

A green silhouette of a mountain range with three peaks of varying heights, serving as a background for the text.

PHILIPSTOWN

Trails Committee

Exploring trail alternatives linking
Cold Spring, NY to Garrison, NY

Trails Committee

Formed in January, 2018

Grew out of Philipstown Community Congress process in which walkability and bikeability was voted the top community issue in P-town

All-volunteer group of dedicated walkers and bikers

Jason Angell

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Bruce Croushore

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Mission

The Philipstown Trails Committee's (PTC) mission is to create a walkable and bikeable Philipstown, NY, where pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages can safely access important local sites and recreational opportunities to develop a healthier, more environmentally friendly and socially connected community for all.

Vision

The Philipstown Trail would promote healthy living, safety and a greater sense of community by encouraging residents and visitors to walk or bike (instead of driving) to frequently visited sites. The proposed alternate routes would link schools, libraries, Main Streets and some of the area's most important landmarks, including the Metro-North train stations, the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center, and the historic Boscobel House and Gardens where the Cold Spring Farmers Market is situated on Saturdays.

Philipstown Trails Committee Accomplishments

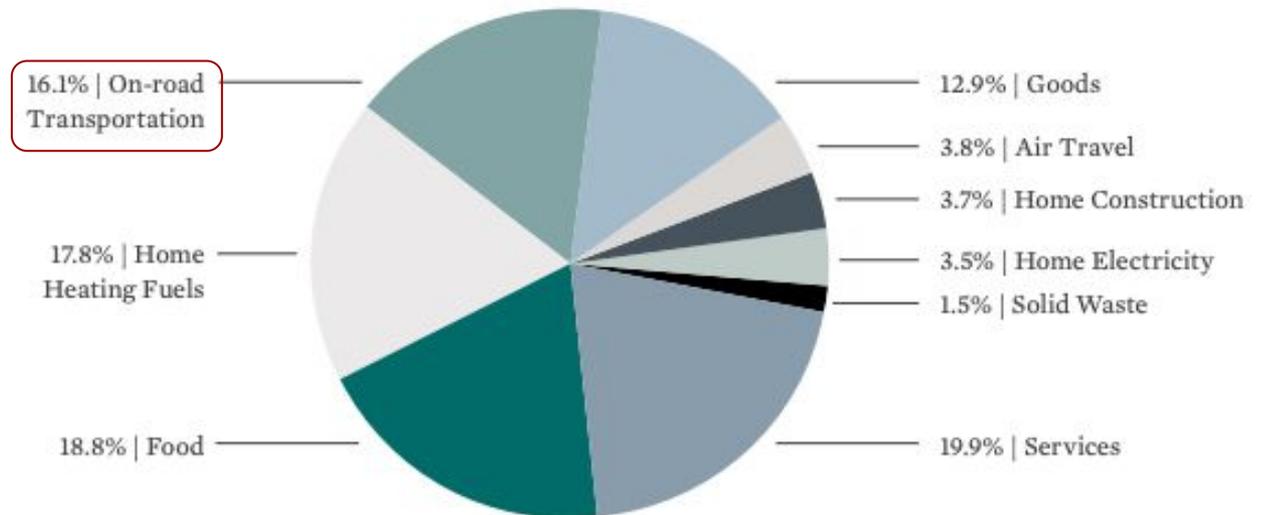


- Received National Park Service – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance grant to launch route feasibility exploration;
- Hosted three annual Philipstown Bikes Day events in partnership with local municipalities which attracted a total of four hundred participants;
- Supported the Town’s Climate Smart Community task force to successfully adopt local Complete Streets policies.

Aligns with Town Civic Engagement, Sustainability Goals

FIGURE 4. PHILIPSTOWN CONSUMPTION-BASED GHG INVENTORY RESULTS (2019)

On-road transportation is the fourth-largest source of GHGs in Philipstown



In the 2017 Philipstown Community Congress engagement, “invest in safe biking and walking paths” was voted the top community priority... Building support to develop [the Philipstown Trail] across a number of institutionally owned and privately owned properties could significantly reduce car use for local trips and promote community health.”

Aligns with Philipstown Comprehensive Plan (Draft):



Goal 3: Develop an Integrated Transportation Plan

- “Create new bike and walking trails and sidewalks that link important community spaces such as schools, libraries, the Philipstown Recreation Center, Cold Spring and the Garrison Landing.”
- “Proactively engage with Putnam County and NY State to improve road conditions and safety on key roadways in Philipstown ... and improve pedestrian safety.”

Goal 11: Ensure that Residents Enjoy Good Health

- “Support the development of biking and walking paths as a way to promote physical activity.”

Consistent with NY State and Regional Efforts

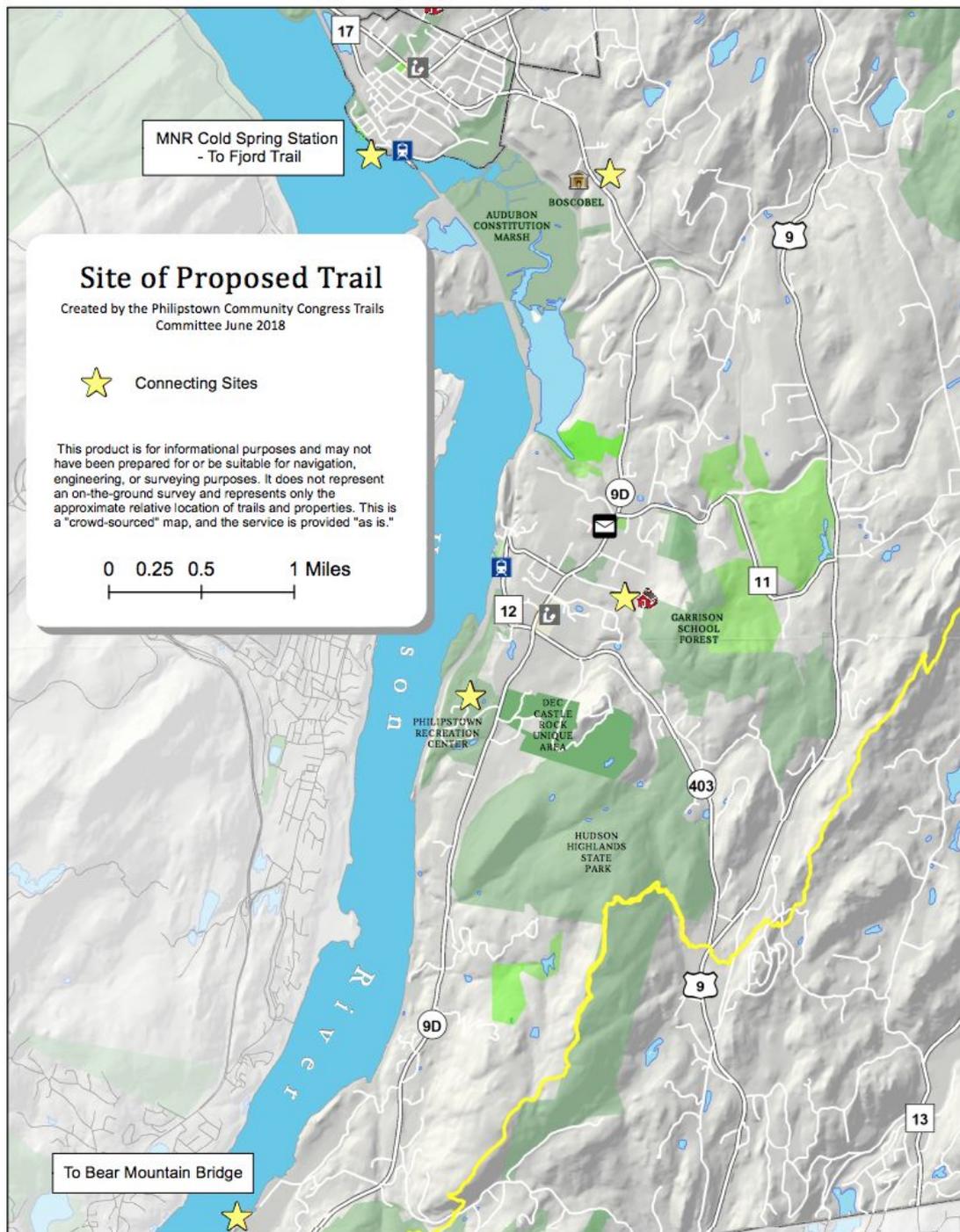
- NYS Department of Transportation **Route 9 Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan** (2006) identified goal to "develop a separated multi-use path for non-motorized transportation and recreation" on 9D between Bear Mountain and Cold Spring.
- New York became an **AARP Age-Friendly State** in 2017, endorsing healthy community design, including Complete Streets and increasing biking and walking.
- **Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council's** Strategic Plan (2011) calls for "shifting from single-occupant vehicles to ... alternative modes of transportation such as biking and walking" and "[linking] urban centers via waterfronts, greenways, ferries, and parks."

Guiding Principles

Practicality: We'll consider the benefits and challenges of developing the Philipstown Trail along all along existing rights of way, carriageways and walking trails, or a mix of alternatives.

Community focus: We intend the Philipstown Trail to be safe and accessible for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities. To this end, we'll develop a trail design that is suitable for local biking and walking, encourages safe use and social interaction, includes points of interest and directional signage and is environmentally sound and cost effective to build and maintain.

Collaboration: We'll collaborate with key stakeholders -- including community members, institutions, and local and state government officials -- to develop a Philipstown Trail that gains the necessary support to become a reality.



Stage 1: Cold Spring to Boscobel

While the long term vision is to develop a trail linking the Cold Spring and Garrison communities, the PTC has made the strategic decision to focus on the feasibility of developing a route linking Cold Spring to Boscobel as the first stage of this project.

Community Support

“Boscobel House and Gardens is in the process of revising its 1950s Master Site Plan. A mixed-use path along Route 9D connecting Boscobel to Cold Spring is central to our goals of expanding accessibility, improving the visitor experience, and becoming more environmentally and fiscally sustainable.”

~ Jennifer Carlquist
Executive Director
Boscobel House and Gardens

Community Support

“We will partner with the Philipstown Trails Committee to explore the possibility of developing safe biking and walking routes to school for Manitou students. We currently serve over 130 students ages 3-13, many of whom live in Philipstown. Although the school is easily within walking and biking distance to many of our families, parents still need to drive their children because there are currently no sidewalks or safe paths for students to walk or bike. The benefits of enabling students to walk or bike to and from school are many: increased exercise (which is particularly important as our nation is experiencing epidemic levels of childhood obesity), reduced pollution, a connection to nature, to name a few”.

~ Maria Stein-Marrison
Director, Manitou School

Community Support

“The long-range development of multi-use trails is a key element in building a healthy community and expanding outdoor opportunities for both residents and visitors in Philipstown”.

~ Richard Shea
Supervisor, Town of Philipstown

“As the local land trust in the area, with a mission to protect our natural resources and the public’s enjoyment of them, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust will continue to partner with the Philipstown Trails Committee to help map out potential trails, connect with relevant landowners and community members, and help towards securing public access and conservation easements where needed and viable”.

~ Michelle Smith
Executive Director, Hudson Highlands Land Trust

Community Support

"Now that I've moved from Garrison to Cold Spring it's wonderful to be able to walk from my home at Butterfield to all parts of the village. As an active senior I welcome the prospect of new safe, accessible walking opportunities, especially when it contributes to helping lower carbon emissions ."

~ Priscilla S. Goldfarb
Resident, Butterfield Cold Spring

Local Benefits + Concerns

- Linking Cold Spring to Boscobel would primarily benefit local residents and institutions, improve community health, and create a safe pedestrian alternative to access Manitou School, Boscobel Home and Gardens and the farmers market;
- Local data and surveys report that additional pedestrian and biking options to Boscobel would decrease local traffic and related carbon emissions; and
- Trails would be clearly marked with signage indicating allowed times of use, trail etiquette, and clearly identify and control access to adjacent private property.

Stage 1: Cold Spring to Boscobel

Option 1: CS-Metro North, Foundry Preserve, Rt 9D

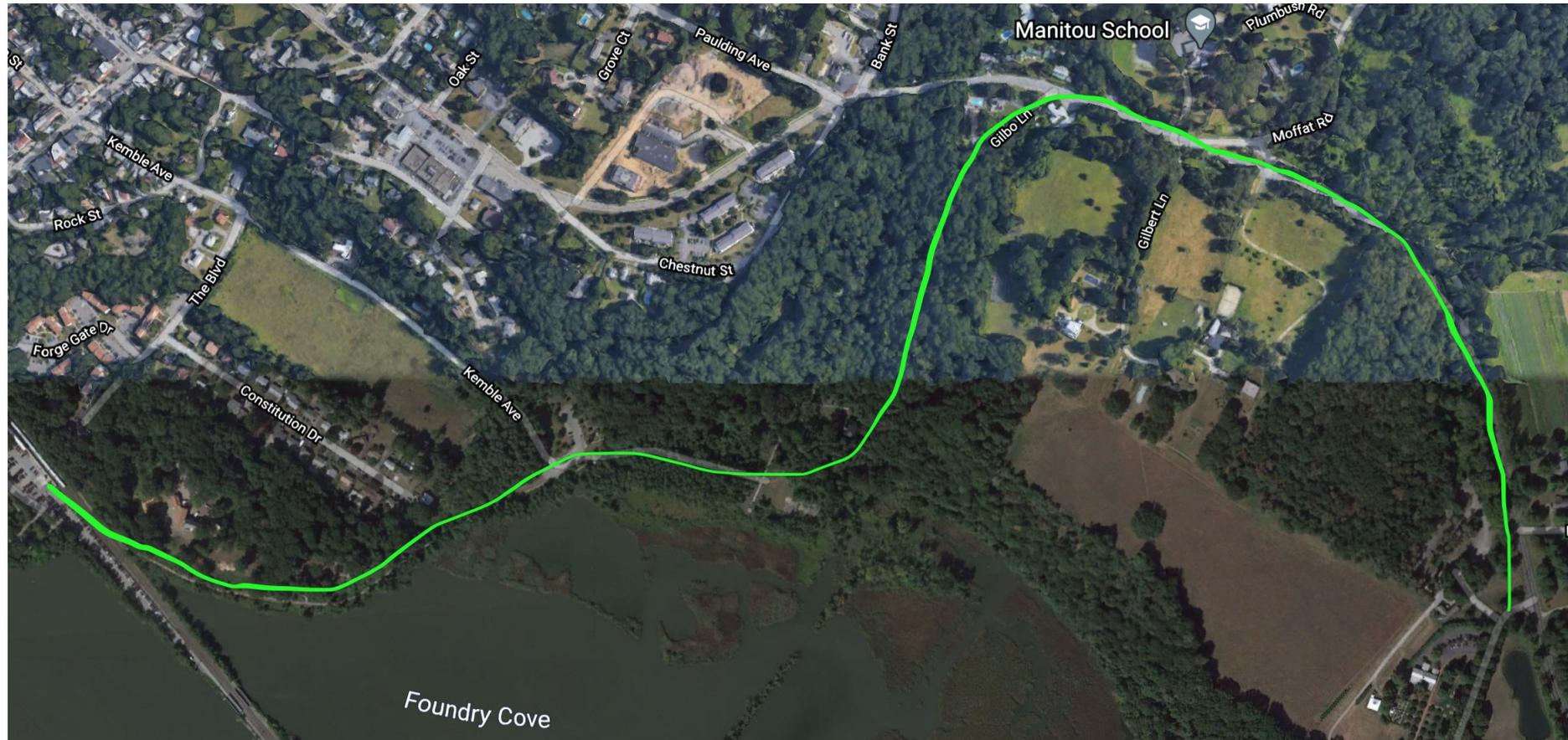
Option 2: CS-Metro North, Foundry Preserve, Constitution Marsh

Option 3: CS-Metro North, Main St, Bank St. sidewalk extension, Rt 9D

These options were identified through assistance from the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance grant.

Feasibility study would help identify property lines and further explore options to begin discussions with neighboring property owners.

Option 1: CS-Metro North, Foundry Preserve, Rt 9D (2.02 mi.)



Option 1: CS-Metro North to West Point Foundry Preserve office building



Owner:	Scenic Hudson Land Trust
Site conditions:	Parking lot, bathrooms, maintained gravel/ metal trail.
Opportunities + Obstacles:	Scenic Hudson supportive of trail use.
Sect/Cum. Mileage:	.65mi/.65mi

Option 1: West Point Foundry Preserve office building to Manitou School



Owner: Scenic Hudson, Town of Philipstown (Gilbo Ln), NYS (Rt. 9d)

Site conditions: Wide, fairly steep carriage road to Gilbo Ln; stone retaining walls need repair in sections

Opportunities + Obstacles: Need to identify property lines accessing Gilbo Ln.; narrow shoulder around Rt. 9D and crossing of Rt. 9D to Manitou School



Sect/Cum. Mileage: 1.01mi/1.66mi

Option 1: Manitou School to Boscobel House and Gardens (parking lot)



Owner: Town of Philipstown (Moffat Rd), Privately owned-Boscobel maintains (Inverguie Ln.), Rt. 9D (NYS), Boscobel House and Gardens

Site conditions: Moffat Rd./ Inverguie Ln. dirt road, Boscobel path to parking lot is a grass trail safely protected from Rt. 9D by a low brick wall.

Opportunities + Obstacles: Boscobel supports trail linkage to their property for non-motorized Farmers Market and visitor options; Rt. 9D crossing from Inverguie Ln. to Boscobel at dangerous curve and high-speed traffic

Sect/Cum. Mileage: .36/2.02mi

Option 2: CS-Metro North, Foundry Preserve, Constitution Marsh
(1.31mi)



Option 2: West Point Foundry Preserve office building to Boscobel House and Gardens service road (along Constitution Marsh)



Owner: Scenic Hudson, privately owned, NYS, Boscobel House and Gardens

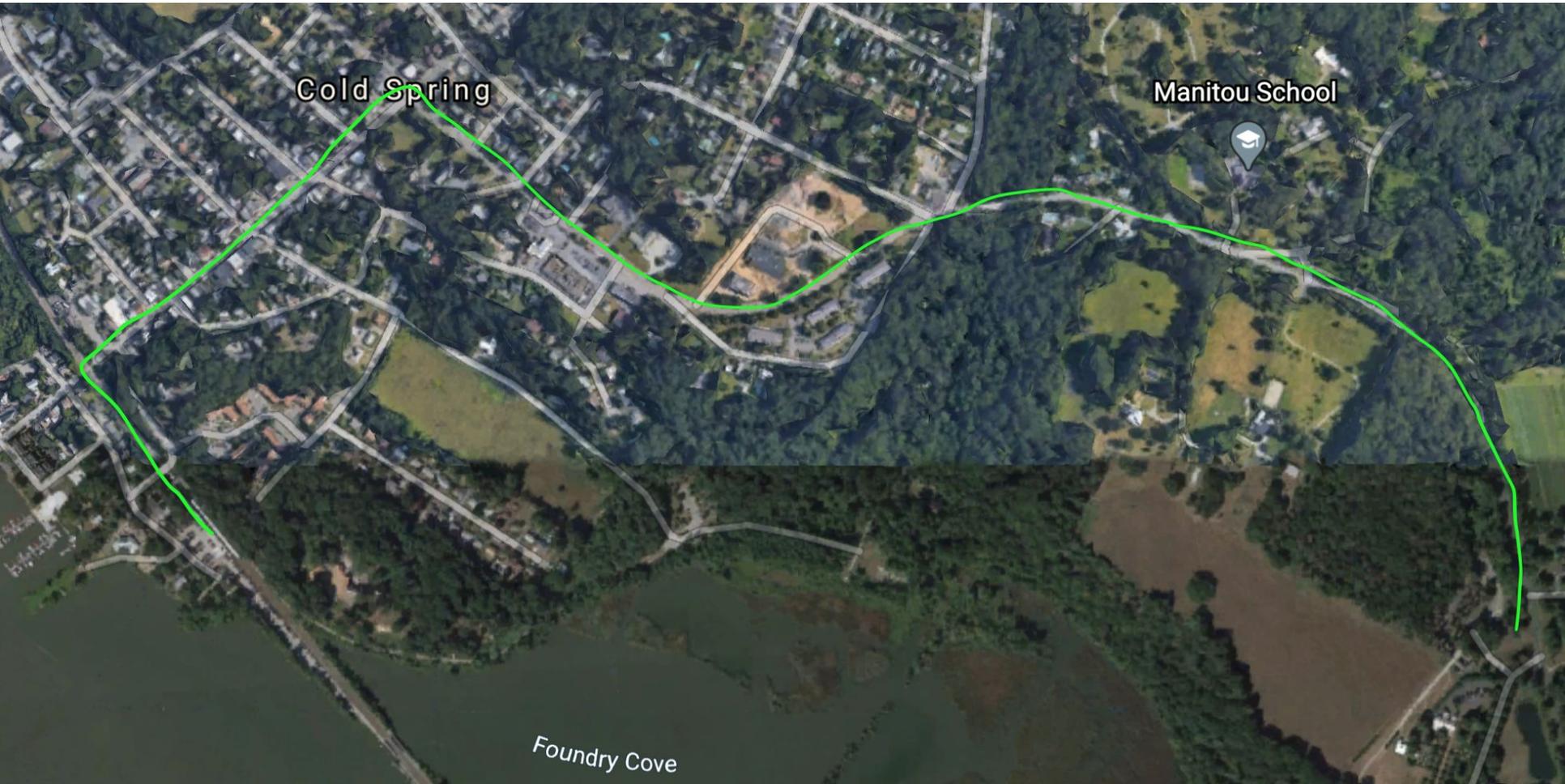
Site conditions: Old carriage road follows edge of Constitution Marsh, no trail for roughly $\frac{1}{3}$ of route, steep incline up old carriage road to Boscobel main lawn.

Opportunities + Obstacles: Need to identify clear property lines; impacts of proximity to Constitution Marsh; this route to Boscobel service road saves .89mi and avoids two 9D crossings.



Sect/Cum. Mileage: .66/1.31mi

Option 3: Main St, Bank St. sidewalk extension, Rt 9D (1.66 mi.)



Option 3: Bank St. sidewalk extension via Rt 9D



Owner: TBD

Site conditions: Would extend end of current sidewalk from Bank St. going south along Rt. 9D.

Opportunities:

- utilizing space that is currently underutilized
- surrounding area of proposed route is surrounded by scenic nature
- there are some portions of the route that have ample space (11+ft)
- there are some pre-existing structural foundations that could perhaps be used for bridge portion

Option 3: Bank St. sidewalk extension via Rt 9D



Obstacles:

- if the Northeast upper portion of the ravine was considered, then we would require the permission of at least 3 additional property owners (3 homes are located at the Northeast end of the ravine).

- This possibility of a route seems like it would be very costly, as it would require creating paths that are not already established and would require significant changes in the woody area and water area.

- Also, note that 11 ft. is not available on Bank Street travelling East. That street is a two-way road and if a lane was created for bike/ped, it would have to be a "shared" lane with very little room.

Sect/Cum.
Mileage:

TBD

Next Steps

- Letter of support from Town of Philipstown for feasibility study
- Town of Philipstown, to serve as fiscal sponsor for feasibility study?
- Town ultimately sponsors state grant application to build trail