

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
MARCH 28, 2017**

A special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the twenty-eighth day of March, 2017 at 6:30 o'clock P.M. in Council Chambers, Oneida Municipal Building, 109 N. Main Street, Oneida, NY.

Meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Jim Chamberlain

PRESENT: Councilors Alan Cohen, Michael Bowe, Erwin Smith,
Helen Acker, James Chamberlain, and Thomas Simchik

ABSENT: Mayor Leo Matzke

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Susan Pulverenti
Recreation Director Luke Griff
Account Clerk/Rail Trail Committee Patti Meakin
Supervisor Joe Magliocca
Scott Ingmire, Director Mad. Co. Planning
Jamie Kowalczk, Asst. Director Mad. Co. Planning

ONEIDA RAIL TRAIL

Deputy Mayor Chamberlain said he is excited about this important project and turned the meeting over to Recreation Director Luke Griff. Director Griff said that the federally-funded 11.3 mile trail goes from the Erie Canal to the Mansion House in Kenwood with a loop inside Oneida that is six miles long. The current open portions go from Hubbard Place to Tanner Insurance and from Sayles Street to Seneca Street by the high school.

The Council was provided with maps depicting the entire trail, and the Recreation Director went through the trail routes page by page. He said that a ten foot wide stone dust trail starts down North Court Street, goes left at the County complex, and follows past the jail down to Hubbard Place. The bridge at Hubbard Place will be completely refurbished to accommodate the trail. The trail continues across Hubbard Place down to Tanner Insurance where trees will be cut, and the trail will tie into the repaving project of the NYS DOT and continue down Rt. 365A. The DOT will place a 10-foot wide asphalt sidewalk at the trail access area near Tanner Insurance. It is the hope that in the future the path will cross Lenox Avenue and utilize NYS DOT property to get back onto the trail, in an effort to bypass Birchwood Drive and Willow Meadow Way where residents had concerns. The main trail will head down Lenox Avenue behind the Colonial Laundromat plaza and continue down W. Railroad Street, where some of the sidewalks will need improvements to be ADA compliant. The trail continues across S. Warner Street behind the Stoneleigh Housing Project connecting to Liberty Street. Frank Fiore owns the property on Liberty Street that the trail needs to cross, and Mr. Fiore will be selling the land to the City for the trail. Funds from the NYS DOT grant will pay for the land acquisition. The trail will continue into downtown onto Oneida Street through Clinch Park to Williams Street, and down into the flats. Director Griff said they are waiting to see what progresses in the flats with the Buyout Program to see where any paths will go. The trail splits into spurs when it reaches Carinci Park and Sconodoa Street.

Another portion of the loop around the City is from Sayles Street to Broadway. Two private property owners along that trail will be donating the rail bed property they own to the City, and another will be granting an easement allowing for the trail to continue into Allen Park. The trail then moves onto Shattuck Avenue, to Elizabeth Street and into the Duross Conservancy where it will then go north and south connecting the different neighborhoods. The trail going north heads towards the flats past the cement factory, and Director Griff noted that the City has a recreational easement with National Grid to provide the opportunity for the loop into the flats area. He said that going south from Duross/Maxwell Field the proposed trail would go behind the Oneida Indian Nation, Community Bank and Rite Aid properties, across Genesee Street onto the City's dump road towards Johnson's Farm on Middle Road and down to the Mansion House. He said the trail is in many different stages throughout its 11.3 miles.

Deputy Mayor Chamberlain asked about signage and Supervisor Magliocca said it will be simple, using the same logo and signs throughout the entire trail in an effort to be user friendly. There will be several areas where cross walks will be created, but there are regulations that will need to be addressed. He said the plan is to have the Oneida Rail Trail logo "stamped" into the sidewalks to depict that folks are on a portion of the trail.

Recreation Director Griff passed out a second set of maps depicting close-ups of specific sections of the trail. The first map depicted the area by Geer Lane where one of the property owners concerns were addressed. The banks (where the old RR bridge used to be) behind Mr. Colvin's property needs to be widened to approximately 60 ft. After discussions with the property owner, a small berm will be created to shade his properties, deter any noise and people from straying off the trail. Director Griff said trail users will not be able to see anything from the base of the trail. The County workers will also be removing the trees from that area. The second map depicts the alternate route connection going across the

DOT property on Lenox Ave. The third map shows behind the Colonial Plaza where a trail head with a parking lot and kiosks will be located. The parking lot will be approximately 10x20 feet, which is smaller than originally envisioned. He said that the owner of NuTech is donating the property he owns on the rail bed, noting that the acquisition is close to completion. Director Griff said that they are prioritizing to bring some things back that were cut out of the project. Maps 4, 5 and 6 depict close ups of W. Railroad Street, the Stoneleigh Housing property and Liberty Street. He said that they are hoping to save some money on Liberty Street by not putting in sidewalks, since it is a dead end street.

Recreation Director Griff said there will be three new crosswalks in the City Hall area and a bike path up Oneida Street. The vision is to have a “gateway” into the City’s center with a new pedestrian plaza, as the centerpiece of downtown, located in Clinch Park. The street will become one way down Freight House Alley, and a parking lot will be created on the William’s Street end of Oneida Street, with access only from Williams Street. Vehicles will not be able to travel straight down Oneida Street. Three of the current 11 trees will stay, the others will be cut to allow for the pedestrian plaza. However, he said they envision green space, different types of seating, lighting, food trucks, farmer market, flowers/pots and new trees beautifying the proposed plaza. Councilor Chamberlain suggested laying the conduit for the lighting during the construction phase, so it will be in place when needed.

Director Griff said through this process the committee is focusing on how downtown is used now and how they can expand on that. Discussion of various aspects of the Rail Trail continued briefly, including the loss of parking spaces on Oneida Street. Councilor Cohen suggested the Rail Trail Committee attend the next OC3 public meeting to share ideas. Director Griff said a Memo of Understanding between the City and County is being prepared for the Council’s approval, which basically states that the City is the project sponsor and financially responsible. Councilor Acker asked if the County is providing any funding for this project, and Jamie Kowalczyk said that Madison County secured a \$20K Storm Water Grant, which is already incorporated into the project. Supervisor Magliocca thanked the County Planning Department for preparing all the mapping.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Smith

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA, NEW YORK

Susan Pulverenti, City Clerk