

**NEW YORK STATE TRAILS COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Meeting Held Virtually via WebEx**  
**April 9, 2022 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Council Attendance:**

**4-Wheel Drive** – Todd Syska

**All-Terrain Vehicles** – Jeff Binga

**Equestrian** – Carol Schmelz, Bill Lasher

**Hiking** – Donna Chapman, Stephanie Campbell,  
Michaela Aney

**Nordic Skiing** –

**Off-Highway Motorcycles** – Tim Hutchinson

**Off-road Bicycling** – Michael Vitti

**On-road Bicycling** – Ivan Vamos

**Running** – Bill Hoffman, Trail Running nominee

**Snowmobiles** – Dominic Jacangelo

**Snowshoeing** –

**Universal Access** – Denis Livsey, Jason Thurston

**Water Trails** –

**ECNHC** – Mona Caron

**FHWA** -

**National Park Service** –

**HRV Greenway** – Beth Campochiaro

**NYS Canal Corporation** –

**NYSDEC** – McCrea Burnham

**NYSOPRHP** –Tom Hotaling, Chris Morris, Nicole  
Unser

**NYSDOT** – Karen Lorf

**PTNY** –

**Guests:** Kathy Nolan, Chris Kearney

**Call to Order & Welcome:**

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM. Roll was called for attendance. Agenda was previewed. Chris noted that Samantha is stepping down as chair and unable to make today's meeting.

**Correction/Approval of Minutes from October 16, 2021:**

Carol S asked for corrections to the minutes, Dominic made motion, Ivan seconded. Motion carried with none opposed- minutes approved from 10/16/2021.

**Announcements:**

- Carol asked for potential delegates to fill vacancies. None mentioned.
- Bill Hoffman requested a summary of the Trails Council to solicit new folks.
- Dominic Jacangelo noted his pending departure; recommended nomination of Jennifer Senf who will replace him as ED of NYSSA.
- Chris M noted that an unofficial meeting secretary is also needed.

**Elections**

- Carol noted Harvey Botzman and Stephanie Campbell have been nominated to fill the Chair and Vice-Chair role, respectively.
- Ivan V. noted Harvey's credentials as Chairperson and made a motion to accept the slate of candidates as proposed. Tim Hutchinson seconded. Motion carried with none opposed.
- Congratulations to Harvey and Stephanie and thanks to Samantha and Carol for their tenure.

**2022 & Forward Meeting Logistics**

- Council will shift to one in-person and one virtual meeting going forward. Chris will book DEC's Five Rivers location for October 15, 2022 meeting. Hours: 10:30am – 3:00pm
- Chris will try for a WebEx option at the October meeting in addition.

## **New Business:**

- Ivan asked if DOT, DEC, Parks, or others have insight into the Federal Infrastructure Bill & upcoming Env. Bond Act.
  - Karen Lorf noted that NYS DOT is still assessing the funding bills and legislation and how they will be incorporated into DOT programs.
  - Chris M noted that the Env. Bond act has large Parks projects that have been identified, but no trail-specific items at this time.
  - The group discussed their thoughts around trails as a “bondable” project.
- Karen Lorf noted potential Scenic Byway funding opportunities.
- Jason Thurston discussed his group’s effort to assemble an Accessible Trails Inventory. Jason can put forth a list of best practices to make trails more accessible and share with the group to implement with trails. Jason will share information so folks can submit potential trail opportunities.
  - Chris Morris discuss OPRHP efforts to assess and identify accessible trails within the agency.
  - McCrea discussed Jason and Denis’ involvement in the accessible committee.

## **Delegate Report Highlights and Q&A:**

Delegates submitted written reports electronically prior to the meeting. (attached)

- Chris Morris noted that the Empire State Trail Program will be launched at OPRHP beginning in May, 2022 taking oversight of the trail from Hudson River Valley Greenway. Others noted the accomplishments of the trail and new greenway trail opportunities.
- Bill Hoffman expressed interest in the trails around Moreau Lake State Park, Palmertown Range, and Big Bend property addition. Chris discussed trail concepts for the area and shared a map. Group discussed.
- Thomas noted Dominic’s comment regarding the Trails Council’s role and involvement in the Recreational Trails Program and project selection and rating process.
  - The group discussed the merits of RTP funds used for invasive species-related trails projects.
  - Jeff Binga inquired about how the state uses the funds for motorized projects. Feels more funds should be dedicated to OHV activities. Thomas noted that he could send a summary of RTP awards each year.
  - Bill Cook noted the Council’s stated purpose and questioned how the group could be effective at selecting projects.
  - Mona Caron inquired about the annual rounds for the RTP funding. Thomas explained the even and odd year funding opportunities for local and state applicants.
- Mona Caron asked for additional information on the Empire State Trail transition, possible funding opportunities, and information.
- Mike Vitti mentioned the volunteer funded, machine-built, trail construction going on at Sterling Forest State Park.
- Tim Hutchinson mentioned that Rich Williams could be a potential off-road cyclist delegate. Rich is involved with the Wheelerville trail network in the southern Adirondacks.
- Dominic discussed next year’s Take a Friend Snowmobiling event and new technology with electric snowmobiles.

**Next meeting: October 15, 2022 In-person @ DEC’s Five Rivers location.**

**Adjournment:** Dominic J. made a motion to adjourn, Mike V. seconded. Meeting adjourned at approx.. 12:02pm.