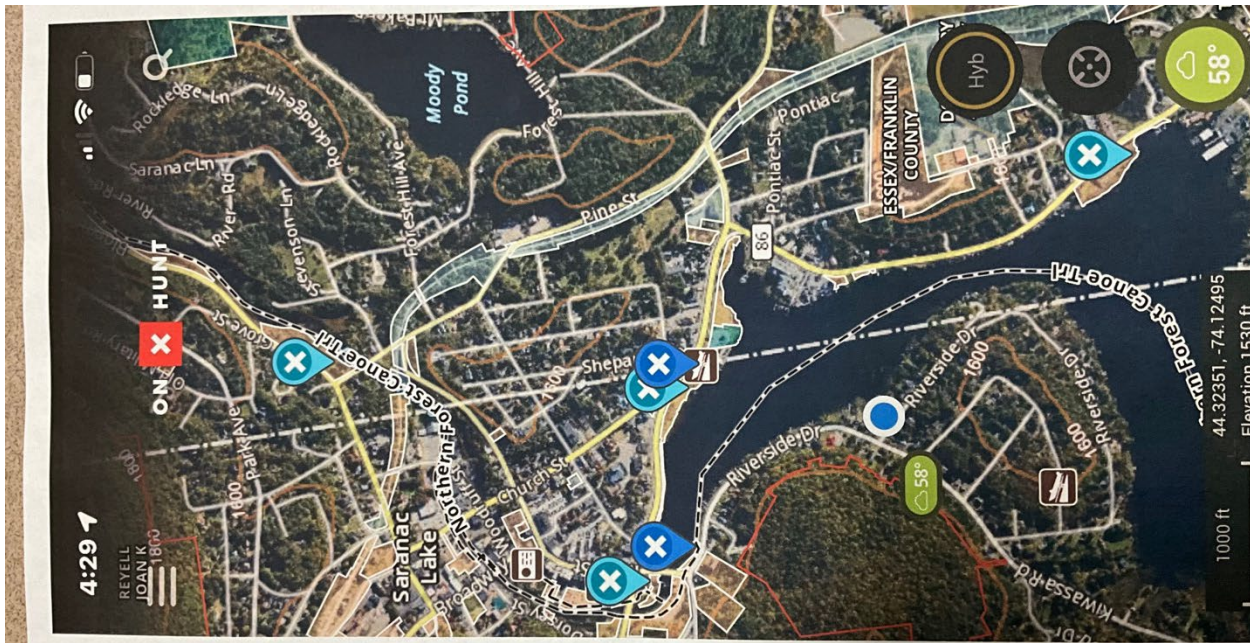


Figure 1: Potential Canoe Rack Locations prepared by S. Allott.

Colleen O'Neil
1. Rail

Trail Education Progress. ARTA focuses on snowmobilers but there are no other education/outreach efforts right now. How do we move education outreach information for the rail trail forward? There are a lot of holes in the signage/education plan for the trail. Safe Street Crossings are a priority. Informational kiosks will exist along the trail. Maybe reach out to DEC?

Ezra Schwartzberg

1. Rail Trail Connection mapping is on hold for the moment, but will get done.

Charlotte Lomino III

1. Where do we get information from the Village? The files that have been accessible to PTAB on Google Drive are no longer available. If there is something missing that we want in particular, we can ask Cassandra. Andy will reach out to Jamie about access to her old files. We can go through Andy for communication through the Village to consultants, including for LWRP and other project updates.
2. Working on drafting schematics of potential road layouts for pedestrian- and bike-friendly infrastructure at River St. This will take a while.

Andy Testo

1. Pisgah put in a grant request for \$175,000 for snowmaking pipe. The Village Board votes on Monday about reserve funding.
2. Heat pumps in the lodge at Pisgah are installed and working.
3. Pickleball courts are open at Pisgah.
4. Beach is closed for the season. The new head lifeguard was great. Lots of work has been done in the building to improve it. Someone keeps locking the gate, it's not clear who.
5. DRI project at Ward Plumadore is moving forward. The concrete is poured. Some more will happen this fall. There are benches on the upper pavilion. ACAB is interested in finalizing art.
6. William Morris park is just about done.
7. Bathrooms are being opened and closed by the Village Manager until they are closed for the season at the end of October. They will be open for Winter Carnival. They are being cleaned via contract by Scooter. Some minor vandalism, which is expected.
8. Riverside and Prescott Parks have art now. Matt Horner's art will go in on River and Church street. Rich Shapiro says we should get press coverage for the installation of Matt's work. Two other installations were completed.
9. Playground equipment will go in Garwood Park this fall. The equipment will be ADA accessible.

10. Andy put together materials for a tree-planting grant but it did not get submitted (unsure why). The application materials will be ready for the next grant cycle (likely 2025).
11. The Riverwalk Easement is final for Woodruff past Grand Union, DRI funding can go forward with that.
12. White Water Project is coming together, the design will be done over the winter.
13. Capital improvements- we have a capital improvement plan for parks (not complete streets), but not a fund. This is always evolving with different available funding sources (e.g., LWRP, etc). The \$50K yearly fund that has been there for park improvements is no longer there. How do we get this money back in the village budget? Andy to propose it for next year's budget?
 - i. Charlotte to talk to the Village Manager to potentially get a Capital Improvement Plan for complete streets projects as well.

Steve Langdon:

No updates. Needs to organize letter regarding Bloomingdale Bog surfacing.

b. Rail trail connections

- i. Map
 1. On hold, see above.
- ii. How do we prioritize connections?
 1. Woodruff Street connection is moving forward with county funding.
 2. There is interest in moving forward with the Main Street to Pine Street connection. Advisory Bike Lanes is a potential solution, and is cheap. Charlotte to create a sketch plan of the proposed connection.
 3. How do we prioritize connections? PTAB members should think about this.

3. New Business

a. Summarize info from Charlotte's conversation with Cassandra

- I. Discuss what can be and can not be done without a Community Development Director
 1. See notes above. Ezra will attend the next Village Board Meeting and advocate for the presence of the Community Development Director at volunteer boards, ideally with other Advisory Board chairs.
 2. Communication to contractors and consultants can go through Andy. Andy to ensure there is a pavilion in the LWRP plans for Colby Beach.

b. Review/discuss first draft of spreadsheet for sidewalk/bicycle projects from the Bike and Pedestrian Plan?

- i. Charlotte has created the spreadsheet. We need to review. It is on the PTAB google drive. What do we want to do with it?

c. Capitol improvement Plan? How do we get this to happen? Should we have a pool of money of complete streets improvement?

- i. See notes above:
 1. Charlotte to speak to the Village Manager about creating a Capital Improvement Plan for complete streets improvements.
 2. Andy and Rich will work with the village to get this money pool in the next budget cycle.

4. Adjourn @ 7:36pm

Moved by The Ashley Milne, Second by Charlotte.