

**Dryden Rail Trail Friends and Task Force  
Minutes of the Monday, February 19, 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 **Guests:** Shaun Cobb; Diane Tessaglia-Hymes, Jacob Yatsko.

**Call to order at 7:05 p.m. by Bob Beck**

**February meeting minutes:** Susan Ashdown motioned for a correction to the “Review ‘Tompkins Priority Trails Strategy...” agenda item, not recalling a suggestion to define motorized bikes. Motion seconded.

**Video: consider strategies for broader viewing (Susan):**

How can we get more exposure for our 14 min 22 second-long DRT video? It’s been on the facebook page and Diane will repost when DOT approves the bridge proposal. Todd suggested reviewing Google Analytics, which will provide viewership information that may be useful for future grants. Ithacatrails.org is on WSKG. DRT has a 20-minute snippet posted through Cornell University. WENY TV aired a story on the upcoming Rte 13 bridge.

Susan has planned a DRT Walking tour on May 14 and she will be displaying her stained-glass art at the Artist Alley show with proceeds going to DRT.

**Route 13 bridge TAP grant update (Todd; Alice; Bob):**

Bob has been in touch with Ray Burger, Jason Leifer and Dan Lamb. The Town Attorney needs to review and certify the survey maps for the Cornell and Knickerbocker Co. property easement and donation. Per Jared Pittman, Esq., the Cornell easement was signed and returned to the Town.

**OPRHP EPF virtual meeting report (Bob, Todd):**

A virtual meeting with Fred Bond and Amanda Marsh was held on February 6. It was good overall, but a few unresolved questions remain. They are requesting maps, road-crossing sign photos and descriptions. The easements and maps were submitted and approved by Albany long ago. Bob emailed Amanda Marsh pointing out items already submitted. The only difference from the original application is the addition of stone dust to the trail. Town legal fees were not included in the original application and contract and, therefore, not covered. The Monkey Run to Rte 13 trail was included in both the EPF and TAP grants, but that tail section work will be done by Town Highway, rather than contracted out with the bridge project, thus removing one of the overlapping items.

Kudos to Amanda Anderson who has been a great liaison for the State Parks grant. Documentation for first two years EPF expenses was submitted and is under review. Stone dust reimbursement request will be submitted with the road-crossing signs request.

***Trail connectors: Consider future Task Force task (Susan):***

TC3 to North Street and Dryden School connectors have been suggested. Todd suggested that the municipalities should be taking the lead to include trail connectors in new housing plans. In the Update of the 2014 Strategic Trails Plan, DRT is the only group that did not include connector trails. The Varna Community Center connecting trail is a narrow footpath that is ready and in use.

Alice reminded the group that next month is the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of DRT and suggested that a focus on connectors should not out rank completion of the missing trail link.

A culvert and rock walls to direct water flow under the DRT have been installed south of the FH Fox Bridge at the new development there. The property formerly called Evergreen Landing is under new ownership. The Planning Dept is the agency coordinating this construction.

***NYSEG work near Pinckney Road (Diane, Chris, Bob):***

A co-worker of Diane who lives on Sunset Road said NYSEG is using our trail from Pinckney Road to access a pole replacement. Temporary roadwork across wet areas and a stream was needed to reinforce the ground to enable equipment to access and replace a pole without crossing Fall Creek. Ben Anderson, a Dryden High School alum who is now an engineering freshman at Clarkson University has offered to draw engineering plans for the work we need in order to cross the washout in this area.

***Martha Feger memorial bench update (Judy, Bob):***

With Bob and Gwen, the Feger Family chose a spot to install a memorial bench beyond Dryden Lake, facing a pond and will provide wording for a memorial plaque. Additional benches will be ordered for the Monkey Run to Rte 13 trail section. Rick Young has agreed to install the bench from those we presently have in storage.

***Agenda Addendum:***

***Request for additional web content (Diane T-H):***

Diane solicited the group for more web content.

**No Executive session was enacted.**

***Next scheduled meeting: Monday, March 18, 2024 at 7 p.m.; open to the public at the Dryden Town Hall Caldwell Conference Room.***

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Rosalie Borzik