

September 28, 2009
10 AM
Town of Saratoga Town Hall

In attendance:

Voting Members

Officers

Chairman-Tom Richardson, Supervisor, City of Mechanicville

Members

Tom Wood, Supervisor, Town of Saratoga

David Doonan, Mayor, Village of Greenwich

Nelson Ronsvale, Proxy, Supervisor, Town of Halfmoon

Teri Ptacek, Appointee, Governor Paterson, Washington County Agriculture Stewardship Assoc.

Julie Stokes, Appointee, Governor Paterson, Saratoga P.L.A.N.

Jim Sullivan, Mayor, Village of Victory

John Sherman, Mayor, Village of Schuylerville

Attendees

Joe Finan, Saratoga National Battlefield

George Hodgson, Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc.

Maria Trabka, Saratoga P.L.A.N.

Tracy Clothier, Senior Planner, The LA Group

John Hayes, Prospect Hill Cemetery Association

Neal Orsini, Rodger's Island Heritage Development Alliance

Beth Sciumeca, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

Dave Perkins, NYS Snowmobile Association

Minutes

A quorum being present, Chairman Tom Richardson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. A welcome and introductions were made along with a motion to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2009 meeting. The motion was made by John Sherman and seconded by Nelson Ronsvale to be passed unanimously.

New Business

Resolutions

A vote on a resolution naming the Roger's Island Heritage Development Alliance as a partner of The Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership was brought up.

The motion to approve the resolution was made by Julie Stokes and seconded by John Sherman to be passed unanimously.

Draft Annual Report

A discussion on the draft annual report welcomed comments from all members. Joe Finan noted monies listed as well as updates. Joe Finan also noted the final numbers do not match up.

A motion to accept the draft annual report with the numbers was made by Terri Ptacek, seconded by David Doonan and passed unanimously.

Land Trust Feasibility Study

Maria Trabka and Joe Finan presented an update on the Land Trust Feasibility Study.

Joe Finan noted the Land Trust received \$15,000 from the National Park Foundation to look at telecommunications, land use and acquisition of land for protection. Joe Finan stressed the importance we only look at land use and acquisition of land for protection.

Maria Trabka discussed the need to set up a plan for doing the report which should include – what is the need for the fund; who will administer the fund; what kind of selection. Maria stated she will look into alternative models and will give a plan.

Stewardship Plan

Tracy Clothier from The LA Group led a discussion regarding the stewardship plan. Tracy stated that at 11:00am today a subcommittee will be meeting to review plans for the stewardship plan. Tracy asked how the plan will be used in individual communities.

Nelson Ronsvale noted the fact the plan will aid in bringing communities together with their regional thinking.

Terri Ptacek mentioned the opportunity to bring resources together to build the plan.

Julie Stokes noted the chance to combine plans and pull both sides of the river together.

Tom Richardson spoke on the idea that there is more power when groups work together.

George Hodgson noted that scenic bi-ways funding should be used, pointing out that it is an 80/20 match.

David Doonan added that in Greenwich Village, on Saturday morning, there will be a workshop for community input on a new Village of Greenwich Plan. This new plan is wanted to be in place by December. David also mentioned the water front grant and to look at the 9 acre parcel on the waterfront.

Tracy Clothier noted the Roger's Island Plan Meeting tomorrow, to look at alternatives and noted Peebles will give input.

Joe Finan mentioned the importance of trying to bring documents together and implement the Battlefield Protection Program Document.

Dix Bridge

Tom Richardson gave an update on Dix Bridge. Tom mentioned a meeting that took place with Rob Schultz from Congressman Scott Murphy's office, Jim Thompson from Senator Roy McDonald's office and Dan Lewza from Assemblyman Tony Jordan's office. Tom mentioned the need for \$3.1 million total. Tom noted we have \$2.4, have a gap of about \$700,000 and need more money. Tom spoke about an upcoming October 8th meeting with Senator Schumer's office plus Matt Traver to see if more money is available. Tom Richardson also noted Joe Ritchie of SARA 6 looked at the bridge. Mr. Richie estimated that to remove the old bridge would cost about \$650,000. He also gave an estimate for trying to move it forward at the need for \$200,000 over the next couple of years.

Saratoga County may be able to help with \$200,000 toward the project.

Joe Finan asked what the annual maintenance cost will be.

George Hodgson responded by stating he will ask Joe Ritchie the question.

Tom Richardson noted he will also ask this question at the October 8th meeting.

Jim Sullivan asked about the proposed use of the bridge, pedestrian plus recreational use. Jim also asked how concrete the \$3.1 million cost is and mentioned that now is a good time to bid projects. Mr. Sullivan also asked if the snowmobiles contribute money towards the bridge and the answer he received was no, it's for other projects.

Project Press Release

A project press release discussion was opened by Tom Richardson noting that some contracts have been received and processed but no money has been received yet. This discussion was open to all members while no others commented.

Other Business

Announcements

Congratulations to Julie Stokes and Terri Ptacek who are now voting members!

Congratulations to Joe Finan and The Saratoga National Battlefield regarding the new quarter! This new quarter will be one of 53 coins. The #30 coin will be the Saratoga National Park Service.

Zim Smith Trail, Coons Crossing to Mechanicville. Got a letter from Norfolk Southern Railroad- will give two sections of the right of way. Still have other right of way to get.

Tom Richardson spoke on the significance of the Zim Smith Trail expansion and mentioned ultimately a trail to Global Foundries and the Adirondacks.

Nelson Ronsvale gave an update on the reauthorization of National Transportation Act. Nelson summarized features of the draft bill.

Joe Finan asked how the money will be distributed.

Used to be tied together- unknown at this time. The 10% in the STP program- the question is does it require a match, may be a 20% match.

Question if snowmobile tracks would be eligible for funding under the NTA.

Terrie Ptacek announced Landscapes for Landsake - Oct. 10-12th. Opening Reception: Saturday, October 10th from 3-6 pm at Maple Ridge in Coila. Additional Gallery Hours: Sunday and Monday, October 11th and 12th from 12-4 pm. Admission: \$5

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Julie Stokes and seconded by Nelson Ronsvale to be passed unanimously. The next meeting is to take place on Monday, October 26th at 10AM in the same location.

Respectfully submitted by Devin Lander on behalf of Secretary Kay Tomasi