

**Philipstown Trails Committee**  
**November 15, 7-8:30PM**  
**Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY**

**Meeting began at 7:02 pm.**

**1. Welcome & introduction of visitors and new members**

Present:

- PTC Members: Rebeca Ramirez, Laura Bozzi, Marianne Sullivan, Howard Kapowitz, Jason Angell, Jennifer Wagner, John Pavlik, MJ Martin, James Turpin, Paul Thompson
- Community members: Lauren de la Vega, Frank deAngelis, Dell Carlin, Irene Carlin

Community members raised some project concerns as the meeting began. These points of feedback included:

- Reservations about a potential path on the east side of 9D
- Concern about safety related to high speeds of vehicles (upwards of 40 mph)
- Concern about what would happen when 9D is plowed: where will the snow be dumped?
- Concern about the stone entry at a person's property. This is the reason that the property owner purchased the property. It would hurt to see that altered.
- Safety is the factor of concern. People using the path would need to cross their driveway. As car drivers they already have trouble exiting their property, they have a hard time navigating the exit with speeding vehicles.
- Regarding children connecting to Desmond Fish Library: could they perhaps take the long hill around?
- Concern about the consideration of a sidewalk on 9D.

Rebeca opened the meeting with a comment that while we would follow our agenda, we would first allow those who are attending from the community to share for approximately 10 minutes before starting with the agenda items.

Lauren expressed interest in joining PTC due to wanting to use a path as a walker and a runner and safety concerns. She explained that she is a fire department volunteer and aware of accidents on 9-D.

Dell raised a question about right-of-way identification.

Rebeca noted we are very early in the process so we are just talking conceptually.

Jason reviewed where we are in the process, which is to identify route alternatives so that - in a subsequent study - a consultant can identify where the right-of-way exists to see if it is possible to build a multipurpose path within the right-of-way. The feasibility study that is now underway will not identify the exact right-of-way on 9D.

Rebeca reminded us that the maps shown at the meeting are made using GIS, which is not exact. We do not know exactly where the right-of-way is on 9D as it varies and moves along the roadway.

Other concerns raised:

Safety, possible accidents

Crime

Rock walls

Cost

Timeline and where we are in the process

Phasing

Accurate and consistent messaging and communication

Making sure all property owners are included

Utility poles

Liability

PTC members emphasized that feasibility is the first step in the process, nothing has been decided, we are years away from a path.

## 2. Debrief on Community Meeting (15 min)

Rebeca suggested we go around and debrief the most recent community meeting (on November 10), and to have each person suggest something positive and something to work on from the meeting.

Positives	Things to work on
Recruitment and turnout	Not enough time for the section breakouts
Many questions and comments	Need more time for discussion
Good engagement	Get temperature of how most people feel
Inspiring	Give more detail about the steps in the process
Good one-on-one conversations, substantive feedback	More time for comments
Wide age spectrum represented	Mis-perception that the path would only be for children
Interest from families	Time pressure, couldn't respond to everything, many letters were returned, could address that
Good to have PTC members involved in	Need to be able to make sure presentation is

presentation	understood
	More discussion of scenarios in which people would use this, put people in shoes of actual usage
	Confusion over whether this is a trail or sidewalk and the materials that would be used
	Precision in communication
	Be prepared to answer questions about right-of-way

### 3. Planning Next Steps (15 min)

Next steps:

Brainstorm list of things for Dan to address in Town Board workshop presentation:

- what does the second stage look like,
- what does it cost,
- what could happen afterwards.
- resources for recurring questions that come up when new paths are considered, e.g. liability, safety, cost, etc.

Recommendations for Town Board workshop

- have stations and sufficient time for people to interact with them
- include people in Nelsonville
- do outreach, Philipstown Town email list is not large enough
- explain next steps clearly
- include a summary of community feedback

Volunteers to have one-on-one conversations with residents who approach us:

- Howard volunteered
- Role is to listen to people and write down the feedback

What is the next step with the Town after we do the study?

Jason noted that if the next step is to go after another grant under the auspices of the Town, there would probably need to be a resolution. We will check the MOU with the Town to see what other formal steps are required, if any.

Laura will reach out to Dan with questions about the process & feedback, and how that gets incorporated into the study. Most likely—we will analyze any data that we have collected at the meetings and through surveys and include it with the final feasibility report as an appendix.

## Tasks

- John will analyze the open ended responses from the parent survey and John and Rebeca will update the findings from the parent survey
- Trace has already compiled feedback forms
- Community-wide survey—we agree this is important and we will need to do this down the road. We will need to be careful to make sure it gets disseminated widely and we get a good response rate. It is important to get feedback from different age groups in the community. Jason, MJ and Paul volunteered to work on the survey.
- MJ volunteered to help synthesize the community feedback data.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.