



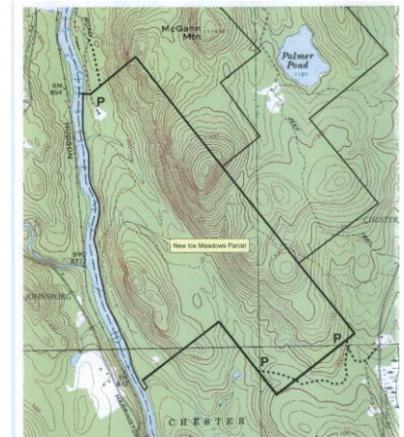
Town of Chester Townwide Recreation Plan Project Advisory Committee Meeting Notes - April 30, 2014

In Attendance: Fred Monroe, Bernie McCann, Don Butler, Craig Leggett, Barbara Thomas, Curtis Austin, Don Butler, Mike McClure, Greg Beckler, Ed Griesmer, Mindy Conway, Wayne LaMothe, Tracey Clothier, and Mary Jean Packer.

1. Introductions of Attendees
 - a. Mary Jean Parker is assisting the committee with a comprehensive trail signage plan and planning for public participation.
2. Report on interviews with community partners
 - a. North Warren School: Juniors and seniors from Bernie McCann’s classes contributed their ideas particularly for a safe path from the school to the Dynamite Hill park. They also noted the potential to improve the nature trail behind the school. Their comments are incorporated in the attached Needs and Opportunities chart;

- b. Tri-Lakes Business Alliance: team up with the Chamber to do mutually beneficial things like the digital sign; guests at Panther Mountain Inn are interested in family hiking and biking trips; popular slow family ATV ride planned from Tin Teepee in Brant Lake to Green Mansions – has very good community buy-in.

- c. DEC: trails and one or more public access points are being planned for the 727-acre “Ice Meadow Tract” along the Hudson River. 2 deeded right-of-ways could potentially provide access and there are a number of logging trails that could be part of a trail system. A public hearing on potential access points is scheduled for May 13. APA will need to classify the parcel but it will likely be “Wild Forest” (see map).



The lower and nearly adjacent Lake George Wild Forest parcel is currently undeveloped but has excellent potential for trails. DEC is looking for ideas for this site.

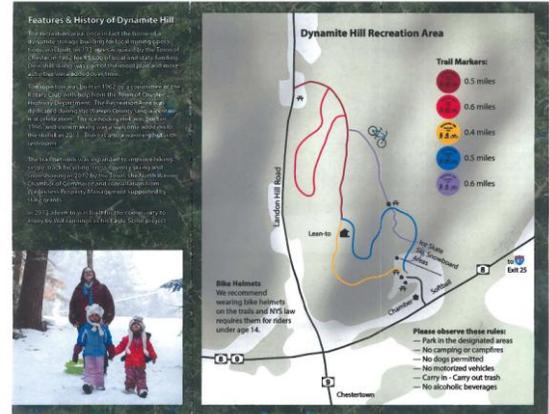
- d. The North Country National Scenic Trail will span thousands of miles across the US. It is planned to drop south into North Creek Train Station, continue across the Hudson River and northeast to Crown Point. It will likely pass through the northwest corner of Chester and will need connections with easements across private lands. DEC is the contact and will keep us informed of progress.



This project is funded through the New York State Department of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

e. Chester Recreation Department: Mindy Conway reported that the town currently shares the field behind the school for soccer and baseball. There are often conflicts with this and the Word of Life sites. A site for a combined soccer and Little League field has been explored on Route 9 on the south side of the cemetery and some fund raising established. A playground is recommended for this site because it is where parents with children congregate on a regular basis.

f. North Warren Chamber of Commerce and Dynamite Hill: Youth Commission is raising money for the replacement of the 1962 rope tow with a Mighty Might handle tow. Benches and bike racks are also needed at the site. The upper parking area and the path to the trail system should be paved. A playground should be considered in this location since it is very well utilized by families all times during the year and is clearly visible from the main road for visitors.



g. Glens Falls Hospital program: Creating Healthy Places 2 Live, Work and Play (CHP2LWP) *Healthy Community Mapping Project* focuses on increasing opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating only in the hamlet of Chestertown. CHP2LWP mapping project identifies healthy community assets that already exist: recreation, complete streets, and access to food. A report based on these findings: maps, assessments, stake-holder interviews, and recommendations will be provided to the town and school boards in October. This report will be used to help create a plan that will expand the current network of assets to build a community that supports healthy behaviors. The Chester Recreation Plan may also help in supporting these recommendations in Chestertown. Chestertown and the North Warren School District will receive a total of \$25,000 in funding to create a model healthy community for it's residents. Some examples of the items that could be purchase to make these improvements are new bike racks, benches, playground equipment, exercise equipment for adults, landscaping and improving access to healthy food in targeted locations within Chestertown.

3. Needs and Opportunities

- a. Seven distinctive “planning areas” were established to help bring focus to the planning process. In addition, potential connector trail routes were identified. Needs and opportunities were discussed for each of the 7 areas. See attached chart for notes. Full size maps will be available for the next meeting.
- b. The outlined needs and opportunities will be advanced to map stage for the next meeting. The emphasis will focus on the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor goals of improving access to the Hudson River and enhancing connections between the river, the scenic rail line and the hamlets.
- c. Recreational standards were researched to determine the recreational needs for the Town. While the Town of Chester has a 2010 year round population of 3,355, the population during the

summer months is considerably higher. The standard for determining the amount of playground space for the community is based on 1.25 acres per 1,000 population. The amount of space needed in Chester is estimated at 5 acres. Considering the small playground in Pottersville and playground at the North Warren School, together would be no more than one-half acre. The Town is therefore carrying a deficit of 4.5 acres for playground space.

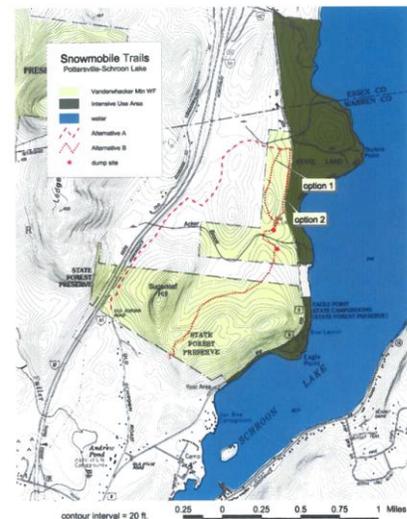
d. Identification of additional recreational facilities:

- i. Greg Beckler outlined the resources at Natural Stone Bridge and Caves. This private business may be opening up its trails during the summer to hikers and constructing specific trails for mountain biking. They should be considered for inclusion into the overall trails map.



- ii. Potential trails for hikers and snowmobilers are under consideration in Vanderwhacker Wild Forest Area adjacent to Scaroon Manor. Trail connections between public lands are also under consideration. DEC is looking for input regarding the use of these lands.

- iii. Sullivan Pond is for sale and there may be the potential for it to be either purchased or gifted to the town. It would protect the Friends Lake watershed and provide multiple recreational benefits.



4. Public Participation Planning

- a. Public participation will be multi-layered so as to reach the different potential four-season recreational users. A poster exhibit will be developed for use at a variety of venues where the public will congregate. This will include:

- i. The Farmers Markets on June 18 and 25th, and “Summerfest” to be held on July 5th. The recreation commission will be the host the displays;
- ii. Stand-alone exhibits at the Library and Chamber;
- iii. A project newsletter to be posted on the Town website, and e-blasted by the Loon Lake Association, Chamber of Commerce, Tri-Lakes Business Alliance, and others. Links to more information would be available from the individual websites;
- iv. Facebook page for online link to updates for visitors and residents;
- v. News releases

5. Next Steps

- Tracey is to speak to Tri-Lakes Business Alliance on May 16

- Next meeting date for the Committee is scheduled for: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 @ 3:30pm

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