

NEWS RELEASE

From: Town of Ulysses
To: Trumansburg Free Press and Tompkins Weekly
Date: September 24, 2019
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The Town of Ulysses is pleased to invite the community to enjoy the new Habitat Nature Preserve accessible from 23 Salo Drive in the Village of Trumansburg. The purpose of the Habitat Preserve is to protect this natural area while offering the community access to connect with nature in a quiet setting and learn more about the plants and animals that inhabit an ecosystem transitioning into a mature forest.

The Town purchased nearly 30 acres from Habitat for Humanity in 2017 with a grant from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. There is a walking trail that is just over a mile long out and back through the woods and wetlands. A class from Cornell has provided tree identification markers along the trail and built a picnic table about one third of the way in from the parking area to enable hikers to rest, enjoy the quiet, and/or a picnic- provided they carry out their trash. The guidelines for using the Habitat were developed by an Advisory Committee comprised of neighbors, town officials, and those interested in conservation. They have been approved by the Ulysses Town Board and are posted at the trail head.

The Preserve is open to the public from dawn to dusk year-round. No hunting of any kind is allowed in the Habitat Nature Preserve. Hikers are urged to be cautious on the trails during hunting season, which opens on October 1st since there may be others who are hunting with permission on adjacent properties. Hikers may also hear gun shots from the nearby Fish and Game Club also referred to as the Rod and Gun Club. The Club has designed its shooting ranges with safety in mind to avoid the adjacent woods and there is a parcel of land between them and the Town's Preserve.

For safety and out of respect to the Habitat Nature Preserve's neighbors, hikers are asked to walk only on the trail which follows a figure eight route through the woods. Animals on leash are allowed as long as owners clean up after them. There is a wide variety of plant life which hikers are encouraged to enjoy without removing any species. No bicycles, drug use, littering, camping or fires are allowed. In the winter cross country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking will be allowed but snow mobiles are prohibited.

Hikers are encouraged to park at the Farmers Market and enter from Salo Drive. In response to neighbors' requests to keep cars off the side of the road the Town, with help from the Village, created a small parking area at the Salo Drive entrance. A No Parking sign will be posted and hikers are reminded that the Village does not allow parking on village streets. Police will be patrolling and ticketing as needed. Residents of neighboring Auble's properties will have easy access from their locations but the public is reminded that the mobile home park is private property and the interior roads are not Village streets.

The Town is also working with the Trumansburg Police and Fire Departments to familiarize them with the preserve so that, if they are called to respond to an emergency, they will be prepared and the trail will be marked to designate key areas to help first responders find anyone in distress.

The Advisory Committee is looking for another member or two who will recommend actions the Town can take to assure that the Habitat Nature Preserve remains a pristine and accessible resource that does not create problems for its neighbors. For questions, contact Town Board member Nancy Zahler at zahler@ulysses.ny.us or Town Clerk Carissa Parlato at 387-5797 or clerk@ulysses.ny.us.