

**Dryden Rail Trail Friends and Task Force  
Minutes of the Monday, January 15, 2024 Meeting**

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

(In-Person Meeting)

Dryden Town Hall

93 East Main Street, Dryden

Barbara Caldwell Conference Room

**Attendees:**

**Task Force Members:** Susan Ashdown; Bob Beck; Todd Bittner; Rosalie Borzik; Tony Bretscher; Alice Walsh Green; Judy Pierpont; Chris Tessaglia-Hymes, Steve Winans.

**Town Board Liaisons:** Dan Lamb; Christina Dravis **Guests:** Dan Antonioli; David Church; Shaun Cobb; Diane Tessaglia-Hymes, Jacob Yatsko.

**Call to order at 7:02 p.m. by Bob Beck**

**Alice Green motioned to approve the November meeting minutes;** Tony Bretscher seconded. Motion carried.

**Hall Road trail construction update (Bob):**

The Army Corps #14 national permit was obtained last month, now we need the appropriate weather to begin construction. Construction will begin at the right angle bend of Hall and Hallwoods Roads and continue toward Pinckney Road to the east. Todd indicated that this work requires drier conditions to minimize destruction. The few trees that need to be cut can come down soon (before the possibility of returning bats). Grant funding will reimburse part of the expenses.

**OPRHP EPF grant extension approved; meeting scheduled (Bob; Todd; Alice):**

An OPRHP EPF Zoom meeting with Amanda Marsh was attended by Bob, Todd and Amanda Anderson. Todd suggested we contact Fred Bonn, Regional OPRHP Director, who is stationed at Taughannock Falls State Park. Fred is supportive of our work and has set up another meeting between Amanda Marsh and Amanda Anderson, Bob and Todd for Tues., Feb 6. We are looking for more guidance on including additional expense items: trail surface improvements and road crossing signage. The first batch of expenses submitted for match should be approved soon. By the January meeting, we should know the amount of funding that remains so we can decide where/how they are best used.

The EPF grant has been extended to December 11, 2024. This was our second approved grant (AARP being the first.) Expenses from Game Farm Road to Route 13 and Freeville to Main Street, Dryden are eligible. Todd pointed out that the Town of Ithaca's contribution for the Game Farm Road crossing should be counted as local match.

**Review Route 13 bridge Final PS&E (Plans, Specifications & Estimate from Erdman Anthony Engineering) Todd; Alice; Bob):**

The Route 13 pedestrian bridge will have a clearance height of 17 feet over the highway. The one-acre Knickerbocker property is being transferred to the Town of Dryden as a donation. To permit access to them if needed in the future, the utilities lines under Route 13 will need to be removed from the area under the footprint of the abutments. Bob will ask Ray Burger to post the

new drawings on the DRT website. No necessary changes are expected, but Todd and the Rte 13 Tap Grant Subcommittee will review the plans for approval.

**ACTION:**

Rte 13 Tap grant Subcommittee will review Erdman Anthony's Final PS&E and submit final recommendations to the Town Board.

***Review "Tompkins Priority Trails Strategy 2023 Update" and consider comments for the upcoming County Long Range Transportation Plan (Todd; Bob; Alice):***

The update led by Fernando de Aragon will be useful for the next round of grant proposals. There will be a request for comments for the future Tompkins County transportation plan. Task Force suggestions included access north for Freeville to Groton and east from Freeville to Cortland County.

Judy asked if there will be an ebike exception from the non-motorized vehicle rule. Susan suggested that we define motorized vehicles at the Jan meeting. Bob attended an American Trails webinar about power-assisted devices on trails and problems experienced across the U.S. We need to clarify and incorporate into our signage that ebikes with motorized speed limited to less than 20-22 mph are authorized for use on the DRT.

**No Additions to Meeting Agenda.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.**

Chris motioned to open an **Executive session at 8:19 p.m to review property aquisition statuses**. Tony seconded. Motion carried.

**Executive session adjourned at 9:02 p.m.** Bob motioned. Chris seconded. Motion carried. Diane Tessaglia-Hymes was invited to join the session.

**No actions taken.**

*Next scheduled meeting: Monday, January 15, 2023 at 7 p.m.; open to the public at the Dryden Town Hall Caldwell Conference Room. Zoom participation requires preapproval.*

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:36 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Rosalie Borzik