



Philipstown Trails Committee
Philipstown, NY 10516

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GREENLIGHT FROM GREENWAY:

TOWN SECURES FUNDING FOR TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

PHILIPSTOWN, NY

Monday, June 28, 2021 - Philipstown Trails Committee (PTC), a volunteer group of community residents who are committed to creating a walkable and bikeable Philipstown, has secured a grant of \$37,100 in partnership with the Town of Philipstown from the Hudson River Valley Greenway, a state agency, to explore a multi-use trail connecting Cold Spring and Garrison.

The PTC and Town of Philipstown submitted a grant application to the Hudson River Valley Greenway to fund a study examining the feasibility of a multi-use trail – for walkers, runners, and cyclists – connecting key community points between Cold Spring and Garrison. Presently the main way Philipstown residents can get from Cold Spring to Garrison is by car. Without sidewalks or bicycle lanes, it is dangerous to walkers and bicyclists, discouraging these alternative uses.

Richard Shea, Town Supervisor, welcomed the news and said:

“In adding a trail option, the Philipstown Connector Trail will serve to disperse people – community residents and visitors – and so alleviate some of the congestion that we are experiencing.”

In a joint statement Laura Bozzi and Rebeca Ramirez, who are co-chairs of PTC, said:

“Winning this grant is the crucial first step in improving the ability to get around the Philipstown community without need for a car. The study will weigh up various options and recommend the most appropriate and feasible one.”

The Hudson River Valley Greenway was created in 1991 in part to establish a network of multi-use trails along both sides of the Hudson River. Today the Greenway is working to create a system of trails from the northern borders of Saratoga and Washington counties to Manhattan. Arguably the jewel in the crown of the Hudson River Greenway Trail System is the recently completed Empire State Trail, now the nation’s longest multi-use state trail spanning 750-miles, from New York City through the Hudson and Champlain Valleys to Canada, and from Albany to Buffalo along the Erie Canal.

Marianne Sullivan, the immediate past chair of the PTC who led the grant submission, said:

“The Philipstown Connector Trail will fill a hole in the Hudson River Valley Greenway which peters out just north of Peekskill. In doing so it will help reduce dependency on the car for getting around and enable Philipstown residents to walk, run or bike to various places of special interest such as Boscobel House and Gardens and Constitution Marsh Audubon Center.”



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The PTC was formed in January of 2018 with the mission to create a walkable and bikeable Philipstown, NY, where pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages can safely access important local sites and recreational opportunities to develop a healthier, more environmentally friendly and socially connected community for all. The resident-led group made up of volunteers grew out of the Philipstown Community Congress process, organized by local nonprofit the Ecological Citizen's project led by local residents Jason Angell and Jocelyn Apicello, in which walkability and bikeability was voted the top community issue in Philipstown. The PTC has hosted three annual Philipstown Bikes Day events in partnership with local municipalities and supported the Town's Climate Smart Task Force to successfully adopt local Complete Streets Policies.

As Richard Shea, Town of Philipstown Supervisor noted, "The long-range development of multi-use trails is a key element in building a healthy community and expanding outdoor opportunities for both residents and visitors in Philipstown".

The vision for the connector trail would promote healthy living, safety and a greater sense of community by encouraging residents and visitors to walk or bike (instead of driving) to frequently visited sites. The proposed alternate routes would link schools, libraries, Main Streets and some of the area's most important landmarks, including the Metro-North train stations, the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center, and the historic Boscobel House and Gardens where the Cold Spring Farmers Market is situated on Saturdays. Find out more and connect with the Philipstown Trails Committee via email at: philipstowntrails@gmail.com