

Philipstown Trails Committee Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 7pm
Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street

Attendees: Jason Angell, Emily May Cheadle, Trace Danicich, Howard Kaplowitz, John Pavlik, Shamala Kandiah Thompson, Paul Thompson, Rebeca Ramirez, Johanna Rheinhardt

Meeting start time: 7:03 pm

Rebeca began the meeting and welcomed first time attendee, Johanna Rheinhardt.

Timesheets/Grant

Rebeca discussed the importance of timesheets reminding the members that grant requires a match of \$37,216.65 in hours. She handed out 2021 & 2022 timesheets and reminded folks to add their meetings to the google sheets because these count towards the required 535 general hours and keeps us in compliance. For those PTC members with special roles (Website Developer, GIS Specialist, Legal Research, Communications), we need to be able to see in the notes what is general time and what is “specialized” time.

PTC Roots & History

Jason provided a history of how PTC came into existence. In 2017, there was the Philipstown Community Congress. A survey was taken for the top priorities for the community. Of the 750 surveys returned, the #1 priority was making the town more bikeable and walkable. Out of that survey, PTC was formed in 2018. A grant was provided from Hudson Valley Greenway for a feasibility study in 2021.

Rebeca also shared that she and Laura are thinking about how to use the website to be transparent about efforts. They are talking about the possibility of recording and posting sessions, mainly for the purpose of keeping the community up to date.

9D Parent Pedestrian Safety Survey

John shared the results of the survey and next steps. At the time of the meeting there were 194 responses from the parents from the following schools: Haldane: 124, Garrison: 38, Manitou: 10, and 22 from St. Philips, Foundry and Nest, together. Results can be found in the upcoming press release. One idea shared for safer streets was enforcement of speed limits and sidewalk from Fair Street to Little Stony Point. We received over 50 email addresses of parents wanting to volunteer. Rebeca asked if anyone was interested in volunteering to start putting together our first email newsletter before our first Community Meeting.

Community Engagement Plan & Timeline

Rebeca shared the Community Engagement Plan, the dates of calendar meetings, and details of outreach.

- October 13 - Cold Spring Village Board Workshop (Purpose of workshop: Feedback on the Community Engagement Plan)
- October 17 - *Neighbors & Adjoiners* Meeting in Cold Spring at St. Mary's Church
- November 1 - *Neighbors & Adjoiners* Meeting in Garrison at Desmond-Fish Library
- November 10 - Full Community Meeting in November, date TBA
- November TBA - Cold Spring Location TBA
- January - TBA

Daniel Biggs from Weston and Sampson will be present for all meetings/presentations.

Rebeca asked PTC members if they could start sharing meeting dates with friends and acquaintances as well as those neighbors that you may have known from our contact list. Rebeca asked for help with RSVP management of the meetings.

Feasibility Study Update & Discussion

Rebeca reported that there was an amendment to the Feasibility Study scope of work and agreement with Weston & Sampson. Weston & Sampson will be working with us on the community engagement portion. This amendment utilizes otherwise unused funding from the Greenway grant. Rebeca also provided an update on the recent meetings. She and Laura met again with Boscobel and with Saint Basil Academy to share an update on the routes that look most feasible. They have also reached out to Scenic Hudson. Upcoming meetings are with NYS Parks, Hudson Highlands Land Trust and Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary.

Alignments

Comments from committee members were shared for each phase. There was broad consensus around recommended alignments in Phase B, C, and D. A large majority of the group agreed with the path ending near Bank St. (letting Cold Spring residents to find their preferred way there) and the Philipstown Recreation Center.

Area A - Cold Spring

At the top of the meeting there were some members in favor of route option A1 - West Point Foundry Preserve and others in favor of A2 Main Street and Chestnut Street (however at the end of the meeting the majority of those present were in favor of A2 after collective discussion of the pros and cons.

Area B - Route 9D Corridor North

There was a consensus among attendees that route option B1 through Boscobel and on Indian Brook Road was the favored route option for the master plan if the community is in support.

Area C

There was a consensus that C1 was the favored option for those present.

Area D -

Garrison D2 and D4 will be along the west side of 9D.

The question of the trail termini was discussed; especially where it should start in Cold Spring. One idea is near Bank Street and another is near the Putnam History Museum.

Other

Additional comments were shared on the importance of listening to the upcoming community feedback, studying the options, and recommendations to provide visuals at meetings. Two members felt that it should be called a “study of options” versus a feasibility study.

Jason suggested a dry run of the community meeting and creating a fact sheet for the meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.