

Adirondack Rail Trail Stakeholders Meeting Agenda

Main Conference Room, DEC Region 5 Headquarters Ray Brook

10 am, Tuesday, December 13

I. Attendees

1. Ed Randig, Town of Harrietstown
2. Patricia Littlefield, Town of Tupper Lake
3. Paul O'Leary, Town of Tupper Lake
4. Peter Edwards, Village of Tupper Lake
5. Rich Shapiro, Village of Saranac Lake
6. Chuck Damp, Town of North Elba
7. Brad Hathaway, Village of Lake Placid
8. Tony Goodwin, ATIS
9. Lee Keet, ARTA
10. Jim McCulley, LPSC
11. John Hopkinson, LPNEHS
12. Carolyn Dunderdale, OGS
13. Kara Phillips, DOT
14. Walt Linck, APA
15. Steve Guglielmi, DEC
16. Holly Kneeshaw, DEC
17. Bob Stegemann, DEC

By Phone

18. Fran Sheehan, DEC
19. John Schmid, DEC
20. Michelle Clement, ROOST
21. Mark Johns, Bergmann Associates

II. Projected Schedule for Development of Recreational Trail

1. Draft Schedule
 - i. DEC Provides Stakeholder Information Map (December 2016) **[NOTE: This has been completed]**
 - ii. DOT Completes Plans for Removing Rails and Ties (December 2016) **[NOTE: This has been completed.]**
 - iii. OGS Secures Contractor for Design and Construction Plan (February 2017)
 - iv. DEC Begins Drafting an Interim Access Plan (February 2017)
 - v. Consultant Provides Draft Conceptual Plan to DEC & OGS for review and comment (February 2017)
 - vi. Consultant Presents Revised Draft Conceptual Plan and DEC Presents Draft Interim Access to Stakeholders for review and comment (March 2017)
 - vii. Consultant Presents Final Draft Conceptual Plan and DEC Presents Final Draft Interim Access Plan provided to Stakeholders (March 2017)

- viii. DOT Awards Contract for Removing Rails and Ties (May 2017)
 - ix. DEC and Stakeholders Present Final Draft Conceptual Plan and Final Draft Interim Access Plan Public for review and comment (April 2017)
 - x. Consultant Provides Final Conceptual Plan to DEC and OGS (May 2017)
 - xi. DEC Releases Final Interim Access Plan (May 2017)
 - xii. Contractors Begin Removing Rails & Ties (June 2017)
 - xiii. DEC Begins Implementing Final Interim Access Plan (May 2017)
 - xiv. OGS Contractor Begins Developing Construction and Design Plans (May 2017)
 - xv. DOT Contractor Completes Rail and Tie Removal (November 2017)
 - xvi. OGS Contractor Submits Final Construction and Design Plan (March 2018)
 - xvii. OGS Bids Construction Contract (March 2018)
 - xviii. DEC Obtains All Necessary Permits (July 2018)
 - xix. OGS Awards Construction Contract (July 2018)
 - xx. OGS Contractor Begins Construction (July 2018)
- Text highlighted in gray is related to rail and tie removal
2. State Agencies Response to Questions
 - i. Rail and Tie Removal – Details, including schedule, of rail and tie removal will be determined by DOT in consultation with DEC
 - ii. Schedule
 1. Presented a conservative schedule
 2. It is possible it will take less time but not much
 3. Length of time to complete construction will become more clear as the Final Construction and Design Plan comes together
 - iii. Budget
 1. Conceptual costs will be part of the Conceptual Plan
 2. Actual costs will be determined in the Final Construction and Design Plan
 - iv. Public Participation
 1. DEC is seeking assistance from stakeholders
 2. Topic will be discussed in detail at future meetings
 3. **DISCUSSIONS**
 - i. Interim Access Plan
 1. DEC will develop plan
 2. Will guide use and management of the corridor between removal of rails and construction of trail
 3. Will seek input from stakeholder group

- ii. Community Grants
 - 1. Need to assure communities have time and ability to obtain grants to develop trail amenities
- iii. Tupper Lake
 - 1. Need DOT to work with town and village to on railroad-trail interface
- iv. Connection to Campgrounds
 - 1. Rollins Pond and Fish Creek
 - 2. High priority for Tupper Lake and others
 - 3. Needs to be part of Unit Management Plans
 - a. Campgrounds
 - b. Saranac Lake Wild Forest
 - 4. DEC Assures
 - a. Connector Trail will be part of Saranac Lake Wild Forest UMP
 - b. Campground UMPs will be amended to include connector trail
- v. Saranac Lake Depot
 - 1. Need agreement and plan for
 - a. Roof and other repairs
 - b. Operation and maintenance

III. Signs & Kiosks Subcommittee

- 1. Draft Conceptual Plan will include
 - i. Location of signs
 - ii. Type and general content of signs
 - iii. Will not include specific design
- 2. Subcommittee will
 - i. Develop specific sign
 - 1. Design
 - 2. Content
 - 3. Location
 - ii. Focus on approaches to community, similar to roadways
 - iii. Seek to avoid clutter
 - iv. Possibility of business signs
 - v. Prioritize phasing of the placement of signs
 - 1. Interim
 - 2. Permanent
- 3. DEC and ROOST will lead the subcommittee
- 4. Seek representatives from communities
- 5. Subcommittee report will be brought to the stakeholder group for review and comment
- 6. Final report will be provided to the OGS contractor developing the construction and design plan

- IV. Marketing and Branding – **DISCUSSION**
 - 1. Need a Marketing Plan
 - i. Allows promotion of trail
 - ii. Allows businesses to be planning
 - 2. Timing to be determined

- V. Road Crossings
 - 1. DOT will assist OGS and DEC with details on road crossing
 - 2. Crossings have been identified in the GIS map data
 - 3. Signage and control devices should be uniform
 - 4. **DISCUSSIONS**
 - i. Infrastructure and management of crossings should address
 - 1. Interactions with vehicles on the road
 - 2. Illegal motor/motorized vehicle access
 - ii. What will be used to replace the rails at crossings?
 - iii. Route 86 crossing east of Saranac Lake is the busiest high speed crossing, suggestions from stakeholders include:
 - 1. Lower speed limit
 - 2. Traffic light/Pedestrian beacon
 - 3. Bridge
 - iv. Signage under interim access plan
 - v. OGS and DOT will meet with all the municipalities to discuss crossings, the timing and format of the meetings has not been determined.

- VI. Structural Means for Minimizing Impacts on Residential Areas
 - 1. Other rail trails found there is a minimal need for structures
 - 2. Vegetative plantings instead of fences and barriers
 - 3. Set speed limits and enforcement of these and other rules will suffice

- VII. Next meeting in mid-January