

Philipstown Trails Committee
AGENDA
April 18, 7-8:30PM
Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY

PTC Members: Jason Angell, Laura Bozzi, Emily May Cheadle, Howard Kaplowitz, John Pavlik, Rebeca Ramirez, Shamala Kandiah Thompson, Paul Thompson, James Turmin

Public in attendance:
Samara Mormar

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm. Introduction of guests.

1. Welcome

2. Earth Day Event Update

Rebeca shared that PTC will be involved in the Philipstown Earth Day Fair at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare on Saturday, April 22. The organizing of the event happened quickly when a few members showed interest and Rebeca apologized that she was only recently able to inform everyone via email. She sent an email out as soon as she had all the details in place. John, Howard, Pete, Paul, Emily & Jennifer will be present to help man the table and lead the hikes. Hikes will start at 11 am. Anyone else who can help volunteer that day reach out to Jennifer Wagner. Rebeca will speak to Jennifer about a sign with a meeting place and Paul will send a draft of text to send to the group of parents that recently took our survey. John will send the communications out to the parents list. Rebeca will ask Jennifer for a flier, an email sign up list, and a map of the Philipstown Path, and possibly the 1st phase that is being recommended.

1. Feasibility Study Update

Laura shared that the study is still in the hands of Weston & Sampson and that they are still making some edits. Once it is finalized Jason will relay it to the Town Board for review. On May 4th, we will ask the Town to acknowledge that the study is complete and accept the findings in the study by adopting it and after this PTC will submit the material to Hudson River Valley Greenway. We must still discuss dissemination and how to get information back to the community. Sammara (member of the public) asked what routes are being recommended and Laura responded that the committee is only recommending the 1st phase of the path which goes from Cold Spring to Boscobel.

2. Members Update & Committee Leadership

Rebeca announced that Emily May Cheadle would replace Laura Bozzi as the next Co-Chair (after the study is adopted by the Town) and that Paul Thompson & Lauren de la Vega would be assisting as the communications team. She also

shared that the following members had stepped down: Chris Sandlund, Jenny Kempson, and Jillian Mincer. She reminded members that it was a good time to build our membership and cultivate new members.

3. Summer Break

Rebeca revisited the Idea of summer break for the committee. She asked members how they would feel about taking June - August off. Howard voiced that he felt every other month was a good idea. John was in favor of taking the summer months off, saying that it would help bring in new ideas, fresh events and energy. Jason reminded members that in the past we have taken the summer off or two months off. Last year we took off in July & August. Samara shared that it would be a good time to be proactive during summer and share our information on our website, in papers, and at meetings regarding our study. Laura agreed and mentioned that we might want to plan out the feasibility study information roll out on the 1st segment during the summer. Lastly, Laura mentioned that there is a Federal grant on Safe Streets where municipalities are able to apply directly. She shared that she would send it out to the committee to consider. Rebeca said that if we took the summer break, we could still consider a group of us working on the seeking of grants and study follow up.

4. 2023-24 Planning Workshop

Rebeca conducted a workshop asking members the question: "What are the Top Priorities for 2023-24?." The top priorities that the group listed were:

- Funding for the Philipstown Path (1st phase of project)
- Design Phase for the 1st Segment
- Updating Key Stakeholders on Study (DOT, Boscobel, Saint Basil Academy, Audubon Society at Constitution Marsh, Philipstown Rec, Residents, Indian Brook residents, senior groups, partners of other segments, Firehouse, Town & Villages).
- Meeting with Elected Officials on future funding
- Outreach (to people that do not know about the project)
- Cultivating New Members & growing our committee
- Following Up on Complete Street Efforts

Jason suggested holding a "design phase discussion" or a first segment work plan to speak about presteps, gaps of information, and what it would take to work on the design phase. Rebeca will follow up with Jason on what that looks like.

5. Public Comment Session (10 min)

Samara shared that she was a resident that lived on Indian Brook Road and that she had heard about our work from our neighbors so she decided to attend our meeting and get informed about our plans. She said that she wanted to know what the possibilities were. She also wanted us to know that her neighbors do not

speak for her and that she has her own experience. She raised a son in the home on Indian Brook and she would have loved to see him be able to walk to school and she would love there to be options for future children of this neighborhood. She added that she would like to keep an open mind and know more about the project. Lastly she shared a little history on what it was like to live on Indian Road during Covid and shared that “for anyone who lived on the road it was an onslaught and a dramatic change into everyone’s lives. “The path has to be done with some consideration and safety in mind. There are two blind turns, a lot of traffic kicking dust, there is no shoulder and it is too narrow for cars. I’m gonna grow old here and I would like to walk to town. I would like to know what do people whose job it is to think about safety think about this?”

6. Meeting ended at 8:17 pm.