

Adirondack Rail Trail Stakeholders Meeting Summary
Main Conference Room, DEC Region 5 Headquarters Ray Brook
1 pm, October 12, 2016

I. Attendees

1. Paul Maroun, Village of Tupper Lake
2. Peter Edwards, Village of Tupper Lake
3. Paul O'Leary, Town of Tupper Lake
4. Patricia Littlefield, Town 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. Art Devlin, Village of Lake Placid
9. Lee Keet, ARTA
10. Tony Goodwin, Adirondack Trail Improvement Society
11. Jim McCulley, Lake Placid Snowmobile Club
12. Michelle Clement, ROOST
13. Bob Stegemann, DEC
14. Fran Sheehan, DEC
15. Holly Kneeshaw, DEC
16. Steve Guglielmi, DEC
17. John Schmid, DEC
18. David Winchell, DEC
19. Ted Blazer, ORDA
20. Kris Seymour, ORDA
21. Kurt Arnold, OGS
22. Carolyn Dunderdale, OGS
23. Mark Johns, Bergmann Associates
24. Mike Cooper, Bergmann Associates

II. Opening Meetings to Press and Public

1. Discussed the whether meeting should be open to press and/or public
2. Purpose of stakeholder group is to inform DEC's development of a draft conceptual design and operational plan for the recreational trail to be shared for public review and comment.
3. No decisions are being made by the stakeholder group so meetings are not required to allow the presence of public or press under NYS Open Meeting Law.
4. **CONSENSUS:** Meetings will remain closed to the public and the press for the following reasons:
 - i. The stakeholders and state agencies want to continue to have productive meetings that focus on developing a high quality trail.
 - ii. Also stakeholders and state agencies want to have the ability to work through differing opinions and reach consensus so the focus is on the draft product which will be shared with the public not on differing opinions.
 - iii. DEC is working to ensure this stakeholder process is more transparent by either issuing press releases or posting and/or sharing meeting summaries.
 - iv. Individual stakeholders are encouraged to share information with their constituencies and are not prevented from speaking to the press about the process if they choose.

- v. DEC will be providing the public an opportunity to review and provide comment on the conceptual plan prior to the final design and construction plans being developed.

III. Train Depots

1. Will address depots in a future meeting
2. MOU for Operation & Maintenance of depots needs to address management of depots
3. Ownership
 - i. Lake Placid Depot owned by Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society
 - ii. Saranac Lake Depot owned by NYS DOT
 1. Depot is in need of a roof and other repairs to prevent it from deteriorating further.
 2. Building is not heated.
 - iii. Lake Clear Depot owned by Charlie's Inn
 - iv. Tupper Lake Depot, ownership unclear, land is owned by Town of Tupper Lake

IV. DEC/DOT MOU – Development of the MOU is progressing, no concerns at this time

V. Multi-party Operation & Maintenance Agreement

1. Development of the Agreement is progressing
2. DEC Voluntary Stewardship Agreement used as a template
3. Draft agreement will be shared with stakeholders in the near future

VI. RFP for Removal of Rails & Ties

1. Timeline remains the same – to be issued in February
2. Working DOT to develop one RFP for both:
 - i. Rail & tie removal between Lake Placid and Tupper Lake
 - ii. Upgrade of railway between Tupper Lake and Big Moose
3. DEC wants RFP to provide for separate bids and separate contracts for the two sections of the corridor
4. Work will be funded through New York Works

VII. Historic Preservation

1. Work with Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation continues to ensure compliance with State Historic Preservation Act (SHIPA)

VIII. Office of General Services (OGS)

1. Hired Bergmann Associates, a consulting engineering firm with experience in developing rail trails, to assist with Program Report (Feasibility Study) and development of RFP for design and construction of the recreational trail.
2. Plan to survey the 34-mile corridor to identify and record:
 - i. Topographic features
 - ii. Utilities
 - iii. Historic features
 - iv. Encroachments
 - v. Adjacent landowners (NOTE: DEC plans to meet with adjacent landowners through their municipal officials to hear their concerns and discuss options for addressing them.)
 - vi. DEC, municipalities and others have maps, documents and data that OGS can use

3. Discussed schedule of “products”: Program Report and Draft Conceptual Plan for public review
 - i. Discussed releasing products sooner but with less details vs later with more details
 - ii. **CONSENSUS:** Detailed Draft Conceptual Plan provided later
 - iii. Draft Conceptual Plan will be developed and released for public review before completion of Program Report
 - iv. Final Conceptual Plan will inform the Program Report
 - v. Program Report will be used to develop RFP for design and construction of trail
4. Discussed the content of the Draft Conceptual Plan and the Program Report
5. Discussed public review and comment on Draft Conceptual Plan
 - i. Stakeholder process and public review are not required by law or regulation
 - ii. SEQR requirements were met through UMP Amendment process
 - iii. DEC chose to have a stakeholder process and public review to ensure:
 1. High quality trail
 2. Pleasant experience for users
 3. Minimize conflicts with communities, businesses and residents
6. Discussed ways to identify all the access points, recreational opportunities, amenities, and problem areas along the trail
 - i. **CONSENSUS/ACTION ITEM:** Each of the municipalities will identify on a map any points or sections of the trail corridor that should be highlighted and addressed in some form including but not limited to:
 1. Main Access Points including Parking Areas
 2. Secondary Entry and Exit Points
 - a. Recreational Trails
 - b. Businesses/Amenities
 - c. Attractions
 - d. Parks
 - e. Other
 3. Snowmobile Access Points
 4. Emergency Vehicle Access Points
 5. Areas of Concern
 - a. Adjacent residential homes
 - b. Industrial areas or possible attractive nuisances
 - c. Possible access points for illegal motor vehicle or motorized vehicle entry
 - d. Other areas of possible conflicts
 - e. Encroachments
 6. Road Crossings
 7. Causeways
 8. Historic Features
 9. Any other points of interest or concern.
 - ii. The municipalities can work together or separately and can compile information however they deem appropriate. (i.e. public meetings, stakeholder meetings, municipal board, assigned committee, etc.)
 - iii. Next meeting will be a day-long work meeting during which municipal officials will work with state agency staff or contractors to create a “master map” of all the desired features and areas of concern.

1. Municipalities are encouraged to review DEC UMP Amendment Appendices
2. Adirondack Rail Trail website has other reference documents that municipalities can use.
- iv. The entire stakeholder group will review and discuss the master map in this meeting if possible or at the next meeting.
- v. **ACTION ITEMS:**
 1. Lee Keet will provide link to reference documents on the Adirondack Rail Trail web site
 2. Dave Winchell will e-mail instructions to municipal officials and representatives
 3. Afterwards OGS and their contractors will work with the master map and DEC to begin developing a draft conceptual plan.

- IX. Future Meeting of Stakeholders will include discussions on
1. Crossings (DOT Input)
 2. Bridges
 3. Culverts
 4. Adjacent Landowners Issues
 5. Depots

- X. Brief discussion on branding the trail

1. ACTION ITEMS

- i. Schedule meeting with:
 1. ESD/I Love NY
 2. ROOST
 3. DEC
 4. Selected stakeholders
- ii. DEC will review the trail name proposed by the group

- XI. Next meeting

1. Friday, October 28, 9 am
2. Topic: Map Trail Features & Areas of Concern
3. Other Participants: Carl Knoch, Rail Trail Expert