

**New York State Trails Council
Final Meeting Minutes 9/25/2010
Schodack Island State Park**

Attendance:

Delegates:

All Terrain Vehicles - Moak Detraglia
Bicycling - Ivan Vamos, Michael Vitti, Jill Sprance
Equine Trail Interests - Carol Schmelz, Sara Chevako, Nancy Avery (new delegate)
Four-Wheel Drive - no representatives
Hiking - Quinn Wright, Jane Daniels
Nordic Skiing - James Underwood, Ron Farra
Off-Highway Motorcycles – no representatives
Running – no representatives
Snowmobiling - Anne O'Dell, Dave Perkins, Robert Bryant
Snowshoeing – no representatives
Water Trails - Tom Casey, Mike Prescott

Agency Representatives:

OPRHP - Robert Reinhardt, Steve Lewis, Nancy Stoner, Keith Foote
DEC – Justin Perry
FHWA - Mike Ruth

11:15 am Meeting called to order

Minutes approved Jane Daniels 1st, Quinn Wright 2nd, all approved.

Announcements- Anne O'Dell read response from Commissioner Carol Ash to park closures from the April 19, 2010 letter that was sent out by the NYS Trails Council. Commissioner Ash will be leaving as of October 13th, 2010. Andy Beers is replacing her as Acting Commissioner.

New delegate candidate introduced-Nancy Avery from the Plantation Walking Horse Association; was introduced by Sara Chevako as her equestrian delegate replacement. Votes Bob Bryant 1st, Michael Vitti 2nd, All approved.

Trails Economic Study- Keith Foote reported University of New Hampshire statistics study courses. Eight rail trails were surveyed in 2008. There were 30 questions. 1500 surveys were distributed to each trail; 1478 came back. The average group size was 2.74, age 52, average income \$94,000, spend 55 days per year hiking/biking. 88% is local day use. 3% stay in motels which accounts for 15% of motel revenue. The number of visitors X average spending X economic multipliers = economic impact for 64,000 users. The economic impact results are included in the Statewide Trails Plan which will be available on the NYS Parks website.

Suburban urban trails - Jane Daniels reported that there is no place to stay. The economic impact is the cumulative effect of the trail. North County & South County Trails have no amenities, so they are not destination trails. They do help keep local users healthy. The direct effect is 3 million, secondary

effects add another million. The take home income and direct value added back into industries to invest account for marginal effects.

Housing Values- Genesee Valley Trail GIS How much houses are appraised for?
What we learned should be up on line next week.

People travel to get to trails. Trails influence where people live. The expansion of trails positively influences NYS's economy. Following this summary was a discussion from each user group about the money spent on trips. Local communities and Chambers of Commerce raised a ruckus when closing of the parks was threatened.

Elections- Anne O'Dell remains as Chair; Len Howard is Vice-Chair. Vote was unanimous.

Delegate Reports

Ivan Vamos talked and showed pictures about the Bridge over the Hudson.

Carol Schmelz reported that equestrians may finally be gaining formal access at Bond Lake Park in Niagara County where equestrian presence on trails has been ongoing for 30 years under the term non-motorized use. These would be the first OFFICIALLY designated equestrian trails in the county.

Mike Prescott talked about the ADK museum and 170 miles of river trails.

Tom Casey spoke about the thirteen kayak access points in Suffolk County and Islip. In the Pine Barrens along the Carmen's River watershed towns and counties are trying to connect with trails. A trail guide for the Pine Barrens will be published soon.

A sad loss- Ray Corwin, trusted both by builders and environmentalists, collapsed and died.

Steve Lewis reported that on September 14 there would be a 1.1% reduction in all local assistance projects according to the Budget Billing 1191 Amendment. Check your projects. This change will impact local budgets.

NYS Parks

Bob Reinhardt announced his early retirement. His last day will be Monday, September 27th and this is his last duty in the NYS Trails Council. He introduced Nancy Stoner as his replacement in the Trails Council. Anne, on behalf of the Council, wished him all the best in the future on his travels and fishing adventures.

Bob listed his nine State Park Master Plan successes over the years. Minnewaska, Jamesport, Allegany, Statewide Trails Plan, Green Lakes comment period ends 10/8/2010, Wehle comment period ended 9/3/2010 and announced the upcoming Fahnestock-Hudson Highlands public hearing in October. Grafton, Sunken Meadow & Sampson should be completed within eighteen months.

One of Bob's biggest accomplishments is that all trail plans in NYS are now accessible online.

There will be a new public review policy due to the no traveling directive. The new draft will be able to be downloaded and viewed on the website. Comments can be emailed or mailed in. There will also be "webinars" coming up for the public to ask questions and comment on the plan live.

Draft plan due out on 9/29/2010 in color with Trails Council input included.

Statewide Trails Plan- Nancy Stoner

The new plan will include:

1. Introduction & Summary
2. History of Trails
3. Types of trails and examples
4. Benefits of Trails as paths to greener communities
5. Needs and Trends
6. Statewide Trails System- Creating connections
7. Environmental Impact

Website: nysparks.state.ny.us

*If there are Trails Council presentations to be included on the website, send them to Nancy Stoner.

Land & Water Conservation Funds- Bob Reinhardt- Municipal parks protection from conversion called on NYS State Parks to identify all parklands and include them on the state website. National Park service must approve any conversions before they can happen. Check website for workshop dates. Use the regional representatives.

Both municipalities & clubs must provide written agreements from EACH landowner for trails on private lands. This poses a real burden to snowmobilers who traverse hundreds of miles in NYS.

October 5th Allegany-see website

October 13th Niagara Region Genesee County

National Trails Awards will be presented in early November.

Eddie Walsh – Bear Mountain Stone Steps rehabilitation project

Ivan Vamos – winner for Walkway Over the Hudson

Partnership Award – New York-New Jersey Trail Conference/Palisades Interstate Park

Commission (PIPC)/National Park Service/OPRHP/Appalachian Trail Conservancy for Bear Mountain Trails Partnership Project- has not been announced as yet.

Best Trails State Award – nominations have been submitted for NY.

NYS Parks Nancy Stoner reported that:

1. Columbia County Community Trails Conference will be held February –April 2011.
2. Canalway Trail – Close the Gaps effort focused on Mohawk Valley Section.
There are four sections that still need to be completed.

Overview of the NYS Trails Council since 1980- Bob Reinhardt presents

Remember your role.

What makes the NYS Trails Council unique? It is the only recognized council that appoints its own delegates. The greatest accomplishment that Bob has seen over the years is that the delegates, whose interests are diverse, always treat each other with mutual respect and understanding. After communicating an issue at a Trails Council meeting, consensus is arrived at and delivered with a unified voice.

DEC report- Justin Perry (Dave Forness is retiring)

The Draft State Forest Plan was released September 1st. GIS executive summaries are available on CD's. It is a 300 page document. ATV & Motorized users are mentioned. The definition of state forest is presented. Regional meetings were held. NYSORVA and mountain bikers commented on Region 9. Comments will be accepted through October 29th. Email comments to Justin Perry or Rob Messenger. You can view the plan on the website at stateforestplan@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Hydrofracking was a big issue in Region 3, Region 7 snowmobiling, Region 8-timber harvesting, Region 6- 14 ATV users showed up. Encourage user groups to show up at the meetings and comment on the plan.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) - Mike Ruth

Invoices must be submitted for Federal Transportation grants or funding will be pulled back. Receipts must be turned in.

New Business- Pickle Ball- Ron Farra stated that pickle ball is the fastest growing sport in North America as reported on Good Morning America. A paddle is used with a wiffle ball.

Next meeting date is scheduled for March 19th in Saratoga.

Jane Daniels offered to do a presentation on hiking and mountain biking at that meeting. Katharine Wolfe may also present as she wasn't able to attend the last meeting. Presentations to be limited to 10-15 minutes.

Adjourn