

Philipstown Trails Committee Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2022
Philipstown Town Hall

In attendance:

Jason Angell (Town Board Liaison), Laura Bozzi (PTC Co-Chair), Emily May Cheadle, MJ Martin, Rebeca Ramirez (PTC Co-Chair), Chris Sandlund, Pete Salmansohn, Paul Thompson

Discussion items:

1. Group Share. Rebeca Ramirez introduced a new practice of sharing a recent experience hiking, walking, or biking around the Town of Philipstown and surrounding area. Group members shared recent experiences at Breakneck Ridge, stewarding sections of Washburn Trail, visiting Minnewaska State Park Preserve, discovering a new trail through the Cold Spring Cemetery and Manitou Preserve.
2. Revisiting PTC role and scope of work. Laura Bozzi reminded group members that the primary charge of the PTC as an Advisory Committee to the Town of Philipstown is to oversee the Hudson Valley Greenways feasibility study of alternatives for the development of a multi-purpose biking and walking path connecting Cold-Spring to Garrison and secondarily to advise the Town Board on related Complete Streets policy. There was general consensus that the PTC should remain focused on this scope of work and avoid delving into tangential issues that might lead to a loss of group unity.

Rebeca Ramirez and Paul Thompson led the group through a discussion and review of newly drafted PTC "Guiding Principles" related to Neighborhood Connections and Collaborations, Equitable and Complete Streets, Environmental Responsibility, and Build Upon Assets. While there was a request to change a type, all present supported the Guiding Principles. The PTC will present to the full committee at the August meeting for consensus.

3. Feasibility Study Update. Jason Angell provided an update of a recent PTC call with Department of Transportation (DOT) - Region 8 staff members, which included DOT staff Bill LaRose, Vincent Grella, Moe Islam, Lisa Mondello, Lee Zimmer and PTC feasibility study team members Jason Angell, Dan Biggs, Laura Bozzi, Marianne Sullivan and Rebeca Ramirez. Ernest S. Klepeis, Deputy Chief of Staff and District Director for US Representative Sean Patrick Maloney, also joined the call.

The good news from the meeting is that while Lee Zimmer, DOT-Region 8's Acting Regional Traffic Engineer, said that the DOT could not fund the development of a multi-purpose biking and walking trail in the DOT's right of way along the Rt. 9D corridor, they would permit it as it was a key recommendation from the DOT's 2006 Rt. 9D Corridor Management Plan. The PTC project team also gained valuable information on how to access DOT records related to the Rt. 9D corridor that might be helpful to the

feasibility study. A good line of communication was opened with DOT, with Lee Zimmer recognized as the primary point of contact going forward.

Laura Bozzi discussed the need for a PTC Feasibility Study subcommittee to address the expanding workload as the study progresses. Elements of this work include investigating property lines along Rt. 9D to establish DOT right of way, exploring future funding streams, organizing upcoming meetings with Rt. 9D corridor property owners, and public sharing sessions on purpose of PTC and the feasibility study. PTC members Paul Thompson, Chris Sandlund, Jason Angell, Emily May Cheadle, Laura Bozzi and Rebeca Ramirez volunteered to join the feasibility subcommittee.

Finally Jason Angell discussed the potential of a PTC update to the Town of Philipstown Board. Laura Bozzi and Rebeca Ramirez agreed that a brief PTC committee update at an upcoming Town Board meeting, followed by a dedicated public workshop to report on feasibility study results down the road was a good approach.

4. Manitou School crosswalk. Rebeca Ramirez reported on Manitou School's efforts to get a crosswalk outside the school's entrance across Rt. 9D to improve student safety. It was determined that more information was needed from Manitou about the exact location and purpose of the crosswalk.
5. Other. Laura Bozzi reported that the PTC has made a good contact with the Open Space Institute (OSI) regarding OSI's project to upgrade the trail running between Garrison-Metro North and the Philipstown Recreation Center, which furthers the mission of the PTC's connector trail. The Group agreed to get advice on approach to additional property owners along Rt. 9D.
6. Chris Sandlund volunteered to write up minutes for the August meeting.

Meeting adjourned, 8:30pm.