

**Town Board Meeting Special Meeting**

**May 24, 2021**

**7:00 p.m.**

Remote Meeting via [www.zoom.com](https://www.zoom.com) ( id #8281 574 2510 password #168410)

**Present:** Supervisor Aaron, Councilor Tucker, Councilor McCormack, Councilor Alexander, Councilor Legg, Attorney Smith

**Also, Present:** Bridgett Winkelman, Karen Barkdull, Marty Cregg, Sue Murphy, Miranda Robinson,

**Presentation by Marty Cregg – Skaneateles Trail Concept:** Marty Cregg presented to the Board the idea of a community-wide trail system to enhance the living experience in Skaneateles.

Mr. Cregg gave some history to the Board. He stated he had been working with many committee members, the Town staff, and various agencies on the Eastern gateway project since its inception in 2016, taking the original recommendations and working with many entities to see how much could be accomplished. He reviewed the work that had done on the Eastern Gateway Project. A lot of the vision of this project was for safety with sidewalks and bike paths.

Mr. Cregg stated there are two drivers for this discussion: NYS Route 20 project to mill and repave the roadway. The project involved the Eastern Gateway and other projects through the SMTC, NYSDOT and the Onondaga County Planning Agencies and RAISE Grants – Availability of federal funds for Rebuild American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE).

Working with the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council and the Department of Transportation they realized the Route 20 project drew focus on bicycle safety, pedestrian walking and where the trails and sidewalks are going to. They then realized they were working on a piece of a concept, and the total picture includes many pieces. There could be a bigger opportunity for a system instead of pieces. What if you could use the bicycle and e-bike facilities in the community to confidently replace conventional Internal Combustion Engines powered vehicles to accomplish many of your local travel needs and what if we greeted visitors as a model community helping to foster success for sustainable transportation, safety, and forethought. When they put all these pieces together the concept of a “Skaneateles Community Trail System” came as an idea to enhance the living experience in Skaneateles. There are a lot of trails already in the community but not connected, this system would connect the trail system. They stated trails that appeal to families with young children are the most used.

Mr. Cregg reviewed the bigger picture of exploring a community system of paths and trails creating an expanded resource for the community. They want to emphasis on safe travel for a family with young children as a test of safety and a major benefit is health and access to the outdoors. He also noted the global focus on discontinuing internal combustion engines (ICE’s).

Mr. Cregg reviewed other communities that had created this type of trail infrastructure. Places such as: Ithaca and Lake Placid. Mr. Cregg reviewed the existing trails in Skaneateles and how they could be connected such as the trails in Ithaca.

Mr. Cregg stated when he thought of this concept he reached out to members of community; scouts, families, bicyclists, and farmers with land that could be used as pathways and asked if they would be in support of this biking and walking trail system idea such. He stated his takeaway is we have a lot of opportunities that have not turned into anything and could. He reviewed the Conservation Areas and the school and the possibilities of connecting these trails to each other and trails outside of the Town, giving an example of how the Conservation Area could connect to Baltimore Woods.

Mr. Cregg stated in order to try and access funds to help a project like this along the Town could apply for RAISE Funding. This is grants that are available with federal funds to Rebuild American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity. This funding would have to be applied for by July 12, 2021. He would also like to coordinate with the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council in addition to the RAISE Funding.

Mr. Cregg stated the Town would have to work quickly to apply for the RAISE funding and this meeting is to review the possibility with the Town Board. He stated the funding for this project is going to have to come from multiple sources and will take time, the RAISE Funding would be only one component.

Mr. Cregg reviewed the requirements for the RAISE Funding:

- Safety
- Environmental sustainability
- Innovation
- Partnership
- And.
- Reduce the impact of climate change.
- Deliver good paying jobs.
- Racial Equity

Mr. Cregg stated this needs to be a community effort to plan, fund and implement the trail system. We should reach out to the community to get input as to what the community thinks we need.

Mr. Cregg stated what we do not get from RAISE or State DOT paving projects we should attract funds from within the community.

Mr. Cregg asked the Board if they would be in support of the Town apply for RAISE Funding to support this project.

Councilor Legg stated he had spent a lot of time working on the Rails-to-Trails committee and there needs to be clear communication identifying what the project is and community input. The previous committee was not successful with the proposed Rails-to-Trail's project. He loved this idea, and it should be explored. Councilor Legg reviewed some of the trail opportunities in the Town.

Supervisor Aaron stated Councilor Legg's work with the Rails-to-Trail Committee and the opposition they had from Mottville and Skaneateles Falls would be a help to Marty Cregg since he has been down this road before.

Marty Cregg stated he was involved with the building of the Community Center and is also familiar with the public issues that can arise. He stated he is an advocate to all and wants to hear, the issues of all those involved, good and bad.

Supervisor Aaron stated the Board is excited about this project. Mr. Cregg stated he would like to present this to the village as well and have it been a joint effort.

Councilor Tucker stated this is something the Planning Board has talked about for years, having trails and paths throughout the Town and even around the lake. He stated he is in support of the project.

Mr. Cregg stated the application to apply deadline is July 12<sup>th</sup>. The funding is a multi-year funding procedure. He thinks applying for the RAISE Funding is one step to help fund this project.

Supervisor Aaron stated if the Board is agreeable the Board could agree to have on the June 7<sup>th</sup> agenda, and this would give the public an opportunity to hear about this project. Since the application deadline is soon and if the Board is agreement, they could agree tonight to begin the process to apply for the RAISE Funding. The Budget Office could submit the grant application with support from other departments. Marty Cregg stated he would help in the grant application process as well.

The Board agreed to have Marty Cregg present this at the June 7<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting and to begin the process of applying for the RAISE Funding.

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (3-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:58: p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Stenger  
Town Clerk