



BATTLE HILL TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Battle Hill Trail Committee April 3, 2018 Meeting Summary

In Attendance: Sam Hall (Chairman), George Sherwood, Christine Milligan, Dale Grinnell, Tracey Clothier and Mike Panich (LA Group).

- 1. Introductions:** Committee members were introduced and Tracey explained the role of the committee is to guide the process and development of the project.
- 2. In-Kind Reporting:** Sheets were distributed for reporting volunteer hours that will serve as the match portion of the grant. All time spent directly on the project should be recorded and turned in to Tracey monthly.
- 3. Project Overview and Tasks**
 - a. The mission of the project is to provide access for archeological education and training so that the importance of Battle Hill is never forgotten.
 - b. Report should provide an accurate timeline of accomplishments to date regarding grants and other strategies in the protection of Battle Hill. Committee will review and update the list below:
 - The ABPP documented the Battle of Fort Anne (ABPP Number NY215) in 2001 and reported on their survey of the battlefield in the program's 2007 Revolutionary War and War of 1812 study (NPS 2007). The 2007 study lists the Battle of Fort Anne as being a Priority II/Class C battlefield.
 - The American Legion Post 703 received an \$80K grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). Researchers at the Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) of Binghamton University conducted the historical research and battlefield delineation to better determine the locations of battle related landscape features and their integrity and research potential. The information gained from the project will enhance the interpretation of the battle and help to inform preservation and development in the area.
 - Fort Anne: Historical Research and Archeological Investigations of Battle Hill Battlefield April 8, 2015 GA-2287-13-012. Research Based on a Grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program to Raymond W. Harvey Post 703, American Legion. Report Prepared By: Michael Jacobson, PhD, RPA for the Raymond W.

This project is funded through the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail Grant Program and the Town of Fort Ann.





Harvey Post 703, American Legion and Kristen L. McMasters, Archeologist and Grants Manager, National Park Service.

- Land Acquisition of \$320K: Purchased through a grant from the Civil War Trust (39,823); ABPP grant (170,177); and landowner donation (110,000). Agricultural Stewardship Association holds conservation easement and Town of Fort Ann is the landowner.
 - Report on Archeological Survey and Excavations: final dated February 15, 2018 (GA-2287-16-010). Research Based on a Grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program to Raymond W. Harvey Post 703, American Legion. Report Prepared By: Michael Jacobson, PhD, RPA for the Raymond W. Harvey Post 703, American Legion and Kristen L. McMasters, Archeologist and Grants Manager, National Park Service.
 - Hudson River Valley Greenway Conservancy Trail Grant: Develop a master plan for a public trails network. Total project cost: \$40,000. Funding: \$20,000 in Grant Funds. The Required Match of \$20,000 is to be provided through In-Kind Services, Cash, and other Grant Programs.
 - National Register Application: first attempted in 1927. SHPO may have written up the criteria for the new application. *Christine will find out the status and next steps for the application.*
- c. The LA Group will review background reports and historic information from above reports.
- d. LA Group will provide a map with property owner and boundary information to advance the potential sale of the lands just south of the site.
- e. A Site Investigation (field trip) will be conducted on Tuesday, April 17 meeting at Town Hall at 9:45. Rain date: April 19. *Tracey will provide a roadmap for the trip and have a map to record resources and terrain information. George will be the guide.*
- f. The LAG will be developed Inventory of Site Conditions and Trail Opportunities in the form of a map and narrative. *George will obtain a property map from Laura Chadwick at Washington County.*
- g. The LA Group will also complete an inventory and assessment of environmental features and resources with appropriate maps. This will include identifying where key environmental hazards are located and sensitive environments are located. Sensitive information about dig locations will be used to avoid trails in those locations.

This project is funded through the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail Grant Program and the Town of Fort Ann.





- h. A list of required permits and approvals with timetable will be completed for the project.
- i. The Trail Concept Plan will be developed in two versions: as a draft and final. The Plan will include:
 - Plan View Layout and Design Narrative with Recommendations for Trailhead Location(s)
 - Trail Alternatives
 - Lookout Locations, and Signage Placement
 - Potential Connections to the Empire State Trail/Champlain Canalway Trail/Lake George
 - Conceptual Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Plan
 - Construction Cost Estimate and Potential Funding Strategy

4. Public Participation Plan

- A total of three (3) Committee Meetings will be held.
- A single point person for all questions from press and the public is Sam Hall. All calls should be referred to Sam.
- Sam will provide monthly summaries to the Town Board.
- A presentation of the draft master plan will be made at one (1) Public Meeting will be held at a date in June to be named at a later date.
- A presentation of the final master plan will be made to the Town Board of the final plan.
- Meeting summaries will be posted on the Town Website.

5. **Consultant Information:** Tracey Clothier, Senior Planner, the LA Group - tclothier@thelagroup.com; and Mike Panich, associate landscape architect – mpanich@thelagroup.com

This project is funded through the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail Grant Program and the Town of Fort Ann.

