

PTC Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 2022
Town Hall, Main Street

Attendees: Jason Angell, Laura Bozzi, Emily May Cheadle, Trace Danicich, Jeff Mikkelson, John Pavlik, Howard Kaplowitz, James Turpin, Rebeca Ramirez, Pete Salmonsohn, Ethan Timm, Paul Thompson

Meeting began at 7:06pm.

New members

The PTC founding document describes the following process for adding new members: “Any additional members will be reviewed by the co-chairs and Town Board representative before being invited to join as a Committee member. Their addition will be noted in Committee meeting minutes.” Following this process, MJ Martin and Howard Kaplowitz are added as new PTC members.

Feasibility study update

Laura provided an update on the feasibility study mentioning that the co-chairs have had several meetings with individual landowners and organizations (some of those with Dan Biggs from Weston & Sampson). She reported back on the general themes and broad findings. An accomplishment from this phase was that everyone who we invited to meet with us, did, several via Zoom. We shared that we would keep in touch as we developed findings. Stakeholders were willing to engage with us and share their concerns as we walked through parcels with granted permission. Landowners also shared problems they were already experiencing and concerns (ecological, privacy, security, and terrain challenges) and we brainstormed ways that this project could possibly help address. They also shared plans where our interests could align; for instance, Boscobel is undergoing a master planning process to address the safety and circulation challenges with their single entrance/exit on 9D. As we walked routes, Dan reminded us to ask ourselves if this route actually meets our goals and objectives of creating “neighborhood connections.” Other meetings that will be scheduled are ones with the Open Space Institute & Manitou School. Weston & Sampson says that we should anticipate specifics on more findings in the summer and recommended that we reach out to DOT for a conversation.

Jason informed us that he has started to follow up on a recommendation from Dan to request, on behalf of the Town Board, a meeting with NY DOT.

Rebeca shared that Manitou is another organization that we can tap into to garner support. In the past they requested a crosswalk from the Town. Jason confirmed that the Town was in support at that time (several years ago). Rebeca plans on following up with leadership at Manitou on where they are with this past request and see if their traffic study could be shared with our advisory committee.

Laura shared that some concerns that we heard relate to the number of development projects underway in Philipstown, including the Fjord Trail and the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival campus. Rebeca proposed that the PTC together revisit the guiding principles because they felt a bit out of date. The Town presentation from a year ago did not include the group's close alignment with the Climate Smart Task Force or the concern of increasing carbon emissions in the Town. Laura passed out the guiding principles and asked for the group to take these and think about what was missing. The group discussion became one of several different topics, one, view of the bigger projects, two, the guiding principles, and three, how to distinguish the goals of the Philipstown Trail from larger development projects. PTC members agreed to brainstorm on Guiding Principles and the group will discuss at the May meeting.

Events Sub-Group

Shamala & John announced that they had canceled participating in Earth Day because Boscobel was already offering hikes. Their next step is that they are thinking about developing literature (brochure or postcard) about PTC so that there is a take away for future events.

More Connections Sub-Group

James reminded us of the sub-group's two goals: 1) mapping of existing trails and 2) doing an inventory of bike racks. None exist at any of the following destinations: U.S. Post Office, NY Presbyterian Medical Offices, M&T Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, Town Hall and/or Village Hall. In Cold Spring they have found a total of 5: at the end of the Main Street by the public restrooms Foodtown, the Foundry Park, Haldane Elementary School, and at Butterfield Library. In Garrison, there are two (one at Garrison Train Station and one at the Pizza Place). This group will follow up with others to see what community partners can help in addressing the need for bike racks.

James recommended that we look into a possible trail that uses the Catskill Aqueduct. It is owned by the NYC Department of Environmental Conservation and provides water supply for the City. He asked at what stage we would be able to make informal contacts to look at another way to make trails by the Aqueduct. An additional connection that the group is thinking of is the low hanging fruit: a trail from Haldane School to Little Stony Point.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Notes taken by Rebeca Ramirez