

Adirondack Rail Trail Stakeholders Meeting Summary
Main Conference Room, DEC Region 5 Headquarters Ray Brook
10 am, Thursday, December 1

I. Attendees

1. Patricia Littlefield, Tupper Lake (T)
2. Peter Edwards, Tupper Lake (V)
3. Ed Randig, Harriestown (T)
4. Paul O'Leary, Tupper Lake (T)
5. Craig Randall, Lake Placid (V)
6. Chuck Damp, North Elba (T)
7. Brad Hathaway, Lake Placid (V)
8. John Hopkinson, Lake Placid/North Elba Historical Society
9. Michelle Clement, ROOST
10. Rich Shapiro, Saranac Lake (V)
11. Jim McCulley, Lake Placid Snowmobile Club
12. Walt Linck, APA
13. Bob Stegemann, DEC
14. Holly Kneeshaw, DEC
15. Steve Guglielmi, DEC
16. David Winchell, DEC

By phone

1. Fran Sheehan, DEC
2. John Schmid, DEC
3. Carolyn Dunderdale, OGS
4. Mark Johns, Bergmann Associates
5. Lee Keet, ARTA

II. Updates

1. Arkansas River Trail (David Winchell)
 - i. 15.6 mile Loop Bicycle-Pedestrian
 - ii. Little Rock, AR
 - iii. Mostly paved path
 - iv. Some roadside
 - v. Two photos of recently constructed high-end housing within 25 feet of the trail with access to the trail
 - vi. Photo of water supply apparatus that provides
 1. Water fountain for drinking
 2. Faucet for filling water bottles and
 3. Faucet with permanent bowl for watering dogs
 4. Consider for locating in communities
 - vii. Discussed (no photo) bicycle repair station with
 1. Rack for hanging bicycle
 2. Various tools attached by cable
 3. Air pump
 4. Also may be considered for locating in communities

2. Corridor Ownership Issues (Bob Stegemann)
 - i. DEC attorneys and attorneys representing the four landowners have or will shortly begin discussions to resolve the ownership issues so trail development can occur
 - ii. All parties, including the Lake Placid North Elba Historical Society which owns the Lake Placid Depot and surrounding 8 acres.
 - iii. DEC recently met with John Hopkinson of the Lake Placid North Elba Historical Society to discuss:
 1. Means for allowing rail removal and trail development
 2. How trail and related amenities may fit in with their proposals for the lands
3. DOT-DEC MOU (Fran Sheehan)
 - i. DOT has been provided a DEC draft of the memorandum of understanding
 - ii. Awaiting their comments and changes
4. Operation and Maintenance Umbrella MOU (Holly Kneeshaw)
 - i. DEC continues to discuss the details of the agreement including:
 1. Overall structure
 2. Responsibilities of the different parties
 3. Finances
 4. Management activities
 - ii. Will be brought to the stakeholder group for review and discussion at a later date
5. OGS Activities (Carolyn Dunderdale)
 - i. Contract for design firm to develop design and construction plan on schedule for complete in February 2017
 - ii. Draft Project Report on schedule for completion in February 2017
 - iii. Process Timeline need some additional information and DEC review to complete, will likely be ready to provide to stakeholders at next meeting

III. Review of GIS Map Points

1. More than 100 GIS Points
2. Some minor changes and additions made
3. Other topics of discussion arose
 - i. ATV concerns
 1. Most ATV use in corridor is
 - a. Around Lake Colby, mainly in the winter when ice anglers and other access the ice
 2. Private lands near Tupper Lake
 3. Possible ATV control points have been identified
 4. Don't want too many as they will be a hindrance to trail users

5. ATVs can tear up snowmobile trails
6. Snowmobilers are quick to report ATVs on snowmobile trails
- ii. Emergency and law enforcement access
 1. Gates will be locked by common key which will be provided to emergency response agencies
 2. Same as current practice on DEC seasonal access and administrative roads
- iii. DOT Plans for Tracks in Tupper Lake
 1. DOT at recent meeting indicated 1,500 feet beyond the depot
 - a. South of the big culvert
 - b. Between mile marker 114 and 115
 - c. Trail length beyond the “Y” for the turnaround
 2. Trail along tracks for fishing access on Raquette Pond (1 mile south of Route 2)
 3. Town and village of Tupper Lake will reach out to DOT seeking discussions
- iv. Businesses sponsoring trail amenities?
 1. Benches and picnic tables?
 2. Mile markers with signs?
 3. DEC needs to review laws, regulation and policy

IV. Discussions

1. Needs and concerns of bicyclist
 - i. Air pumps and repair stations in the communities
 - ii. Safe road crossings for families with children – DOT staff will be attending next meeting to discuss road crossings
 - iii. Shelters for bicyclist (and other users) to get out of the weather
 - iv. Bike racks at all community access points and at
 1. Scenic vistas
 2. Picnic areas
 3. Hiking Trails
 4. Other “stops”
2. Needs and concerns of skiers and pedestrians
 - i. Discussed at other meetings
 - ii. No additional information or concerns
3. Causeways, bridges and culverts
 - i. Discussed at other meetings
 - ii. No additional information or concerns
4. Kiosks and signs
 - i. Signs
 1. Trail usage rules
 2. Directional
 3. Informational

- ii. Kiosks
 - 1. Historical Information
 - 2. Cultural Information
 - 3. Nature Information
- iii. All should be English and French
- iv. Need for signage plan
 - 1. Common look – branding
 - 2. Community identity
- v. David Winchell and Michelle Clement will lead a subcommittee to work on developing a general plan for signage on the trail.

V. Next meeting

- 1. Topics Regarding Design and Construction
 - i. Road Crossings
 - ii. Minimizing negative impacts in residential areas
- 2. Topics Regarding Management of the Trail
 - i. Minimizing negative impacts in residential areas
 - ii. Rules, regulation and enforcement
 - iii. Operation and Maintenance Plan and Agreement
 - iv. Public Participation
- 3. Topics being addressed outside of this process
 - i. Historic Preservation – DEC Historic Preservation Officer
 - ii. Train Depots
- 4. Schedule
 - i. A meeting before the holidays to discuss remaining Design and Construction Topics
 - ii. Meetings after the holidays will focus on Management of the Trail.

VI. Related Topics for Discussion (Outside the Purview of this Stakeholder Effort)

- 1. Shuttle Service
 - i. Train to Saranac Lake and Lake Placid
 - ii. Train to Trail Access Sites
- 2. Destination Planning Goals
 - i. Fish Creek/Rollins Pond Campground
 - ii. Connecting Communities and Lake Clear Airport