

Dryden Rail Trail Friends and Task Force

Monday, December 21, 2020

Attendance: Steve Winans, Alice Green, Bob Beck, Loren Sparling, Susan Ashdown, John Kiefer, Chris and Diane Tessalia-Hymes, Karl Kolesnikoff, Bruno Schickel, Rose Borzik, Todd Bittner, Dan Lamb, Judy Pierpont, Milo Richmond, (and two disrupters, who signed in as “Joe” & “Jim” and were quickly removed).

Call to order – Bob Beck, Alice Green

Additions to agenda: none

Approval of November minutes with no corrections

Success! DEC Concurrent Use & Occupancy Agreement at Game Farm – Dan

The renewable, 20-year agreement (starting September 2020) is getting final tweaks, Dan reported. Dryden’s lawyer and HR person are going over the insurance issues. It’s a lengthy MOU. There were some corrections necessary, for example adding permission for electric-assist bikes. DEC reserved the right to receive and approve stamped plans for major improvements.

Bruno wanted to make sure the agreement reflects that fact that responsibility for liability on the bridge repair rests with the Town of Dryden, which it does. Dan assured the Task Force that DEC Bureau of Wildlife Chief, Jim Farquhar, has pledged to personally approve the stamped plans for the trestle renovations. Todd suggested that the agreement should stipulate renewal after 20 years as a default clause, unless either party wishes to withdraw. This would ensure that it doesn’t expire without anyone paying attention. The Town will make edits within the next two weeks, and then send them back to DEC. Bob will contact Kathleen McIsaac of NYS OPRHP to let her know as soon as the DEC agreement is received back by the Town. This will enable the Task Force to go forward with the contract for the State Parks EPF grant the trail was awarded in

December 2017.

Report on December 5th Ugly Sweater 5K Run – Alice, Bob

Bob said this very successful event raised \$720 for the trail. Alice and Bob thanked the Friends of the Trail who volunteered to help out at intersections during the run: Dean “Santa” Russo, Janice and Tony Bretscher, Deb and Steve Siegert. Andrew Pierce of the Town of Dryden Recreation Department coordinated the event with Willow Running of Syracuse.

Fox Bridge signs and proposal for Vet College alumni – Bruno, Diane, Bob

Diane drafted some design options and Bob wrote a letter that can be sent to Jerry Bertoldo who is organizing Vet School alumni to donate toward memorializing the FH Fox Bridge to the late professor. Bob said he has a quote of several hundred dollars from Fossil Industries in the Hudson Valley for high quality graphics panel to display info on Prof. Fox and the bridge. Bruno estimated that the costs of the signs on both sides of the bridge and nearby would not exceed \$5000. Mounting would cost less if on the railings than on the side of the bridge. He feels ready to send out the letter and proposal.

Diane mentioned that the two options the design committee had been considering are both being sent to the potential vet school donors. She said the current proposals for the graphics panel are 2 x 3 feet, but this is very flexible. Could be several smaller signs. Todd asked where the graphics panel would be mounted. Bob said the idea now is to place it at western end of the bridge mounted on a post or frame.

Bruno feels that the proposal should be very professional and the vet alum committee may wish to include other specifics, like lists of donors.

Route 13 bridge project – Grants Subcommittee

Bob announced that there would be an executive session to discuss bridge design and potential land acquisitions, and options for cost saving measures. Todd added that the executive session should also include discussion of trail easements in Etna

Next meeting scheduled for Monday January 18, 2021 via Zoom.

Recording paused at 7:45 pm for Executive **Session**

Adjournment at 9: 05 pm