

NEWS

RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Cooperative Effort Results in Trail Planning Grant

A cooperative effort, led by County Legislators Flora Fasoldt and Brian Zweig, resulted in a \$10,000 grant from The Hudson River Valley Greenway to examine the feasibility of the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail. The proposed trail runs along the former trolley line from the Town of Nassau, through the Towns of Schodack and East Greenbush, and has the potential to connect to the Hudson River and Columbia County's Harlem Valley Rail Trail. Grant funds will be used to study issues such as appropriate uses for the trail, community concerns and costs.

The grant application was submitted by East Greenbush Parks Director Brad Canning, with the assistance of East Greenbush Supervisor Rick McCabe, Schodack Supervisor Beth Secor, Nassau Supervisor David Fleming and Melissa Barry of the Rensselaer Land Trust. "This was a great example of governments working together and getting results," stated Legislator Fasoldt. "The idea for this trail came from public input and we now have funding to explore its feasibility," added Zweig. "This project can add to the many initiatives that we are pursuing to improve the quality of life for East Greenbush residents," concluded Supervisor McCabe.

The proposed Albany-Hudson Electric Trail was identified in the Rensselaer County Trail Vision Plan developed by the Rensselaer County Alliance for Trails through a grant sponsored by the Rensselaer Land Trust. This plan envisions a network of trails throughout the county providing recreational opportunities for residents and stimulating economic activity from visitors using these trails.

The Rensselaer County Alliance for Trails is a coalition representing various interests, including hikers, bikers, snowmobilers and equestrians that advocate for recreational trails in Rensselaer County. The group was formed after a meeting organized by Legislators Zweig and Fasoldt found great interest in developing recreational trails in Rensselaer County.