

Dutchess County Transportation Council
Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

July 29th, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

(via Microsoft Teams)

Summary

- 1) Introductions:** Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting (see attached list). If anyone would like to be added to (or removed from) the email list, let Emily know.
- 2) Presentation:** *The [Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail](#)* – Amy Kacala, Executive Director, Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc.

Amy discussed the 2019 updated master plan for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (HHFT), a 7.5-mile trail connecting Cold Spring and Beacon. She noted the overall goals for the project, described the trail and its entry points, and explained the focus on natural materials and creating distinct landscape experiences, including family-friendly play zones. She also described the revised plan for the Breakneck Connector, which includes restrooms and gathering spaces, a steward's station, and a bridge over the train tracks. This piece of the larger project is currently at 80% design and should be built in summer 2022. The team (which includes two HHFT staff and many partners) is also working on environmental documents for the Master Plan, engineering for the Shoreline Trail, improvements to Little Stony Point, and reuse of the Dutchess Manor property to be headquarters for the HHFT organization and a visitors' center.

Mark Roland asked about the timeframe for the entire project and winter maintenance. Amy said the overall timeframe could be 7 to 9 years, and most of the trail will probably not be plowed in the winter. Kathleen Davis asked what Dutchess Manor is. Amy said it was originally a private estate, then an event venue. Its owners recently sold it to HHFT. A restaurant could be included in its future use as the HHFT headquarters and visitor's center. Emily asked about the [project website](#); Amy said it will be updated soon. Other questions related to project fundraising and economic benefits. Amy noted that they have not analyzed the economic impact of the project but that would be good to do. As for funding, they have a private donor but are also seeking grants, donations, and working with Metro-North, DEP, and other partners to find 'win-win' opportunities, such as relocating a DEP property to be more accessible and improving safety around the Breakneck Ridge train station. Emily noted that she would post Amy's presentation to the [BPAC website](#).

3) DCTC Updates/Announcements

- a. [Moving Dutchess Forward](#): Emily announced that the Transportation Council recently adopted the new countywide long-range transportation plan. The Plan includes a discussion of [barriers to walking and bicycling](#); a list of [transformative investments](#), which includes walking and bicycling improvements and several specific projects; and a

set of [best practice policies and actions](#) for the Council, the County, and local municipalities to help them improve transportation access, including walking and bicycling. She encouraged the Committee to review the Plan and accompanying [Map Viewer](#).

- b. [Arlington Main Street redesign project](#): Emily stated that this plan, which aims to redesign Main Street in Arlington as a more complete street, is done. The team is seeking funding to implement its recommendations, which include a mini-roundabout at Main St and Grand Ave to improve safety and access, marked parking to visually narrow the street, and consistent sidewalks and buffer areas.
- c. [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#): Emily noted that this project is in Phase 2, which looks at design options to make the arterials safer and better for people walking and bicycling. A virtual public meeting is planned for August. The project team will also be at National Night Out on August 3rd (see below).

4) Partner Reports/Roundtable

- a. NYSDOT:

- a) Emily introduced Steve MacAvery and Moe Islam from NYSDOT Region 8's new Active Transportation Team. Steve noted that the team is one month old and is focused on non-motorized issues, including accessibility. He is the team leader and an ADA specialist. Moe is the Ped/Bike Coordinator. Steve said he can be the main contact for the BPAC (reach out to him at steve.macavery@dot.ny.gov). Both he and Moe are on the BPAC email list.
 - i. Mike Matts asked if they are involved with the Empire State Trail, and if there is a way to have real-time information about trail conditions, such as downed trees. Steve said their team will be involved with EST issues. He will look into a way to provide information about trail conditions.
 - ii. Mary Nisley offered to take them (and anyone) on a bike ride to review issues and conditions. Steve encouraged her to reach out with any issues on State facilities.
 - iii. Michael O'Brien noted that NYSDOT is proposing a ped/bike underpass under Route 82 for the Empire State Trail in East Fishkill. Emily encouraged Steve to reach out to George CrimiVaroli at Region 8, who is managing the project.
 - iv. Emily noted that information about State projects is on the [NYSDOT projects website](#); you can filter by Dutchess County and the project status. She also encouraged the group to look at the [State Bike Route map](#).

- b. County DPW:

- a) Universal Accessibility program: DCTC is working with DPW on improvements to County roads to make them better for walking. An intersection improvement on Dutcher Ave at Henry St in the Village of Pawling was just completed; it

narrowed the intersection and improved the crosswalks. Emily is also working with DPW and a consultant to improve sidewalks and extend them along Innis Avenue between Arnold Rd and Jackman Dr (north) in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Preliminary design is underway.

- b) [Urban Trail](#): Emily described this trail, which will connect the Hudson Heritage site in Poughkeepsie with the Dutchess Rail Trail, Marist College, and other destinations in the city and town. The consultant is working on the detailed design. A survey is still available on the project website, as well as a recording of a virtual public meeting from June. The overall goal is to start construction in 2022.

- c. Traffic Safety Board:
 - a) Bill Johnson stated that he has bike helmets and a bicycle safety trailer available for events; reach out to him if you are interested (wjohnson@dutchessny.gov). He recently did several events, including bike rodeos and Bikeapalooza at the Starr Library in Rhinebeck (see below).
 - b) Emily noted that the [Watch Out For Me campaign](#) website has a number of resources, including a Resources for Educators section that includes curricula and videos to teach safe walking and bicycling to various ages.

- d. [County Transit](#): Emily noted that Transit is working on a plan that will recommend changes to the bus routes and potential new services. The findings from this plan will be coordinated with the recent [accessibility study](#), which recommended improvements at specific bus stops (shelters, access, lighting, etc). Emily encouraged the group to check out the real-time transit app (see the Transit website).

- e. Roundtable: projects/updates
 - a) Mary Nisley noted that the Dutchess Rail Trail has several large heaves due to roots under the pavement, northbound between Maloney Rd and Page Lumber, especially near Titusville Rd. Emily said she would reach out to County DPW and Parks.
 - b) Emily asked if Mark Roland had an update on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge walkway access (discussed at a previous BPAC meeting). He did not. Emily noted that the DCTC and County Planning sent letters in support of 24/7 access to the Governor's office.
 - c) Emily noted that the City of Poughkeepsie is starting an update of its Comprehensive Plan. There is an online survey that closes on 7/31—see <https://www.pk4keeps.org/>.

5) Funding, Events & Announcements

- a. [Greenway Planning, Greenway Trail, and Heritage Development Grant Applications](#) – due September 10th. For 2021, there is \$136,000 for Planning grants and \$500,000 for trail grants. There is an additional grant cycle in November.

- b. July 24th [Bikeapalooza](#) at [Starr Library](#), Rhinebeck: Bill Johnson noted that there was less turnout than hoped for, but he made a lot of bike repairs and provided helmets to a community organization that repairs and donates bikes.
- c. August 3rd [National Night Out](#) (5-8 pm, outside Poughkeepsie City Hall on Civic Center Plaza) – Emily noted that the County’s Complete Streets Committee will have a table focused on pedestrian safety (partnering with MASS Design); the Poughkeepsie 9.44.55 project team will also have a table.
- d. Upcoming bike rides include the September 18th [Roe Jan Ramble](#) and October 23rd [Discover Hudson Valley Ride](#).
- e. Kathleen Davis announced the next [Winnakee-Dutchess Trails Roundtable](#) on September 21st at 1pm via Zoom. See the link or <https://www.winnakee.org/dc-trails-roundtable/> for more information.

6) Follow-up Items

- a. Emily noted that she is still looking for a home for some of the pedestrian safety signs that were on the County buses. Let her know if you have any ideas!
- b. [County bicycle parking/bike routes map](#): Emily is working with the County’s IT department to improve this map. In the meantime, send bike rack locations (photo and description) & suggestions for improvements to the map to Emily.
- c. Send Emily ideas for future presentations and/or possible project site visits.

7) Next Meeting: October 28th, 3 pm

Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm (typically)

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Name	Organization/Municipality	Email
Emily Dozier	Dutchess County Transportation Council	edozier@dutchessny.gov
Tara Grogan	Dutchess County Transportation Council	tgrogan@dutchessny.gov
Amy Kacala	Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc	akacala@hudsonfjordtrail.org
Bill Johnson	Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board	wjohnson@dutchessny.gov
Carl Whitehead	Town of Poughkeepsie Planning Board	carl.h.whitehead@gmail.com
Colleen Dorney	Dutchess Tourism	colleen@dutchesstourism.com
Karl Beard	National Park Service (retired)	karl.kd2fx@gmail.com
Kathleen Davis	Winnakee Land Trust/Hyde Park Trails	kathleendavis072@gmail.com
Mark Roland	City of Beacon resident	freelance500@yahoo.com
Mary Nisley	Town of Poughkeepsie resident	mary.nisley@pobox.com

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Name	Organization/Municipality	Email
Michael O'Brien	Town of East Fishkill	michaelbpobrien@gmail.com
Mike Matts	resident	Pudge024@aol.com
Moe Islam	NYS DOT Region 8 - Ped/Bike Coordinator	Mohammed.Islam@dot.ny.gov
Steve MacAvery	NYS DOT Region 8 - Mobility Management Team lead	Steve.macavery@dot.ny.gov
Steven Jones	Hyde Park Climate Smart Communities Task Force	stbjones@gmail.com