

**Minutes**

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION  
Thursday, April 22, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

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

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

**Members Absent:** Marla Connelly

**Others Present:** Brad Bentley, Kathy Tampio, Bob Dando, Carrie McCausland, Sam Zafuto, Mike Macris

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Franzen at 4:03 p.m.

**Acknowledgement of Guests and Topics Discussions**

Brad Bentley: I'll introduce him. Mike and some friends sent an email to the Parks email address about potentially doing a donation to the parks in memory of someone. Mike, I'll let you take it away.

Mike Macris: There's a group of us that go to Chautauqua to fish every year. We stay in *(inaudible)* Bay Cottages outside of Mayville and the lady treats us like we're family that owns it. She lost her husband a week ago tomorrow I believe, and the group of guys that I go up with, we're trying to come up with an idea to do something in his memory. We didn't want to do funeral flowers so we thought maybe a bench or a tree here in Chautauqua County. I'm from *(inaudible)* County, Ohio, Canton area. Our park system does things like we can buy flowers to be planted in somebody's memory or a tree, a bench, whatever. We talked to Westfield because he and his wife live in Westfield and so we are toying around with what we can do. We do want to do something in his memory and I guess it's his wife, she treats us like we're family when we are there. When I contacted the Parks Department, they said you would get on this and see what we can do. I'm here, I'm open for suggestions.

Brad Bentley: I have the first question. Do you have a particular park? We have two of them, one at Luensman and the other one at Erlandson.

Mike Macris: No we don't. I mean we're just exploring what we can do. There's about 15 of us go up every year. We come up to fish your beautiful lake up there. I don't know exactly what, we pretty much stick around the Chautauqua areas. Is there one that's close to Westfield?

Brad Bentley: That would be the Luensman Park.

Mike Macris: Well that would probably be the one because like I said, she still lives in Westfield.

Brad Bentley: We just ordered a bench for someone else who inquired about doing a donation. Sam,, what was the cost for that?

Sam Zafuto: It ended up being \$585.00 was the cost of the bench through the New York State pricing. We got it under their contract but it expired so I don't know if it would be the same cost.

Mike Macris: 585?

Sam Zafuto: But that would be in the ball park.

Mike Macris: Okay, that's fine.

Brad Bentley: Just to give some more flavor on that. We were able to find a location for that under the prior existing gazebo so we didn't have to pour a concrete pad. We just need to bolt it down. So it was pretty much just the cost of the bench at that point.

Mike Macris: Okay. Great. I'm dealing with 14 other people so I have to coordinate all this. I don't know how I got elected to be the accountant and everything else. I do the fishing trip too. I'm the weakest one, they could beat me up if I steal it. I will run this past everybody and I will get back to Sam and go from there if that's okay with everybody.

Judy Hunt: Does he need to consider a different location which would require a foundation?

Brad Bentley: I'm just kind of thinking off the top of my head right now so obviously you can discuss whatever needs to be done. If we're going to put it in the same park for consistency up there, it's kind of an octagon structure so you could put it in another side but I would like to have the same type of bench. Its maintenance free, it's made out of composite.

Sam Zafuto: Yeah, it's polywood.

Brad Bentley: Something like that, long lasting but we probably want to since the first guy got to pick, the second one might not have much of a choice.

Mike Macris: Absolutely. We would not want it to look gaudy, it should match whatever you folks have. Now, did you allow them to put a plaque on it or a plate in the person's memory?

Brad Bentley: Yeah, they're purchasing the plaque and engraving it and paying for the installation.

Mike Macris: Great, very good. Thank you.

Brad Bentley: The plaque Sam....

Sam Zafuto: Witt has been handling that himself separately.

Brad Bentley: It's probably not a big plaque. I don't know where he's planning on putting it but ...

Sam Zafuto: No, he had kind of handled it with us when the bench comes in. He was taking care of that himself.

John Hemmer: Is the bench going to go in this year?

Sam Zafuto: The bench, I'm going to check tomorrow. Given the lead time and when we got the money deposited and ordered, it's going to be 6 to 8 weeks. So we were looking basically the middle of May it should be in. Jamestown Advanced Products want to go pick it up.

*(Cross talk)*

Mike Macris: I'll talk to the guys and I will get back to Sam and let you know what their decision is and I got a feeling they're going to go along with it. We'll see what happens. Thank you all very much. Hope to see you. Take care.

John Hemmer: Thank you for coming down and take advantage of that lake anytime.

Mike Macris: I love it up there. If I lived on that lake I'd be using it, I'd never be off of it.

Brad Bentley: Just one more thing Mike, it's a process. In order for me to accept donations I actually have to process a resolution through the legislature. There are a couple steps that are administrative in nature, but it's also a way to get additional recognition for the person you are trying to get it in memory of. It's a little bit more than just handing me a check. I have to get approval to accept the money. Which you'd think would be odd but ...

Mike Macris: No, I work for a library retired. It all has to be done the right way. Very good. I will get back to Sam as soon as I have an answer and he's got my email so he can email me whatever needs to be done and we'll handle it as best we can.

Brad Bentley: Thanks for joining Mike.

Judy Hunt: I make a motion that we accept a money donation toward a bench.

Brad Bentley: Well, he still hasn't offered yet.

Judy Hunt: Oh, okay. The cart before the horse. Sorry.

Brad Bentley: There's no horse or cart yet.

John Hemmer: Well, that sounds nice. That's very encouraging. It would be good to have another memorial type. Maybe that's something that we can continue. Add more.

Brad Bentley: So Bob I think that's it. That's the only person I know of that was going to join us today.

### **Minutes Review and Acceptance**

Bob Franzen: Any corrections?

Judy Hunt: Just on the last line. It said we were meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April instead of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. That's my only suggestion, correction.

Judy Hunt: Let's have a motion to accept the minutes that Kathy has sent to us please.

Bob Franzen: I presume everyone has got the minutes?

Jacob Bodway: I make a motion we accept the minutes.

Judy Hunt: I'll second it.

*The minutes of 3/25/2021 were approved as corrected.*

### **Operations**

Bob Franzen: We have an operations report that came in today. Brad, you want to give us that?

Brad Bentley: I'd be glad to.

**Staffing** – We have Bart and an assigned road maintainer. We off winter shifts and onto summer so it is Bart, two people now. Mike is also assigning others as needed, as Bart needs help till Bart's ready to get open. Bart will have additional help to get that done. We are in the process of hiring seasonal employees. We've assigned three people to be there with the assumption that I can find enough seasonals to fill all the spots. I'm going to do a little public service message here, with everybody here. If you know anybody who wants to work the highway or the parks as a seasonal, have them apply. We have hired 17, we need a total of what 31? Right Sam?

Sam Zafuto: Yeah, 31's the number.

Brad Bentley: So I am short 14 people right now. So if anybody has a college student type, high school student, someone with a driver's license, they should apply. At the highway there'll be a flagger. The parks, taking care of the parks maintenance, trail maintenance, certainly encourage them to apply to the HR office. You can apply on-line. Fill out an application. So if you know anybody, send them over.

Jacob Bodway: Do you have the website for the application?

Brad Bentley: Sam, can you post the link in the chat?

Sam Zafuto: Oh yes, I can.

Martha Anderson: Is there an age limit Brad?

Brad Bentley: I think the requirements are a driver's license. So I think you got to be at least 16 or 17. You have to be able to get to the job site without Mom and Dad.

Bob Franzen: At 16 you can get working papers or anything?

Brad Bentley: Yeah, you'll need all the social security number and all the other stuff.

Bob Franzen: *(inaudible)*

Brad Bentley: Sam, what's the starting rate?

Sam Zafuto: The starting rate is \$14.44 for a laborer this year.

Brad Bentley: So we are above minimum wage. That's 40 hours a week so it's not working fast food just 30 hours a week. It's full time, 40 hours plus potential overtime if you happen to be on a paving crew or something like that. So it's a good job. If you know anybody have them apply and Sam did you put that in the chat?

Sam Zafuto: Doing it right now.

Brad Bentley: So you have the link so you can forward that on to whoever you might know. Get them to apply.

**Ongoing Tasks** – We have the order in for the front mount mower with delivery for the John Deere tractor, do we have a date Sam?

Sam Zafuto: No, it's shortly. I didn't get a chance to talk to Scott at *(inaudible)* but it was supposed to be basically anytime now.

Bob Franzen: That a tractor or is it the big mower?

Sam Zafuto: Well there's the big front mount and there's the mower. It's two separate pieces.

Bob Franzen: Right, okay, but the tractor it said on here, the John Deere tractor for the, that's a regular .....

Sam Zafuto: I believe that was Luensman one that they assigned that to.

Brad Bentley: Yeah, but it is a tractor.

Bob Franzen: It's a tractor, okay. The mower that came in today then, that's the one that was purchased before then? That's the one that came in today?

Sam Zafuto: I wasn't aware, I heard there might have been a delivery today but I haven't been over to the shop this afternoon.

Bob Franzen: I was down there today and they were unloading one there. I was wondering if that was a parks mower.

Sam Zafuto: No, that would be for the parks. We don't have any ordered for the highway currently.

Bob Franzen: Okay.

Brad Bentley: Well I haven't been outside my office today. I've been on six Zoom calls so I'll go take a look afterwards.

Bob Franzen: Probably in the mechanics shop over there.

Brad Bentley: So evidently it might be here, I don't know. The Schrader donation was received and the bench ordered. We kind of talked about that. We'll get it installed once Jamestown tells us it's ready. To get checked off the list. We're still reviewing the equipment inventory for an updated list as we find time to fit that in the schedule. That's not the highest priority but we are still working on it. Erlandson Park timber harvest – continued good news here. The bids came in and Marvin (*inaudible*) won it at \$10,500. The bid was opened on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We're awaiting his insurance and deposit because the way those work is you actually have to pay up front and then a performance bond. So we have to get all the paperwork in place before we can allow them onto the site and actually do the work. So that's in process. We'll keep track of that and get a schedule. When they have a better idea of when they are going to be out there then we'll figure out park access and what not.

Tom Erlandson: Brad, I have a question. Does that include topping or in some way removing the trees that are encroaching on the view of the lake?

Brad Bentley: Yes, Rick Constantino and I said that is part of the requirements that they would take down that whole section if you want and improving that view shed.

Tom Erlandson: I thought it did but ...thanks.

Brad Bentley: Unless I miss something, which never say never, but based on the conversation with Rick and I two months ago, that was in there. So that's nice, we are going to get some money that goes into the parks capital as all timber harvests do. Every little bit helps. Sam, do we need to have a resolution to get that money in?

Sam Zafuto: Yes, we will once we get the check received to the capital account, we'll have to do a resolution.

Brad Bentley: So we'll have to do that for the May legislative cycle, assuming we get everything in in time. Yeah, the big day is we're preparing for the opening of the county parks. I issued a press release a couple of weeks ago. I had a couple reporters ask me questions so we put together a press release and I got a couple questions asked by legal about what are we going to do about reservations. How many people are we going to allow be in there without requiring some form of Forward New York Safety Plan. So in reviewing it, obviously any gazebo reservation as it always has been, needs to be gone through the Parks Department, but I also looked at it and said any group party over 20 people really needs to have a plan in place to use the parks for any kind of organized event. We had a number of them come in. We're working through those reservations to make sure the party size, if they are going to have food at the event or make sure there's plans in place to help prevent the spread of COVID because as we all know COVID is still out there even though the vaccines are getting out there. People are still contracting COVID everyday here. So we want to make sure we're following the right guidelines and make sure everybody who uses our parks has correct plans in place and they're basically signing that they are going to adhere to the rules so that the County is not liable for any issues that might come about. So if they're not following the rules, they're violating their, what they told us they're going to do in violating the plan they are going to have in place. Any questions on kind of how we are dealing with the parks, reservation and organized events? That's a little bit of a change. I'll be looking that over in time as the guidance changes. If at some point down the road the Governor says that anybody can meet anywhere, anytime, then obviously we'll take that off the table. I think that might be a while so I suspect we'll have the rules in place at least for the next couple months if not longer. Other things with the parks, Bart's getting ready, here's got a lot of work to do but he's hoping to it. We actually got the tipped over port-a-jon over in Arkwright taken away. The guy that had it didn't realize it was out there. He came out and picked it up. He's not going to charge us for it while it was there. Which is a good thing and we got a replacement. So there's one out there now that should work. I think Sam said it is \$30 a month.

Sam Zafuto: Yes, that's the price we got.

Brad Bentley: So that will be out there. Bart is painting the signs. He's trying to get out there and clear some hiking trails and get as much as that done. Placing the garbage cans at Luensman. Replaced some bridge boards. I talked to Mike (?) and said that they've actually recently been able to make some progress on some of the bridges. I'm sure it's not all but at least we're making some attempts at it. New sign-in sheets and maps have been put out. The Wegmans passport has been placed out for the parks users and at various locations.

Sam Zafuto: I think they're putting more out tomorrow too.

Brad Bentley: We're putting them at the visitors center, right?

Sam Zafuto: Yeah, by 86 yeah. They've taken some of the maps, the passports. I've got to get some maps off to Evergreen in Mayville because they've asked for some and some different spots at the Chautauqua Institution once they're open.

Brad Bentley: So we are trying to spread them around, get them out there so there's more public and they're be able to use them. We'll be putting the signs out at Erlandson Park and getting these laminated signs at the (*inaudible*). I'm sure I'm missing some things that Bart's doing on here. Again, the bathrooms will need to be closed until I see some guidance from the Health Department or the CDC that says it might be okay not to have daily cleaning of the bathrooms. But I know that Bart's also looking at testing the water so we can get those out there. If we do not get that done in time, we'll have to place signs out there that says it's not potable water. Depending where that all comes in at we'll make sure the signs are in place. That's the ongoing tasks.

**Completed Tasks** – Gatekeeper agreements are executed so thanks Bob for getting our Erlandson guy to sign on. A big help there. We submitted the 5-year capital plan and the two bullets here are just the 2022 requests so we want to replace a 2018 ATV, estimated about \$15,000. So this would all be local share. It would come from Parks Capital. The second one is the, my engineering guy just, I've got him working out there. He's doing some good things and he's working on the Cockaign-Buckney(?) Trail development. He believes there might be a federal grant out there to help us to get the trails more off the roads and more into the woods here. The grant would be an 80-20 grant so Federal 80%, 20% local share. I think the high level estimated cost we put in here was \$127,000. So that would mean a local share of \$25,400. So for those that want to do the calculator. So that will be going to the Capital Planning Board on May 4<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon and there's a second sheet that's attached to the document that we sent out that actually lists the 5-year plan. So you can look at that. There's some bathroom rehabs and other trail developments and some other equipment purchases that are in the outer years. You can look at that. I look at the most current year because things change after one year and we figure out what the most priority is for 2023 next year.

**2021 Budget** – Operating Budget – It's still \$156,000. We are sitting at almost \$46,000 being expensed. So a little ahead, I don't know what you want to call it, a little behind but I think we'll be in a good spot here by the end of the year. Again, \$172,000 in the capital project account. The two pieces of equipment I mentioned earlier have been expensed and I have not had any chance to work on anything with the bathroom since they're still closed, I'm gonna hold for now anyways. So I've talked a lot. A lot of things going on. A lot of good stuff. Any questions or concerns?

Steve Sandberg: Yeah, Brad, do the people who have expressed an interest in using the pavilion for events or gatherings know that there are not going to be any restrooms available?

Sam Zafuto: Yeah, they are calling and contacting me. We don't have many reservations currently but the ones that do know that, the main things, that the bathrooms will not be open at this time.

Steve Sandberg: Okay, thank you.

Brad Bentley: Yeah, I think we, Kathy has posted the press release on our website and updated our website accordingly. That's true Kathy?

Kathy Tampio: Yes, it is. I just put it on today.

Brad Bentley: There you go, real time.

Martha Anderson: Will we have signs like at the entrance to the parks also stating that just for people coming in and out so before they get there they would know that?

Brad Bentley: That the bathrooms are closed?

Martha Anderson: Yeah, and I know we are doing the press release, just a lot of people don't read that though.

Brad Bentley: I can, Sam, why don't we get with Mike and Bart and see if we can have any signs that we can kind of ...

Sam Zafuto: We can laminate some signs down here depending upon the size we want to put up.

Brad Bentley: Yeah, I forget what we did last year. Didn't we laminate something ...

Sam Zafuto: Yeah, we came together as a group. We did post some signs last year so I could see if Bart has what we had last year too.

Martha Anderson: Okay, that's great. Thank you.

Bob Franzen: They get enough people involved for weddings or anything like this that's going to be, I don't know how many people maximum but for a period of Saturdays or whatever it is – could they put in their own bathroom supplies up there? A port-a-jon or anything if they, or is that not feasible to do?

Brad Bentley: Well I think you're are going to run into the same thing that we have which is who is going to clean it, have a plan in place, there's liability issues.

Bob Franzen: If the people put their own in there and they have it taken out after the weekend, is that anything or not?

Brad Bentley: Probably because there's going to be liability, what happens if someone gets hurt and I haven't authorized it, it could come back to the county as a liability issue. If someone wants to make a proposal I'll review it and see what legal says as far as applicability or liability issues. Maybe they got to sign a waiver, maybe they have to post something, I'm not sure.

Bob Franzen: I was just thinking because you know say let's get out there and do this, they're going to have enough people for 8 weekends or something. Is that anything that would work or if just anybody going to have a wedding up there, will they allow, what, 25, 30 people? Would they have their own port-a-jon up there just for the weekend they can offer.

Brad Bentley: Well I assume that they're not going to be up there for more than a couple hours or hour or something like that, but I guess I'd have to look at each proposal individually

and make a determination on that. I'm not saying yes, I'm not saying no. I just haven't gone that far down through that rabbit hole yet.

Bob Franzen: Let's leave it then.

Brad Bentley: I'll cross that bridge when I come to it. I'll see how many boards I've got to replace. All good questions though Bob.

Bob Franzen: Yeah, all right, good.

Brad Bentley: Not many answers

### **Legislation**

John Hemmer: I'd love to say that we've got lots of money left over and have more for the Parks budget or something. I don't think I can do that. As far as the agenda this month we've got nothing coming up for the parks on this month's agenda. Brad, you don't know of anything that's coming up for Parks, is there?

Brad Bentley: No, nothing went through Public Facilities or Audit & Control. The next one's going to be the timber harvest resolution for next month.

John Hemmer: So it's pretty quiet on the legislature front.

Kathy Tampio: I'd add to that. The Code amendments for the Department of Public Facilities that includes the description of the Parks Commission will be in effect after tomorrow. The 30 days will have been past. So, I will get the resolution ready with John as co-sponsor and our Chairman to appoint Carrie and Bob. That will occur in the May legislature meeting.

John Hemmer: Thank you very much Kathy. Yes, that sounds good. That will complete our full membership right?

Kathy Tampio: Yes, that will make number nine.

Brad Bentley: So Kathy, you'll prepare that for the Public Facilities then?

Kathy Tampio: Yes.

John Hemmer: Sounds good. All right, I guess I'm done. Back to you Bob.

### **Trail Development**

Jacob Bodway: We took a walk, Keith and a few of us took a walk last week. Like one of the coldest days, just before it started getting really cold, but I'm just going to share my screen very quickly. We took a couple videos. Can you all see that? Here's one of the bridges. They're in bad shape. There's more than just requiring a couple boards. I think we're looking at

the ones that are in really bad shape. Probably eliminating them. What we will either do if we get some of the grant money, I applied to the Darrow fund for culverts. We're also looking at the possibility of just using large stones and just placing them in the creek for kind of a natural footbridge. A lot of parks use that to eliminate any future maintenance, you can ride your bike across it, you can also hike across it. There's some huge granite slabs of stone on almost every creek bed we were looking at. I think we could do a pretty good job of moving them down to where they need to be, kind of lowering the bank sides so we easily get down to the water and just kind of walking across on some stones. I just wanted to run that past you because some of the bridges we walked on, it's more than just replacing a board. The entire foundation is just gone. They are held together by nails that are just kind of at the bottom of the bridge. So unless we have money to replace entire bridges, this is just a natural solution. One that would be free or at least covered under the grants and you could get some volunteers to do that work. I'm just curious on what some of you think.

Bob Franzen: Can we do that in the creeks or Keith can you tell us is that something to do with the state or anything there, water run off or it's just not? That's why we always put a bridge in?

Keith Carrow: I can't see why you couldn't. It has to be accessible for certain people, but I'll run the question up.

Martha Anderson: For water blockage and flow-through, we tried that at my creek and it really made a big sleuth around it actually eventually. Just natural overflow and natural when they get huge amounts of water flowing through it would be probably the only problem I could see. It's a great solution because I've been on those bridges and I tell you what, they are pretty gnarly.

Jacob Bodway: Yeah, we would space them out wide enough so the water could get through. My only question would be for winter use for cross country skiing and snow shoeing, that might be a problem because then you don't have a bridge to get across, keeping your skis dry, keeping your snow shoes from getting wet. That's an issue. But the bridge right now, at least a couple of them that we've looked at are a high liability for the county. It's just a matter of time before they're either washed away or someone gets really hurt.

Bob Franzen: A lot of them are put in 40 years ago. If they've lasted this long maybe it might be something to replace.

Martha Anderson: Some of them are really, we're lucky that nobody has gone through them yet. They're in, like the one you showed, they're in really bad shape and we've just been very lucky that somebody has not been hurt on them already. But yeah, I do cross country ski on them too so that is an issue in winter.

Jacob Bodway: I don't know if those creeks do freeze or not, but water does rush relatively low in the summertime and the fall is not too bad so maybe in the winter they can freeze, but it's something we should think about. I'll work with Keith on this but I want to keep the committee informed. The bridge in this video here that I post here, that I showed you guys is

at the bottom of Whalen Memorial Forest just before the Forest road. It's one of the last bridges in Whalen Memorial Forest and it needs some pretty good work.

Martha Anderson: Yup, I've been on that one.

Jacob Bodway: It's more of a trampoline than a bridge.

Judy Hunt: Do you have some associates that use this elsewhere that might give you a read on winter affect?

Jacob Bodway: That is a good question. I couldn't answer that honestly. I could maybe talk to Andy Nixon from the cross country ski club to maybe see if the creeks in Boutwell freeze. There's a couple there that are kind of in the same depth and width.

Judy Hunt: That would be a good comparison.

Jacob Bodway: If we have a winter like we had last winter, I'm sure they probably do freeze, but not every winter is going to be sustained cold.

Martha Anderson: It's only a partial freezing. It depends on the water coming through, it melts through, it freezes. You can still punch through it if it's melted underneath. It can get kind of hairy but if you've got big rocks underneath it, it's even better. Your go to is not as deep but it's gonna happen.

Jacob Bodway: From what I understand the guys have a car hood off of a vehicle and they put the rocks on the car hood and just pull the car hood down the creek bed and that's how they move the big boulders, the stones. We have some on the mountain bike trails out in Whalen State Forest and they're a good size. They're pretty big. So it would be an interesting experiment but I don't want to see someone get hurt. That's not the plan for the overland trails project that I have in mind is to have the bridges stay in if they are going to stay as is. So unless we can find county money, I don't think that the grant money will cover that. We could also put in a culvert but again that's going to require a lot of dirt, a lot of gravel. Some of the creeks are just too wide I think. So I'll work with Keith and we'll walk them a little bit more. I am applying to a couple other grants and I wanted to share that with you now. One of them is to add a brewing company out of Colorado. It's a non-alcoholic beer, it's kind of against my beer drinking taste but they have a \$500,000 that they supply every year for new trail construction and major maintenance on existing trails that need work and trail head improvements. So I was thinking about maybe going after a \$10,000 grant and see what would happen, but there are a couple stipulations that I'd like to cover and get your approval first. They are going to supply beer for all events, they will supply workers for trails days and a ribbon cutting event and they want to have some features on the web page. They also want to have some sort of signage at the trail heads. This is the one that I questions about. Would that be a problem?

Keith Carrow: The DEC may have a problem.

Jacob Bodway: That's kind of what I thought.

Brad Bentley: Yeah, that won't fly with the county.

Jacob Bodway: I didn't think it would so that's why I'm running it by you first. I thought it would be a cool project, cool grant. It looked like it was really easy to apply but I think having beer logos on state land would not be the greatest proposal. So I'll scratch that one. The other one I'm applying to is the Give Big Chautauqua, which is June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It's a 24 hour fundraising, Chautauqua County wide fundraising event where a lot of 501(c)3s submit a proposal and last year they raised over \$380,000 for I think about 70 different organizations. So I've been working on that today. I have a little bit of what it looks like so far. I'm asking for \$5,000 but I could go a little higher. Just kind of one over the dash project and that's what it looks like so far. I just started it today. So I just wanted to run that by and get that on Facebook too so people are watching. We could partner with other organizations such as Hike Chautauqua and possibly other organizations within the county that would help us spread the word. Kind of piggy back on each other. So I just wanted to pass that along as well. Any questions?

John Hemmer: It sounds good Jacob.

Martha Anderson: Thank you for all that work. I know that's a lot of work.

Jacob Bodway: Yeah, there's a couple of seminars and workshops I want to do next week. I'm going to attend those just to kind of get everything settled in a way that makes it appealing to potential donors. I don't know if I'll be able to raise anything, maybe I'll get a few hundred bucks, maybe I'll get a few thousand bucks. Hopefully I get the other grants and we won't need as much money, but I think we're going to need from looking at the trails with Keith last week we're going to need substantial renovations for certain sections of Whalen where we did walk. The water is just running over the trail right now in certain spots. The drainage is just isn't working well so we have some pretty big issues for out swell greater so we'll need the machines and that requires quite a bit of money. Anything you want to add Keith from the walk last week?

Keith Carrow: Not that I can think of right now.

Jacob Bodway: That's all I have.

Judy Hunt: That's a lot. Good job.

John Hemmer: Just out of curiosity, what does it cost to rebuild a wood bridge, the one that Jacob was bouncing on? Do we have any idea of what that costs? Is that someplace where we can guide someone that comes in with a memorial donation?

Keith Carrow: Treated wood has just about tripled this year so it's tough to say.

Brad Bentley: That's if you can find it. You'd think we would be out in the woods and be able to find it, right? But now the treated kind that lasts/

John Hemmer: Can't make those out of locust posts huh?

Jacob Bodway: You could. It's just finding a locust tree close enough by that's in good enough shape, but again, the cost of lumber is about 180% higher than it was last year at this time. If we could figure out a different solution in some years, but some of the bridges I think we need to address sooner rather than later. If that means dismantling some of them and a temporary with a rock bridge and then we aim for the lumber prices to go down. That's one option or if the rock works, we could just keep the rock bridges and we have no more issues with maintenance which will save the county more in the long run as well.

Brad Bentley: Jacob and Keith, obviously anybody that uses the trails they are out there at their own risk any day anyways. It there is a hazard that's being created by these, much like the beaver dam, if we have to close the trail, we close the trail. We don't want to set up a trap for anybody. It's a little bit subjective on when you reach that point but certainly if you guys see something that, yeah, people should be staying off this, that's the call we have to make. Until we can get out there and get it fixed we need to let people know while there's a hazard out there. If it means a trail is closed, it's not my preferred way of going about it but if there's just a particular item that needs to be fixed we can maybe prioritize that as one of our maintenance items and see if we can get to it as soon as we can to get that reopened. If you see something, say something. Especially if it's something that warrants a trail closure. I don't want to see anybody get hurt.

Keith Carrow: Bart's usually on top of the major hazards, but I don't think anyone is crashing through that one right now but it's going to be a future issue. It's a financial concern. Bart's doing everything he can.

Brad Bentley: I have a weight difference between me and Jacob so I wonder if I bounced on the bridge if I'd go through it or not.

Jacob Bodway: That wasn't even me. That was one of the trail building guys and he weighs probably 40 pounds less than I do.

Bob Franzen: Well, we'll keep at it. Maybe we'll get out and do a little walking ourselves. Benches at the overview up here. I guess we got that taken care of already. Am I right?

Brad Bentley: Yup, we'll be able to get that installed soon enough.

Bob Franzen: Waterways, are we going to try and do anything this year with extra help or is it something we would just kind of look at as we go?

Brad Bentley: Well as of right now I'm still struggling to find those seasonals so I can't commit to anything yet. Jacob and I had talked about maybe we could apply for a grant to get some one time help to clear out the small obstructions. Jacob, have you gotten anywhere else on that?

Jacob Bodway: Not yet, no. I've gotten a couple of emails from people who have watched this on Facebook that helped volunteer before I think. Ginny(?) was one name, I can't remember.

Brad Bentley: Garret Cain (?).

Jacob Bodway: Garret, yeah that might have been it.

Brad Bentley: Garret Cain actually commented he hoped to (*inaudible*) get enough hours in the day yet.

Jacob Bodway: No, I mean we want to wait until the water is low enough. I did buy some waders so I do plan on getting out there. One of my buddies, Fran, helped us with the canoes so he'd be happy to come out. I just want to get the Red Bird section cleared out if we can. That's one section I would like to see and see what happens. If it's chronic every year that there's just trees going down then we should probably close it, but I'd like to at least give it a shot one time and get the small stuff out that I can. The bigger stuff we could work with the county and see if we could get machines out there or whatever we can.

Brad Bentley: Well I would say we don't have a whole lot of plans yet. We have some interest, I think Garrett Cain had watched the last month's recording of the Parks Commission where he was watching it live too. I got him in touch with Jacob because Garrett goes out there every year, we usually have a volunteer clean-up date so they take out tires and trash and whatnot. He said, I think he had some chain saw guys that may be willing to work in the water. Could be some opportunities there but not a firm plan yet Bob. We'll see how it goes.

### **Old Business**

Bob Franzen: Time marches on. We'll see what we can come up with. Old business we got. County agreement with DEC?

Brad Bentley: I think after my comments I don't know if you have anything else Keith?

Keith Carrow: I don't have anything else on that right now. I've got to check. I sent it all for them to review. It needs to go to County for legal review but it's stuck with the DEC right now.

Brad Bentley: You might know someone who could review that.

Keith Carrow: Kristen.

*(laughter)*

Brad Bentley: It's something that might be thrown your way. Inside joke.

*(crosstalk)*

Bob Franzen: Any other old business we got to take care of? Is there anything new that we are going to bring up or are we adjourned?

Brad Bentley: I don't have anything.

Bob Franzen: Very good. We'll look for everybody in another month. Thank you.

**Next Meeting: May 27, 2021, 4:00 pm**

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Tampio  
Clerk, Chautauqua County Legislature

*Approved 5/27/2021*