

Minutes

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION Thursday, February 25, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

Meeting held by Virtual Zoom technology and Live streamed on County Facebook page

Members Present: Judy Hunt, John Hemmer, Tom Erlandson, Martha Anderson, Marla Connelly, Bob Franzen, Steve Sandberg, Jacob Bodway

Members Absent:

Others Present: Brad Bentley, Sam Zafuto, Kathy Tampio, Bob Dando

The meeting was called to order by Bob Franzen at 4:02 p.m.

Acknowledgement of Guests and Topics Discussions

Bob Dando: *Workers Memorial* - With the COVID restrictions last year we would up cancelling it. We feel that the restrictions will not be lifted in time to have the memorial on our traditional day the first Saturday in May. We'd like to ask if we could reschedule it for September 25th. We'll check that when we make dates. September 25th, which is a Saturday, and hold it that day. We will have, be allowed outdoor events where people can gather but, that's what we are hoping. This is a lot longer than I thought it would last.

Judy Hunt: Well I would think that date would be fine if it's acceptable for groups.

John Hemmer: Sam, do you keep a calendar for the dates as .. can you check and see if there's anything on that date for the Erlandson right? Erlandson Park.

Sam Zafuto: We do not have the reservations at this time for 2021. Every date's open.

John Hemmer: Okay, there you go. So it sure looks like that would be a good one. Do we need to vote on that or just say it's okay? I think it's just okay, right Bob?

Judy Hunt: It will just be in the minutes, right.

Brad Bentley: Sam, I want you to have that date reserved for them for Erlandson Park.

Sam Zafuto: I can do that.

Brad Bentley: So the Parks Commission we will put that in our system to make sure we don't give it away to anyone else. What time are you planning on starting?

Bob Dando: We normally start the ceremony around 11 o'clock so we generally try setting up between 10 and 10:30. We'll probably be out of there by one or one thirty.

Brad Bentley: So we're going from 10 to 2. I think that should cover it. Alright, we'll put that in the books.

Bob Dando: Okay, we appreciate it. We're just hoping we can get this done this year. We just feel that it's so important to remember people. It's just been bad. Okay, anything else you want?

Bob Franzen: Bob, on (*inaudible*) putting on a year or so ago a tarp around the pavilion. And they said they had money to do this. I don't know if Brad looked into that. Is that something that they'd thought about? Or is that still hanging and we don't know what going on about that.

Brad Bentley: As far as I know I vaguely recall that conversation about the tarp but I think that kind of went away when ...

(Crosstalk)

Bob Franzen: Jim Kurtz had said that they had money put away they thought if there was a chance to do anything. We just do it as it is now and see what happens later?

Bob Dando: Okay, I'll talk to Jim about that Bob. I remember we talked about it and I don't know what became of it. Jim was looking into it and then everything hit the fan last year I think the (*inaudible*). I'll check with Jim and see if he's got any more progress on that. I know that they go out and purchase a bell for our event. We ring the bell whenever we read a name off the roll call. They want to dedicate it to a person who passed away last year in CSEA. We'll just have to, I'll just check with Jim to see what became of that. I know he was looking into it. I'll see what happens, okay? I'll get a hold of Brad.

Judy Hunt: Is it a tarp you're talking about?

Bob Dando: Well Jim had brought out a number of ideas. One was a tarp. One was movable blinds. He said somewhere down in Findley Lake they had something like that. One that you could pull them up or down. Shades, basically. Just something to block the wind and everything on those fun days when we get sleet and snow. Some days we get up there and it's 50 and sunny and some days it's 30 and sleet, rain and snow.

Brad Bentley: If it's in September this year, if it's snowing on September 25th, God help us all.

(Laughter)

Bob Dando: The wind up there is (*inaudible*). Let's face it, it's right there on top of that hill and that wind can really whip through there.

Martha Anderson: Just to know, in your book that you pass out at your program that you have...the Parks Commission needs to be updated in it. When I was there two years ago it still listed Howard Brook as the president. Just so you know that.

Bob Dando: Okay.

Bob Franzen: We might not have to do anything with blinds if we move to September, and leave it that way. Use the money for something else.

Bob Dando: We've had those discussions in the past and see the true worker Memorial Day is April 28 but the park isn't open on that day. It isn't open until May 1st. So we've always held it the first Saturday in May because it was close to the actual worker memorial day that is nationally recognized. That's why we had the May, first Saturday in May.

Tom Erlandson: Labor Day is earlier in September so there's a possible connection there.

Bob Dando: We looked at that and we figured the first Saturday would interfere with the holiday weekend and I think James town has their Labor Day ceremony on Saturday. The following weekend is 911, so we decided that would not be a good day maybe because of the significance of the day and there's only different ceremonies all across the county that day. It would just be in too much of a conflict. So 25th is the most convenient for the members of the committee. We've had those discussions regularly about moving it to warmer, better days. We'll roll the dice and see what happens with the weather in Chautauqua County.

Bob Franzen: Anybody else like to have some words here in discussion? Any other guests or anything like this before we go to our minutes?

Minutes Review and Acceptance

Bob Franzen: Everybody's had a copy of the minutes? Last time. Any additions, corrections or anything that we know?

Judy Hunt: I don't think so. They look good to me. I vote to accept the minutes.

Bob Franzen: Moved. Second?

Martha Anderson: I'll second.

Bob Franzen: They're set. Passed.

Operations

Brad Bentley: Good afternoon. This is the February report.
Staffing – our staffing is not changed from last month. Bart is getting out there and plowing the parking lots. We've had a lot of snow in February and DPF is still in winter shifts.

Ongoing Tasks – still coordinating as we heard from Jacob. Jacob, I think it's been a year and a half that we've been talking about some of this work. It was pre-COVID. We went to a Public Facilities meeting to talk about some of this stuff. This coordination effort is been long talked about and discussed. I think we are making some headway so those discussions will continue with the foreseeable future and ongoing. Especially in hope that you get the grants. I would like to officially welcome you. You were approved last night at the legislature. You have with the County Executive's approval, you'll be the new member. Our other ongoing tasks, the parks have been plowed, the trail parking lots. Next we are going to purchase the new front lawn mower for 2021. We also need the John Deere tractor, the pricing is below the budget. \$21,500 for the front deck mower and \$10,000 for the John Deere tractor. We're still looking for a gate keeper for Erlandson. We did get the one for Luensman signed on so that's all set. We don't have anybody that's ready to go for Erlandson so I don't know if anybody's gotten a volunteer out there that we can contact but we are still looking for a name.

Bob Franzen: I did talk to a couple of guys here that they're in school down here but I don't know how it's going to work out for summertime. I'm still in the process of talking to them. We'll see what we can come up with. Also if Sam can get Phil Wilson's phone number. I can talk to him a little bit too. He's probably got a relative that lives by there also so we'll see what we can come up with that way.

Sam Zafuto: Yea, I've got Phil's contact Bob.

Bob Franzen: Okay, thank you.

Brad Bentley: So if anyone has any other ideas let Sam or I know and we'll figure out where we can get our gatekeeper from for Erlandson. We have finally made contact with Schrader, the donation. Earlier in the week he said he put the check in the mail so once we get the check and deposit it we will go order the bench. We are also in the process of reviewing the inventory we talked about. We have a list, I think it just needs to be updated. I want to make sure that what we have that we give to you guys is good. There's a lot of stuff out there that looks a little old and some we don't still have anymore that might have been surplus through various means. That's just kind of getting out that list. Hope to have something for you guys next month on that. Even though it wasn't an ongoing task, I was cleaning out some files in my office which is George Spanos's old office and I came across the Parks inventory list that looks to be outdated because it said some of the bridges were due in 1999. So, there might be some old information in there but I think it could give at least a count of where we thought the bridges were at with the Overland and west overland trails. So those were attached and sent out by Sam to everybody for your reading pleasure. They probably do need a once through. The stuff we can start with as far as the bridges inventory.

Completed Tasks - We issued the press release for the Wegmans Trail Passport book. The press releases are out there, the books are out there. The intention is to put them out there at the travel plazas. We're going to have some here. We're going to spread them around. If anybody wants some books, Sam we've got a case of them from Shelly Wells and the health department. We can certainly hand out a couple if someone wants to have them at their location. So that's out there. Much thanks to Martha, I believe she was the trail etiquette person getting that out in the newspaper. Thanks to her and what you did. I think that was a great helpful article.

Judy Hunt: Are the signs up on the Wegmans trail, Sam?

Brad Bentley: What there are is they're on posts and their rubber pads that you put a piece of paper over and you take a pencil and you scratch over it.

Judy Hunt: And they're in place?

Brad Bentley: All in place, yes.

Martha Anderson: You have to take a pencil or a crayon with you on rails to trails because there's no pencils at the posts that they're at.

Brad Bentley: I will tell you a neat little trick if you don't have a pencil or a crayon. You take a rock and a rock can actually suffice.

Martha Anderson: There's three feet of snow there, sir.

Brad Bentley: If you can find a rock or a piece of bark, I don't know, just something to hard press with.

Martha Anderson: Take a picture of it on my phone and just printed it out and tucked it in my book.

Brad Bentley: You can do that as well. That's a very good idea.

2021 Budget – The operating budget is unchanged from last month. We are about 15% expensed. Capital projects – I think that's the same amount. I think at some point we really do need to talk about what to do about the Luensman bathroom but our current plan is to keep the bathrooms closed till we have guidance from the CDC about commonly touched surfaces and how often they need to be cleaned. As long as their guidance out there is what it is, I recommend we keep that closed because I can't get out there to clean that as often as the CDC recommends. If that changes we'll have to think about that but I don't feel that it's probably feasible for the bathrooms to open in the near term anyway. We can talk about that more if you guys ... That's my report, any questions on anything I talked about?

Bob Franzen: Tractor, is that going to be the new John Deere the same trade-in as on down there? Is it a state bid or anything like that?

Sam Zafuto: Yea, it's going to be on state bid. We're working through landfill right now because we can purchase through them to account for it. We're working some stuff out there. Equipment Maintenance Supervisor right now works out of this office. We're in the process right now of getting those...a purchase order issued.

Bob Franzen: Nothing else I think on that. John, can we get you to jump in on there? The legislature report.

Legislation

John Hemmer: Yes sir. Thank you. As Mr. Bentley said, we did do in our legislature meeting yesterday, we did do a bunch of confirm and appointments and re-appointments and the Parks Commission appointments were redone. Also, Jacob was added as another Parks Commission appointment. Also there wasn't a whole lot else having to do with the parks on the agenda there, it was mostly amendments to the budget. That's what most of the resolutions amounted to. I did have contact from Lisa Vanstrom who is the legislator representing the Falconer, part of Town of Ellicott down there in that corner of the county. Someone contacted her and they were worried about what they had heard I guess or had seen in the paper article about the proposed work on the trails. Apparently this person was worried that it was going to turn into a bike only trail. A mountain biking only trail. I told Lisa to, I gave Lisa Jacob Bodway's email and I don't know if this person did contact Jacob or not. But I told Lisa not to worry that she should tell the person who contacted her not to worry that Jacob wasn't going to turn it into a mountain bike only trail, that he was making, the plans that he was making would only be enhancements to the trail as being multi-use. Actually, this person, I don't have the email right in front of me, was worried about improvements to the trail taking, I don't know, some of the adventure out of it or something, that this person said that the trails, you know, have ups and downs and curves in the trails and I'm not looking for an interstate trail or something that's going to go straight. Again, I said that's not the idea behind these trail improvements. The improvements are basically to repair bridges, go around I guess wetlands and in generally just make the trail better. So Lisa seemed to be satisfied and I have not heard back from her and I don't know if this person did contact Jacob. Jacob, you're on, did you get an email from someone asking you about what improvements are planned for the trails?

Jacob Bodway: I did not. Some people are raising this on Hike Western New York, a Facebook group. Someone posted the article and some people were getting worried I basically said if you have questions reach out to me directly. I posted a short little paragraph about what the improvements will entail and then no one got back to me. There's 11,000 people on that Facebook page I believe so everybody saw my post that was on that page. No one has gotten back to me yet. No trails that we've ever built, the West (inaudible) mountain biking association, they are all shared use. Every trail we have, 120,000 – they're all shared use trail systems. Obviously the overlands are shared use right now and that will not change.

Judy Hunt: Well I think you have probably clarified it for that citizen.

Brad Bentley: And I would just add that what Jacob's trying to do is not just for the trail users themselves but it's also for the maintenance of the trails. Improvements he's trying to do is making low maintenance. As we all know a vertical up and down on a hill basically creates a water path for erosion. The improvements he's trying to do is cut the velocity of the water, cut the erosion. It's actually going to lead to a more low maintenance, easier to water abate as far as the trail use. So I look at this where we can eliminate bridges or elevate the water crossings so we can bring water away. These are all improvements regardless of you're a biker, a hiker, a skier, whatever. The trail's going to be in a better shape than it would if Jacob hadn't been doing these things.

Judy Hunt: Probably the mountain biker association being general making her think inaccurately that they would benefit most.

Brad Bentley: That's unfortunate but we all know here Jacob's been talking about this proposal for over a year and a half. Public meetings well documented. Certainly if anybody has input, I know this is being recorded and will be on the county website. Talk to myself, Jacob, Parks Commission members – we're here to answer questions. Get rid of any of those fears that people might have that we're turning this into something that it isn't.

BobFranzen: Are we going to be getting more help to do this or is there a volunteer system that can help or how is this gonna – seeing as we're doing all this, we're going to have materials, is that coming out of see like the Parks budget? Or is the county coming up with part for this mountain bikers do or is there anything we can get an idea what we're doing?

Brad Bentley: I'll go first Jacob. This isn't really a county effort. This is a Jacob effort through grant funding. So the county's actually not putting any funding into this, the trails otherwise. It's going to be done by Jacob and it's also done on state forest land. So this is completely a coordinated effort with the DEC and Keith Carrow as far as the improvements. As we had discussed from the legal, the state is the one that controls their lands. This is really not a parks budget. As a matter of fact this will help us out tremendously because it's not being funding through our budget. Sorry Jacob, I wanted to go first.

Jacob Bodway: That's all right. The idea is to eliminate the gravel and outside materials by making the trails sustainable as possible using the topography of the land. It's basically what we do. We take the GIS of the land and look at how topography works and then we kind of flag the trail accordingly. For example, when there are sections that are actually really good, it just needs some grade reversals or some rolling dips, we'll maybe flag that sections pink. Where we need to do bench we may flag that section orange. A machine comes up to it, they know exactly what needs to be done in that section because of the color of that flag. They don't have to walk ahead. They just hit it straight on and do the maintenance that's required in that section. Can I share a screen Kathy? Is that possible.

Kathy Tampio: Yes, you can share your screen.

Jacob Bodway: This is the estimated total cost. What I'm looking for, \$600,000. The amenities will all be phase I which is here, which is \$75,000 is what I'm asking roughly. That will be for trail hiking kiosks, mini-kiosks, benches, the trail signs, bike's repair stands at the trail heads, and then installation of all that material. Some of that will just be expenses of installations. It's really expensive. These are the different phases. These are just estimates. This one is locked in. I had asked for \$55,000 for Whalen in Harmony. I'm just estimating that Chautauqua Gorge and Mount Pleasant are just larger state forests, more trail. So I'm just guessing at as of right now will cost \$120,000 but we'll have a better idea when we actually go into the woods and use the ... kind of figure it out step by step so to speak. These will be the mile markers which we use for the trail signs. So we have the overland trail, Chautauqua County which is from hikechautauqua.com. I ordered 1,000 of these. These will be the mile markers. These will be reflective. The cost of those is \$3,815. That's the estimated cost from 360 Graphics in Jamestown. The benches are right here. These are made out of recycled plastic.

They'll last for 50 years, that's how long they last for for the warrantee. And a quote from Jamestown Advanced Products is \$11,818. We're estimating that the benches will be about \$500 a piece to install. We're trying to get a local concrete company to come in and dig. They're basically going to have to auger down 24 inches as you can see here and then concrete all this in. Three times for each bench for 15 benches. We're also looking at bike repair stands. As a mountain biker, most bikers come to a trail, they have their own pump, they have their own gear. Anybody who mountain bikes, but I'm looking at the people who don't bike, who come to a trail with their family. So we're looking at this (*inaudible*) fixing stand. This comes with all the tools and attached to it with a bike pump right here, the tires. They are expensive. These are \$1,400 apiece. I want 9 of them. They'll also have to be installed on a concrete pad, it's basically riveted in. The stand's total cost to be about \$1,800 and \$2,000 with the install. Anybody have any questions about all that so far?

John Hemmer: Is this equipment, kind of, do you find this a lot on the mountain bike trails that you've personally in other parts of New York State?

Jacob Bodway: Any modern trail system will have all these amenities.

John Hemmer: Okay, that sounds good.

Jacob Bodway: Anything that's been developed in the last five or six years, since really the Ralph Wilson fund started. This is what you are seeing in Buffalo, this is what you're seeing in Rochester, this is what you're seeing in the James Rocks trail system in the town of Warren, Pennsylvania. Any recent trail system will have this. What we need are kiosks. We don't have any kiosks that say the mileage of the trail, that say what state forest you are in. It just says overland trail, but someone pulls in they don't know, there's no standardized sign post that tells people what's going on. So the kiosks will provide a lot of information, people will pull in and then come back to the trail because they see the mileage, they see the maps. This is what any modern trail system will have. It is going to be expensive with the \$75,000 ask for phase one then \$65,000 for the actual construction of phase one but I think this will be a big wow factor for the county. People will be coming to the trail heads and see a huge improvement just on the trail heads. Having the benches, having the bike repair stands and having the kiosks all there. Right now the way the bike, basically from New York State Parks Service, they said park use has tripled in 2020 because of COVID. We're expecting it to quadruple this year. And as we saw to pass this out, this is from the overland trails, the Hike Chautauqua, you can see the overland trails registration is actually higher than we anticipated. This is just 2017. 12,000 people signed in on the overland trails. That's just sign-ins only. We figure that's one tenth of what the actual numbers are. We're figuring 127,000 people visit the overland trails every year.

Tom Erlandson: Let me interrupt. What percentage of those rather high numbers are walkers and what percentage are bikers.

Jacob Bodway: That I don't know.

Tom Erlandson: I think that's an important question. I want to go back to that comment that came to the legislator, that person in Falconer concerned about trails being taken over by bicycles. These trails were originally designed in the early 70's and constructed for hikers. In

fact, it was county law that bicycles and horses were prohibited. Things change. People's activities change and I sure am aware of that. But I do want to point out that the original trails were designed primarily for hikers, not bicycles. I will be very honest and blunt, I do have some concerns about biker's associations taking over our county trails that were designed for hikers. With all due respect to Jacob. I realize that all these changes are going to be, at least I understand them to be, on state property. Only our county trails on state property and obviously the state DEC has much say here, they always have. Every year since the beginning county parks had an annual meeting with the DEC. There's been great cooperation between county parks and the DEC. We have always been grateful. I say we, the Parks Commission, has always been grateful for the cooperation of the state. But I do want to express my concern along with who it was from Falconer, that bicycles take over part of our county hiking trails.

Jacob Bodway: That's a good point, you're right that things do change and the biggest thing that's changed has been trail design over the past 45 years. We follow the trail design of the internet International Mountain Biking Association which has been adopted by the United States Bureau of Land Management. So it is the universal trail design for hiking trails, biking trails, cross country ski trails. Any type of multi-use trail system besides equestrians follows the same design we will be using for the overland trails. So it's not going to be mountain bike specific, it's not going to be tailored toward mountain bikers. It'll be tailored toward everybody. The only thing that we are going to change is the idea of making the trails sustainable. That's it. We're not going to take out any of the fun factor. We're going to make them much more fun I guarantee that. There'll be more winding through the woods. There'll be benches cut into the hills. We're going to use the ridge lines so there is a natural drainage. Right now a lot of the trails are in shallow areas or even flood plains. We're going to move them up on the ridges so the water just goes right down the ridge. So we don't have to worry about maintaining having so many bridges. The views will be spectacular for hikers, cross country skiers and snow shoers in wintertime because the foliage will all be down. It will be a much better trail system. I'm biased because I design them and help build them, but I know that whenever we have done any work at Hunter State, Hunters Creek county park for example in East Aurora, New York. We've done work down there and the hikers have been over the moon excited about all the trail work we've done.

Tom Erlandson: Jacob, you have your biases and I have mine and my biases are different than yours. I was an instrumental part in laying out the original trails and in some respect constructing them. Every summer I worked with students that were hired by CETA and other government programs. We were very proud of our trails the way they existed so our biases are different and I think we are going to have to work them out.

Jacob Bodway: That's very much all I have as far as I did submit \$15,000 grants to the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation for reroute, getting the trail off of Whalen Forest Road into the woods. I will be submitting a grant on Monday for the kiosks to the Sheldon Foundation. It's hard to keep them all straight at this point, there's 6 foundations. The next one will be the Hallquist Foundation which will be the trail signs and the bike stands. Any questions about any of this?

Brad Bentley: I'll just add, from a Public Facilities Director that's in charge of the budget and the parks, maintaining the trails and I know that Legislator Hemmer would agree

with me that the funds to maintain the parks and trails, the waterway trails, they're not there. I want to thank Jacob for efforts to get \$600,000. That's amazing. If we can get that amount of money I think that's amazing for the maintenance of the parks because that dwarfs my budget and what I can do on the trails. When I look at it, any improvement that goes towards improving the multi-use of this is going to make it better than what I present today. As we talked about over the past where we've had to close trails because beavers flooded the trails with the water so no one's getting the benefit of using those trails. That's not what we need to do. So if there's a way that we can get grant funding to make it useable for all, that is what we need to do. We need to work together as a team to figure our way forward because it's not just for hikers, it's not just for mountain bikers, not just for skiers, it's not just for anybody, it's just for everybody – the nature lover to get out an hike, ride, take advantage of the fresh air, get exercise. That's really what it's all about. Our job is to see past any of our biases and look towards the good of, what's good for the system and as someone that uses the budget, I can tell you, boy it's difficult to find just any money to do the maintenance. I welcome any effort that anybody has and we'll work through the differences.

John Hemmer: I agree with what Brad is saying. The amount of money available for the parks from county funds is very limited and this is just a wonderful godsend as far as I'm concerned to have Jacob have the energy to go out and help us to get money to do the repairs and to make this trail truly a multi-use trail. I think that's what we need to be looking forward to. We want more people to use these trails. I don't think we want to limit the use of the trails. We rather want to expand it and make it a better experience for everybody who uses them. It sounds like this is the kind of thing that is more typical of trails that people expect. They kind of expect that these kind of amenities will be available and I think that it's just going to increase the use of our trails and that's what we're after in my opinion.

Judy Hunt: Jacob, when will the Ralph Wilson grant be announced? Do you know, do they have a timeline?

Jacob Bodway: The end of April is my hope. I think if that one doesn't work out I'll have to apply again next year. I think that's the linchpin for everything else. Just again to kind of reiterate the shared use element of it if I can share my screen again. Here's a trail system that we are in charge of. It's called Harris Hill Extension in Harris Hill State Forest. The overland is right over here. The east side overland. We have five reviews for the east side overland. Harris Hill Extension has 20 reviews. We also have a hiker insignia right for that trail. So it's not just a mountain bike trail. You click on it and you have a map available right off the bat. Here's the trail system off the overland and pictures of people on the trails. We have a little lean-to put up. Harris Hill Extension cross country ski trails, mountain bike trails, names of all the trails. Here's one of the trails. This is a single trail, the overlands will not be this narrow but this is a mountain bike specific trail. So you can see we're trying to cater to all users when we build a trail system. It's never a single trail user group that we privilege over another. Most of the overland trails will stay pretty much the same. What we plan to do is create outflows where there's problems with drainage. Just taking a machine and kind of skimming where it's cupped up on the side where the water is getting trapped. We'll just remove that cup so the water can sheet off the trail a little bit easier. Most of the improvements will be that kind of stuff. So, you're not going to see a brand new trail except where we absolutely have to make a reroute. Where it's just completely unsustainable, under water like it is over at the beaver pond, on Mt. Pleasant we'll probably

reroute that if we can't figure out the beaver pond. There's some sections that go straight up a hill where it's really swampy on top, we'll just reroute that a little bit. But the reroutes will just be part, it won't be the whole trail. So I just want to be very clear that most of the work will be improvements, not brand new trail.

Martha Anderson: And the trail system that you do have at Harris Hill I've been on numerous times, done all those different trails. It's wonderful. You've done a great job and the upkeep on it is great. It's absolutely beautifully amazing up there to just go out into the woods for all those miles and just look around and hike. It's truly, you've done a great job there.

Jacob Bodway: And that was all built by hand. Besides Flo's Frolic, across the street, that one was built by the machine. But if you are interested in seeing what we envision the new overland trails, kind of like the reroutes, go to Harris Hill parking lot, across the street you'll see a sign that says Flo's Frolic, that's the trail, it's a two and a half mile loop. It's right across from the Harris Hill extension parking lot on Harris Hill road, and you'll see basically what we're going to be doing. That one was 100% built by machines. Or you can go to Allegany State Park and go to the new Stone Tower trail, which is located on Stone Tower Road going up to the summit. That was built by the same company who are working on the overland trails – construction associates. They've been a fantastic job. So you'll see the difference between hand cut trails which most of Harris Hill was compared to the machine built which is much wider, and has much better drainage. Martha, you're right, the drainage in Harris Hill, the hand cut stuff is good but the machine stuff is even better because it's just so much easier to move dirt with a machine than it is by hand.

Martha Anderson: Yah and Flo's Frolic is very easy to walk too. It's a very nice trail for beginners to experience. It's a really nice trail that winds in through the woods.

Jacob Bodway: That is our beginner friendly trail. The green trail.

John Hemmer: Sounds real good. Thank you Jacob. Thank you Martha for your trail review. That's very encouraging and it just sounds good to me that this is a great thing for Chautauqua County to have these trails improved. I just think it will bring people in. Thank you guys one and all and I guess that's then end of my report.

Brad Bentley: John, if I could just add a little something onto the end of your Legislature report? It probably should have been on my ongoing tasks, but I am continuing to work with Steve Abdella on refreshing the DPF administrative code to incorporate the nine board members to the Parks. That language for the nine members is essentially complete. Steve and I are going back and forth on language that doesn't actually have anything to do with the parks, as parks is part of the DPF. It's dated, it's some pretty good updating so Steve and I are expecting to bring that through to Public Facilities in the March legislative cycle. That's our goal right now. Hopefully nothing gets in the way of that, but right now we're targeting to legislator action.

John Hemmer: Thank you. I'd forgotten to mention that. That was in the works. But, yes, it's moving along. That sounds good too. Alright, thank you.

Tom Erlandson: John, I just had a question. As this moves along, are we going to be up to nine members? Will that be the end result?

Brad Bentley: I believe that's what was the ask from the Parks Commission. That would what would be in the administrative code. Once that's approved then we can take the additional applications, the Parks Commission would then vote on it and send those recommendations to the legislature for their approval.

Tom Erlandson: Thank you.

Brad Bentley: I think I said that right John?

John Hemmer: That's my understanding. I think that came from the commission, wanted to add some additional members and that will certainly help us to ensure that we get representation from all parts of the county. I think that's what brought it all about. That was our original plan. We've got enough from the south county and we want to pick up some more members from the north county and I don't think we wanted to move anybody off that's on here. All the help we can get, I think we need.

Old Business

Judy Hunt: Tom, did you locate some new person? I think someone was going to join us, a lady, I don't remember her name.

Tom Erlandson: We have two actually from the north county. Carrie McCausland has been sort of waiting in the wings for several months now. She has completed all the paperwork necessary I believe. Kathy, you can correct me if I'm wrong on that.

Kathy Tampio: Yes, we already have the application here in the office, I've got it.

Tom Erlandson: And then Bob Dando who's with us today. Bob is also interested. Bob's from the north county. Bob Franzen has talked with him. Right Bob? I don't know whether Bob Dando has completed the application or paperwork Kathy, but Bob is the second one so those two would be both from the north county and would bring us up to nine if they are approved.

Judy Hunt: Maybe you can encourage them to join us next month. She can get a feel for what this group is like. Hopefully she won't get turned off.

Brad Bentley: Well, we can do similar to what Jacob did. Jacob joined us for many, many month before he became official. We can certainly add her as an unofficial member. I welcome all input. The earlier, the better. I wouldn't want us to wait for an official status to have her participate.

Judy Hunt: Tom, maybe you'll encourage her to join us next month.

Tom Erlandson: Certainly I can do that.

Kathy Tampio: If you want, I think I might have her email address that's on her application. I'll check that right now and I can just add her to the list serve if you want.

Judy Hunt: What's her last name Kathy?

Kathy Tampio: Mc Causland.

Martha Anderson: I think it's a good idea to put her on the email so she knows when we're meeting and what's happening.

Kathy Tampio: Sure.

Judy Hunt: Well I'll add her to my agenda email. I did have a request from somebody from the Dunkirk newspaper for an agenda. I did send it to him.

Kathy Tampio: Yes, I do have Carrie's email address. I'll add her to the list if you'd like.

Judy Hunt: Okay.

Tom Erlandson: You have Bob Dando's too?

Kathy Tampio: I don't believe I do.

Tom Erlandson: I can send that to you, I've got it. If that's alright Bob.

Bob Dando: Is there an actual application to fill out? I know I sent in my resume form but is there an actual application you want me to fill out?

Kathy Tampio: Yes. I can't remember Brad, did you send that out last time to Jacob or did I?

Brad Bentley: Sam did you?

Sam Zafuto: No, I don't think that was us.

Brad Bentley: Jacob, who did you get the application from, do you remember?

John Hemmer: I thought it was just the resume. Is there an application?

Kathy Tampio: It's just the same application that the county executive uses and we just send that out. I can do that. I can send it Bob if I have his email address.

Brad Bentley: Yes, I think Kathy that you had sent it. We just copied that.

Jacob Bodway: I have it. It was sent by Dan?

Kathy Tampio: Oh, Dan Heitzenrater?

John Hemmer: Oh, the county executive's office. Because the county executive is actually the appointing official I guess.

Kathy Tampio: Yes, but for the Parks Commission, it's the legislature.

John Hemmer: Oh, okay.

Kathy Tampio: But we are using the same form.

Judy Hunt: Brad, what's the status of that county DEC agreement?

Brad Bentley: That is up for renewal. Keith sent me a draft of it. The agreement quoted with a five year renewal option. I asked him why we weren't just taking advantage of just renewing it. He had to go back to his lawyers to find out if that could be done or not. There were some changes he wanted to put in there, but they were relatively minor updates. He probably owes me a call back on whether we can do just a renewal or he wants to do a new agreement.

Judy Hunt: Okay, I read through the minutes and that's why I added it to old business. So it's in the works I guess.

Brad Bentley: Yeah, I didn't put it on there but I didn't have much more than the other night. I looked at it and I read the five year option, an option to renew for another five years. That's why we're just doing that.

Judy Hunt: Probably that's what will happen.

Brad Bentley: That would be the easy way, but sometimes we don't always take the easy way out.

Judy Hunt: Bob, do you want to ask for new business?

New Business

Bob Franzen: Yeah, that's why I was wondering if we get, I see we've got most of everything on our list except new business. Anything that anyone wanted to bring up on, or do we want to hold off for another month here. Spring is coming. The only thing I know on new business is however we're going to do for the parks. If we're going to come up with anything on opening our, or catch it up on table meeting and go from there.

Brad Bentley: The current plan is to open up the parks. As we started last year we just didn't open the restrooms. I think the plan is to open the gates on schedule. What day is it Sam? The first week of May. We'll just open them the first week in May. We won't be taking reservations for any large gatherings or any weddings or meetings. It'll be open just for people

to go out and visit until the CDC gives us some kind of guidance that things are a little bit back to normal. I don't see us doing anything different from that. I do anticipate opening the parks. Considering we have a gate keeper to open it.

Bob Franzen: Maybe we got to get the Sheriff's Department to ride through twice a day.

Brad Bentley: Well, that's an option but I'd rather see if we can get a gate keeper there that can also kind of keep an eye on it out there during the day too.

Bob Franzen: Tom and I decided to talk to Phil Wilson. Maybe he has some ideas of something to do so we'll put that on as a goal for this next meeting. We'll see if we can come up with something before that.

Sam Zafuto: Yeah, Bob, just give me a call tomorrow. I do have his cell phone number if you don't have it.

Bob Franzen: Okay, okay. I can do that.

Judy Hunt: Shall we adjourn? Next meeting March 25th.

Next Meeting: March 25, 2021, 4:00 pm

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Tampio
Clerk, Chautauqua County Legislature

Approved 3/25/2021