

Philipstown Trails Committee March 2022 Meeting Minutes

PTC members in attendance:

Jason Angell, Laura Bozzi, Trace Danicich, Jeff Mikkelson, John Pavlik, Pete Salmansohn, Shamala Kandiah Thompson, Rebeca Ramirez, Chris Sandlund

Other attendees: Harold Kaplowitz, Jesse Lubbers (via Zoom), MJ Martin

1. Introductions of any new PTC members and guests interested in the committee

Harold Kaplowitz participated as an interested resident and prospective member.

MJ Martin was in attendance and will be formally added as a PTC member at the April meeting.

2. Update from Jesse Lubbers on Continental Village bridge reconstruction & loss of sidewalk; group discussion on how PTC or members can help

Jesse Lubbers updated the PTC about county highway construction plans for bridge replacement on Sprout Brook Road (over Canopus Creek). He explained that the project is in its final stages of design, with construction scheduled for 2023. The plans call for widened lanes and 5-foot shoulders. The plans eliminate the small protected walkway for pedestrians. During construction, all traffic is planned to be rerouted onto Winston Lane, which may create safety hazards. The PTC asked Jesse questions about the county's decision-making process and the group brainstormed possible ways that the PTC could assist. After Jesse left the meeting, the PTC decided together that we would request that Jesse update us after planned meetings with community members and a county representative. Laura committed to sending Jesse our request.

3. Feasibility Study update

Laura provided a brief update. The feasibility study consultant said that the process is moving along well, but more slowly than originally anticipated. This is because the proposed route is long and with many landowners, and it is taking some extra time to meet with the landowners and have one on one conversations. However, he emphasized that this is an important and necessary part of the process. The longer timeline does not affect the project scope or the consultant's fees.

Rebeca explained that she, Laura, and the consultant will be doing a site walk on March 24th through Philipstown Park and St. Basil Academy. She offered that if any PTC members who haven't participated in a site walk would like to join, to contact her.

4. Complete Streets subgroup update & discussion

Trace provided an update from the Complete Streets subgroup. She laid out a number of proposed next steps and asked for PTC agreement and feedback. First, PTC members can contribute to "info gathering" and collecting background research on local Complete Streets examples/successes and possible funding sources. She will circulate a google doc to start collecting information. Second, PTC will plan and carry out a "PTC Roadshow" to educate key

stakeholders about PTC, including its expanded work on Complete Streets. Key stakeholders include village, town, and state boards and elected officials. Third, the subgroup proposed that they organize a data collection process, which can be presented through data visualization to help us build the case for Complete Streets. PTC members were very supportive of this idea.

5. Event planning

John and Shamala gave an update on the Earth Day event planning. The Earth Day event has been simplified to take place alongside the farmers market at Boscobel on April 23. After group discussion, PTC decided that we would host a walk, with a goal of helping make the connection for residents between environmental responsibility and our planned trail. Our plan is for participants to have two options: a nature walk led by Pete, or a walk to Constitution Marsh along a possible Philipstown Trail segment. Shamala will provide information to the Climate Smart Coordinator to include in the event promotion materials. John emphasized the need for PTC members to help with the event planning and delivery, and there was excitement from the group to get involved. Those interested in helping should reach out to John & Shamala.

6. Website update

Rebeca added the meeting agendas and minutes to the PTC website, philipstowntrails.org. Chris is looking for someone knowledgeable in WordPress who can help with other tasks to build out the website. He will post a call for talent on Philipstown locals. If anyone knows someone that has skills in WordPress, please let Rebeca and/or Chris know.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be April 19, 7-8:30pm. Agenda will include an update from the "More Trails" subgroup, and MJ Martin will provide an update on the Fjord Trail.