

**Cattaraugus County Trails System Advisory Committee**  
**February 23, 2019**  
**County Center, Little Valley, NY**

**Present:**

Rick LaFeber, Veronica Weber, Gail Bartas, David Paradowski, Pauline Burnes, Jon Sunquist, Tom Livak, Nicole Juda,

**Cattaraugus County Dept. of Economic Development, Planning & Tourism staff:**

Crystal Abers, Kate O'Stricker, Samantha Hayes

**1) Local Trail Updates:**

**Finger lakes Trail and Conservation trail:** Quinn Wright - email

- reported through email building a lean to in honor of the founders of the Finger Lakes Trails on the Little Rock State Forest
- All of their trails are GIS'd. Will need to go through their protocol for how to do that.
- They are excited about the signage

**Chautauqua County Equine:** Melissa Whittington – by phone

- Their trails are having issues with logging. Lost a lot of access to windmills and the logging.
- They are looking for funding for major improvements on trails that they have. They also need \$50,000 to move portions of the trails that needed to be moved due to the logging

**Pennsy Trail:** Sandi Brundage report by phone

- Still moving forward. They are working to have the trail open this year.

**Allegheny Trail Incorporated:** Bill Dibble- by email

- Has gained ownership to a considerable number of miles of the former Pittsburg, Shawmut and Northern Railroad Company property in New York State. The bed went from Olean East thru Weston Mills, Portville.

**Pat McGee Trail:** Rick Lafeber

- In the process of selling the Pat McGee trail. Has found a very good steward

**Erie Catt Rail Trail: Rick Lafeber:**

- Has receive a lease for the railroad bed for the management and construction of the trail from Orchard Park to West Valley over Zoar- to the trestle.
- Take a look at the Kinzua Sky Walk, this is what the Erie Catt trail would like to do at Zoar Valley.
- Sky walk would be 390 feet over Zoar with a glass floor. Most expensive part of the trail.
- Funding Sources are being contacted and friend's meetings have been contacted to help. Will be built in 5-10 years.
- It is the hope that this is a feeder trail to the NYS Empire Trail
- Ralph Wilson Foundation has been contacted to help connect all of the trails.
- Need to work together to connecting the other trails for regional connectivity.

- Need to have grass roots efforts to help get these trails build.
- Looking for Cattaraugus County to write a letter of support for the building of the trail.

**Allegany County Improvement of Horse Trails:** Pauline Burnes

- Working on the three equine trails they currently have
- Working with the NYS DEC on the State Forest
- Need to get volunteer program together with Steward Agreements to work on the trails. Allegany Saddle Dusters have signed the Steward agreement
- Scope out the work needed on the trail, potential hazards
- Need to get the 501©3 for not for profit status

**Pine Hill, South Valley and Pineapple Junction:** Barney

- Has been able to connect their trails and they were able to get the trail to the reservoir.
- Using Haul roads as the connectors
- They are working on maintenance issues

**Allegany State Park Tom Patrick**

- Working on maintenance issues on the trails, with the wind events that have happened over the winter, clearing a lot.
- Groomers are ready when
- Working through the design phase of a couple Recreational Trail Programs currently with the Mountain bike group;
- Working on trail surfaces, bridges, ditching and maintenance of their hundreds of miles of trail.
- Taking lean to's off the Finger Lakes Trails portion that are run down and install new Christian Hollow Lean to.
- Volunteer Program recruitment and retention

**Allegany River Trail:** Bob Fischer

- Steam Valley Boat Launch
- Working on a Trail on the dike from center of Portville to Steam Valley where the boat launch is.
- People already use it as a trail, but would like to make it official, gravel, signage
- Blue trail has stalled a bit. Need a secondary boat launch at Route 305.
- Behind sewage treatment plan there is a beautiful area where Dodge Creek meets the Allegany river- could be place to have porta johns and picnic tables.
- Friends of Portville has gotten their 501© 3 Not for profit so they can apply for grants.
- They will be building a foot bridge at Liman Baker Park to connect walkway

**Pfeifer Nature Center:**

- Need signage where the trail connects on Route 305
- Need picnic tables for Fire Side Chats
- Seneca Nation has been contacted to do educational sessions

**Western NY Mountain Bike Association:** Jon Sunquist

- Working with DEC and the State Park on maintenance and new construction in the State Park.
- RTP Grants have gone in for and was funded for Stone Tower area;

- Their VSA is up for renewal.

**DEC:**

- VSA's are not covered with Liability like individuals are. Will be explained with the need VSA Form
- When new form is developed, the trail groups will have received them.
- Current Unit Management Plan that they are working under included Zoar Valley and East Otto
- There are no trails in East Otto, but there are trails on the Zoar property.
- There are no volunteers and have not been adopted. Need to get a group to maintain them
- Need more signs and close off some of the paths that are risky.
- Working on a by-pass for the Valentine Flats trail. A lot of trees down, damage, soil slippage.
- Will by-pass it through the black walnut plantation.

**EVGV: Kate O'Stricker**

- Break Ground on Ellicottville Town Center to Tim Hortons
- Small piece from village park to Elks Creek, around Sprague property to Elizabeth Street

**ARC Funding:**

Executive Summary of County Wide Plan was given out to members: can be downloaded at [www.cattco.org/trails](http://www.cattco.org/trails)

- The County Wide Trail System Plan determine the feasibility of connecting existing trails within and beyond Cattaraugus County, identify potential trail corridors, and recommended trail improvements and potential new trails.
- From the data gathered, we found that our biggest barrier that prevents people from accessing the trail network is:
  - Lack of information/ mapping (50% of respondents) followed by
  - Lack of signage (29 %)

Respondents were asked what their top three most important improvements to the trail system would be:

- 1) 60% responded with Better Mapping and more information available about trails:
- 2) 37% Filling the gaps and connections to other trails:
- 3) 27 % responded that there needs to be an improvement in signage

2019 ARC application is based on the priority projects that were determined to be the most important recommendations in the County Wide trail Plan;

**1 Component) Comprehensive Mapping System and Access Points:**

- Cattaraugus County has organized many sets of trail data to create a SINGLE layer of data that included all trails in the County. Since it is shown as one layer, it gives the impression all of the trails are for ONE User Group.
- The trail mapping project will allow us to GIS all of the trails in the county and build multiple layers for each user group: creating the Comprehensive Mapping system.

The system will also allow users to identify routes, identify access points, see the difficulty level and search by allowed user types. The system will also show nearby destinations, amenities and points of interest.

- Identifying access points and adding the data to the GIS System will make it easier to locate our trail system.
- As part of the mapping activities the Cattaraugus County's On-line Trail Viewer will be updated to reflect the most current data and added to the downloadable Cattaraugus County GIS Map Viewer App.
- Incorporating the trail viewer into this application will allow trail users on-the-go in depth information about every trail in the Cattaraugus County System.

- 2) Signage: Clear signage is needed to make the Cattaraugus County Trail system more user friendly and accessible for all. Currently there is no consistent trail signage system. A signage system will be developed using consistent colors, graphics and materials. This will improve wayfinding, while raising awareness that the individual trails are a part of a larger County Wide system. This will encourage users to explore other trails with in Cattaraugus County.

**The system will include:**

- **trail identification**
- **trail access points**
- **directional signs**
- **wayfinding**
- **Trail difficulty,**
- **distances to popular destinations**
- **adjacent communities**
- **points of interest and local businesses**

**Discussion:**

**Universal Signage:** Is there a universal signage? ASP has developed their own, they also have kiosk, QR codes, etc.

- State Forest uses DEC- Dark Brown and Yellow lettering.
- WNYMBA has maps that they sell
- App that exists already- REI currently has the APP that may be of use.
- It is up to the trail associations to submit the changes
- Issue may be that "paper" maps are used as a way to fundraise for trail systems.
- Pat McGee trail costs \$65,000. Mass production with standardized parts would work best. Such as the state and ASP can carry these from one place to another.
- Use universal symbols- Symbol, Name, Number, as much information as possible.
- Concrete markers are along Pat McGee trails, people like the mile markers as well and can be used for Emergency services

**Access Points**

- Need to have trail head, map kiosks, parking
- Rule signs at access points with contact information

- Snowmobile trails- junctions there are information and coordinates on the sign.

**Concerns with the Project:**

- Accuracy, up to date trails
- Make sure the “future trails” are not included
- DEC have trails already GIS’d, so we need to make sure we are not overlapping
- Projections need to talk to each other
- Access Issues with Logging and Windmills, can the contractors actually pay for the moving of the trails? Utilities have to make arrangements on state lands.

**Announcement:**

American Trails- International Trails Conference will be in Syracuse from April 28-May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Upcoming Meetings: May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at 7PM County Center Little Valley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Large Committee Room