

Minutes

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

Thursday, June 25, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

Meeting held by Virtual Zoom technology

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

Guests Present: Brad Bentley, Sam Zafuto, Steve Abdella, Bob Van Every, Kathy Tampio

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Franzen at 4:00 p.m.

The minutes of the January 23, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

Guest Comments

Bob Van Every: Good afternoon to you all. Thank you for allotting some of your time for what I have to say. I've been hiking the west side overland trail over the last several years and on quite a few occasions I've noticed that some of the bridges are getting into poor repair. There are broken slats, there are several slats that are rotting. I'm worried about the liability on the county's part. I think you are self-insured at present and the effect that might have on the ability to keep the trails open if something were to happen. So, I started talking to Steve Abdella and Brad Bentley about anything I could do to help out in that situation. It seems pretty clear that what I can't do is provide physical labor. For several reasons but also my age. It seems that what I can do though is make a financial contribution to the Parks Commission for use in making repairs to the bridges. So I thought I should probably come to this committee and discuss that contribution with you to see whether or not you thought it was workable, whether it was acceptable. How it might work if it was workable and acceptable. I apologize for the time of the year in which I am making this presentation. Brad and I sat down last year, I know Steve and I spoke last year. My schedule, the weather and now COVID-19 has interfered my ability to hook-up with you all. It was suggested that there was a time in your fiscal year when a contribution would be more likely to find its way to repair bridges than other times in your fiscal year might ... so I thought that was probably one of the things that should be discussed during my part of your meeting. Again, I'm happy to make a financial contribution towards repair of the bridges. Obviously that call on that is yours and Brad's as to when and how that happens. I'm concerned about the timing of the contribution from what I have picked up in my conversations with Brad and Steve. I don't know if this is an opportune time to send a check along to the finance department or it would make more sense to delay the sending of the check until another point in time. I'm certainly open to direction or discussion if someone has anything to say on this regards.

Bob Franzen: I would think if we could get together with Brad. Right now I think that what we are up against, we don't know what exactly how we can get back into when the parks are going to be open, if we are going to get it open this year, help maintenance or anything like this or if we are going to hang up and not do anything with the parks until. Maybe trail walking might be something to push for the balance of this year. Because, I think anybody can find the trails they can do walking. But, I don't know how this would work for repair work if we could get any type of ... I guess basically whatever's got to be fixed you got to have the manpower to do it and I don't know how we're going to do this this year. Maybe Brad can enlighten us on this end about what we might be looking at for the future.

Martha Anderson: When you fix the bridges, do you do it on site or in a building and haul the bridge there?

Bob Franzen: Most of it is done on site. They're anchored in so good the posts are down in the ground and everything. For walking on the, the boards and everything else, we used to take, it would all be painted up and ready to go, the same size as what we need. Start on one trail and three bridges with 16 boards put in there and they went out, tore the old ones out and put the new ones in and back track out of there. Now if we can do something on that, we've got an ATV, drag materials in and then and we have to know if we are doing anything with manpower this year and what we are up against.

Martha Anderson: Will we be getting the summer temporary personnel, or not?

Bob Franzen: Now that I haven't talked to Brad because that is usually comes and it is worked in the capital fund but I don't know if that has been worked in there. And I don't know if we have.. if we had seasonals to come in there I think we have to have a full-time employee there to regulate through or Brad will be taking care of it to know exactly where they've got to go, and what it is. I would think where it was in the parks at the time, we have to have an idea of which bridge should be numbered roughly on an inventory that we can take a look at that way.

Martha Anderson: And I know that a bunch of bridges that I've been on this year are bad. They're bad. A lot of rotted boards.

Bob Franzen: Now yesterday Tom and I were up on the west side there, we checked. We were up to Luensman so we came back like 474 and we walked in to check register boxes and one bridge right there had boards put in it. I know that they had been looked at but not all of them so ...

Martha Anderson: Above Hannum road there is a couple bridges that are pretty bad. And also down on the east side on Harris Hill there's a couple that are a little snarly too.

Bob Franzen: Yes, I know that there's been some there that have been marked to be either replaced or reboarded or whatever had to be ...and I think John was with the parks department, I think he's on layoff now or is not working. I think he had a listing of what we had to do but we'll have to get together maybe and see how we can work this, or somebody go through and take inventory of what there has to be bridge number so and so, you go from there.

Tom Erlandson: Bob Van Every, did you have specific bridges in mind or in general?

Bob Van Every: I went through over the last week and a half or so and made notes on the bridges that I came across. I think I went over almost the entire west side trail. So I've got those notes available. It would be a waste of your time right now I think to go through those notes but I can make them available to Brad

Bob Franzen: Right, right, I see what you are saying, yes.

Brad Bentley: So, before I get into the status of the DPF parks and everything else, I wanted to pause and go to Bob's real question here. He wants to make a cash contribution and if he just stuffs a lot of money into a donation box, it goes into just general parks, whatever, as a revenue. The only way that I know that a specific donation to be reserved for a particular use by accepting it would be by a resolution. I'm not aware of any particular avenue where someone could just say here's money, you could only use it for this, except for doing it as in a resolution. To receive this grant, Steve, do you have any ideas of how we could do it simpler, what I'm not thinking of or ...

Steve Abdella: Well yeah, as I understand it there are a few departments that do have a general revenue account, and maybe it sounds like you're saying parks has one of them. It may have gotten approval in the past; it had a revenue account set up to receive small general donations. But, occasionally we will get a larger substantial donation for any number of county purposes and typically those we would have a resolution passed by the county legislature accepting the gift and earmarking it for the particular purpose that it's to be used for. That sounds like it might be what fits this circumstance.

Bob Franzen: I though possibly we talked about this once before I thought we had something going on, and I remember it was kind of tabled, thought we didn't have any idea until we were going to look through the legal part of it and maybe that's why it ended up as it did.

Brad Bentley: So really what I think I want to address, I think Bob Van Every's concern. I don't want him to give me a lot of cash in a donation box and it's just a revenue in an account line. So I think that's his concern as well. To be dedicated to a purpose it shouldn't be used to offset any county funding that would have otherwise gone to the parks.

Bob Van Every: You hit it right on the head Brad, thank you.

Judy Hunt: So to have a revenue account that Steve referred to ...

Brad Bentley: We have a revenue account and donation boxes get emptied and we generally get depending on the year, \$50 or maybe a couple hundred bucks a year. And then it's small enough where it just goes to park maintenance or whatever else .

Judy Hunt: Well, this needs to be specified to Bob's purpose.

Martha Anderson: It sounds like we need to do a resolution then to the legislature to get this done, at least so that we can donate it and we can actually use it for the bridges and do what he wants done with it. So how do we go about that?

John Hemmer: Kathy, do you know if we have done that in the past? Have we done accepting funds from the, specifically for the parks by a resolution?

Kathy Tampio: I'm not aware of that previously, but you can certainly pass a resolution by your commission members to support that activity. I don't know Steve if we have to go any farther than that as far as the legislature being involved?

Steve Abdella: We would have the county legislature do a resolution to accept the gift. The commission passing a motion in support of that is certainly appropriate. As long as it's known what the purpose is in DPF and Parks Commission are saying that it's a worthy project then it's certainly going to be pro-forma and not an issue at all. Just put that resolution in for the county legislature to pass. That can be really at any time. Brad, I don't know as far as when the planning goes on as far as next year's projects, but, to the extent it would be an earmarked project, those funds would be basically sitting in trust waiting for the time the project can happen.

Brad Bentley: General question on the resolution, would it have to be specific to a specific donation or could we actually say from a time to time basis parks receives donations in amounts that are more than nominal be reserved for capital projects in the parks? Is that something that, so we don't have to keep running a resolution every time we get a large donation?

Judy Hunt: Let's hope it's often.

Steve Abdella: Possibly. I think Bob's concern is the only reason we would potentially be wanting to do a resolution if what we are seeking to do is basically assure that that money would be only used for that purpose. A specific bridge, I mean it's not an issue to pass a general resolution that would assure that any donations received would be used for park purposes, but, if a donor comes along and says that I want to know that my donation is going to be used for a particular project, that's what we might want to have the legislature approve it so it essentially becomes locked.

Judy Hunt: I suggest the following motion, Our commission supports a resolution by the legislature to accept Van Every donations for bridge repairs. Would that suffice? Did I leave anything out?

Kathy Tampio: Well, bridge repairs for the Parks Trails.

Judy Hunt: The overland trails. Do you want to specify west side Bob?

Bob Van Every: Well that's where I've been hiking, but I guess you would know the need better than I.

Bob Franzen: I know that both east and west could use bridges, yes. And then also we've got Erlandson overview and we've got a few bridges and we've got a few bridges at the Luensman, they all could be included in it, I don't know if you just want it on your trails or it could be used for the parks also. Like for example, in Falconer we got a bridge over a spillway, if that kind of broke up or something and could the money be used for that also or bench furniture on the trail.

John Hemmer: I think that would be the problem to try specify where the money would go. Mr. Van Every, I think that we could be assured that your donation would go to repair parks property, bridges and stuff. But I don't know if we could specify bridge #3 on the west side trail or something like that.

Bob Van Every: I'm certainly not requesting that. It's a question of I think the bridges need repair. That's why I'm willing to make the donation.

Judy Hunt: Just put bridge repairs for trails. Would that satisfy your concern?

Bob Van Every: Yes, that's fine with me.

Judy Hunt: Okay

Tom Erlandson: We may have already asked and answered this question but, let me ask it again anyway. Can a separate fund be established for county parks bridge repair and have the money put into that?

John Hemmer: We have a separate fund for capital projects and I guess it's a fine line between bridge repairs and maintenance or is it capital projects. I think we set that fund up to insure that there was money specifically for things like bridge repair and lean-to replacement, repair and picnic tables and that sort of thing. So there is that separate fund set up.

Bob Van Every: May I question whether or not if there's any thought that it's going to be part of a capital fund that the legislature will probably cut that amount of money from your budget for capital purposes.

John Hemmer: I, no, I believe that once it's set up its part of that capital fund. It's set aside for parks and trail work permanently. And that's not something we can pull away.

Bob Van Every: I'm not suggesting the legislature would try to take the money out of it but, I'm suggesting they might say to you, as a commission, or are you asking us for X number of dollars when you have X number of dollars already.

John Hemmer: Yes, well you know that's the difference between whether it's your operating budget or whether it's a budget to replace and improve facilities. The operating budget I'm sure is in jeopardy. I think that the capital projects budget would be not in jeopardy. I might be wrong. Do we need somebody from the finance department to tell us?

Brad Bentley: Tom, can I offer this up as a solution and move us along a little bit. I like Judy's motion to support this. What I can do is I can write a resolution and go back and forth between with Bob Van Every to make sure the words match what he's looking to do. And match it to whatever his donation amount is and whatever he wants it applied to, whether its bridge repair or construction on the overland trails, whatever the words that meet what he desires to do. It'll just be kind of separate from everything else, along the likelihood of being offset by any other issues that are going on financially in the county.

Martha Anderson: I second that.

Judy Hunt: Here's the motion. The Commission supports a resolution by the legislature to accept Van Every donation for bridge repairs for trails. You could give another if you like.

Bob Van Every: Thank you.

Judy Hunt: Does that satisfy you?

Bob Van Every: It does me. Yes.

Judy Hunt: Okay, go ahead with that Brad. Put that in the minutes Kath.

Kathy Tampio: I just wanted to add one thing, we kind of had a similar situation a year or so ago when a substantial donation was made to the office for Veterans here in the county towards a new van. It was a resolution to accept it and it was specific to what the money was supposed to be used for. So this is similar.

Judy Hunt: I think this will please our potential donors that we are able to do this in an efficient manner. So that may encourage donations.

Brad Bentley: I'll try to get this resolution in for the July meeting.

Kathy Tampio: So the motion was made by Hunt and seconded by Anderson.

Bob Van Every: Thank you all. Does that take a vote by the way?

Judy Hunt: I think it probably does. All in favor? *Unanimously carried.*

Bob Van Every: Thank you again.

Martha Anderson: Thank you and keep walking those trails.

Operations

Brad Bentley: Bob, if you want I can give you an update what's been going on for the last three or four months since our last meeting for the parks. Give you a little history about events. Actually everybody's aware that COVID hit. When COVID hit the parks we obviously closed cause it was still winter. Due to social distancing and the New York shut down, we continue to

keep the parks closed. And we have continued to keep the parks closed due to the social distancing as well as the financial impact to the county and the costs that does recur to open. There has been a couple of meetings that I've attended, COVID finance committee meeting, to discuss reopening the parks. It includes three legislators, county executive and some other county employees. The last determination I got was about a week and a half ago, maybe two weeks which was to keep the parks closed till further notice and be re-evaluated in mid-July. As far as the employment side, I think as most people are aware the county went through a voluntary furlough program. My full-time parks employee John Sars (?) did take the furlough when I approved it as the parks were closed. The road maintainer that works during the summer also took the furlough, I approved it. Before that there was a request to reduce the budget and basically I eliminated all seasonals in the highway and the parks, the airports and the landfill. So due to the no new hire directive from the county executive – so we will not be hiring seasonals due to the directive issuance for no new hires that was approved by the finance committee. So that is the status of that and we will not be getting any of that passed. And essentially not a lot of work has been done at the park other than I do have a skeleton crew that help the highway department and about 75 employees on parole. So the ones that are here we do send them up there occasionally to pick up trash and mow the lawns. I'm sure it's not as often as it should be but again we are just trying to get by in all cases with what we got left at this point. It's is not where I want to be but it's where we're at.

Martha Anderson: The parks actually look good for the furloughed staff and everything. I've been to them and they do look good so whoever's been working, they've been doing a pretty good job.

Brad Bentley: Well thank you. I appreciate that, I know that I've had calls that trash cans are full and things like that. As I get a call we try to do the best we can to get out there and address. But it has been a struggle. I think you are seeing the outcome on the trails because obviously there is no trail open anymore.

Martha Anderson: How long is the furlough through Brad?

Brad Bentley: Through July 31st.

Martha Anderson: Okay. So even if, well, never mind.

Bob Franzen: So after the 31st then, they're not going to do anything for What I'm trying to, if anybody walks around the gate and they, at the parks that's up to them. It's not a problem? Do we need to put up a sign saying that the park is being... because of the COVID-19 this will not be, gate will not be open here but, some type of lettering put on that or anything or is that

Brad Bentley: I don't think signs on the gate itself but it will be on our website, on the county's website where it lists what departments are open and closed we do list the parks are closed.

Martha Anderson: I've not seen a sign on the gates that they are closed but I've gone through anyhow.

Judy Hunt: So it's not much good.

Bob Franzen: Tom Erlandson and I were at Luensman yesterday and we walked around the gate just like everybody else does and that type thing but you can see that the mowing had been taken care of once or twice whatever it was and there had been some maintenance but I didn't know if we needed a sign saying because of the COVID these will not be open so if anybody does walk in through, being that it's a closed posting does for insurance purposes if somebody falls in there and gets hurt are we liable for that? Like in the wintertime a few years ago we used to have a sign up there saying that it was closed for the wintertime and a church group went up in there, one of kids went sliding down and hit a tree. They had to get a helicopter in and we had a lot of problem with that. Do we need a sign saying anything or is that, just let it go as it is?

Martha Anderson: We have it on the website they are closed and the gates are closed so when the gates are closed, the parks are closed.

Judy Hunt: It's at your own risk I guess.

Tom Erlandson: Mary and I go up there frequently. We tend the plantings at the base of the hill outside the gate. We walk up and walk around the trail. There are often cars at the bottom, just outside the gate. People are using them and I think that's fine. One of the questions that Bob and I had is what has this done to registration. Obviously people aren't going to have weddings in the park, but have there been registrations taken for family reunions, weddings, that kind of a group activity at the park for the summer?

Brad Bentley: Yeah, we've had the reservations, and it's been taken care of all those reservations made, because we don't know when we're going to open. So the closer we get we try to know by people a month or two in advance, as long as the parks are closed you are not going to be able to use our reservation. So we've had them and we've had to unfortunately tell people the parks are still closed.

Bob Franzen: I guess that answered that question there.

Brad Bentley: And so obviously the parks are closed, the gates are closed, the bathrooms are closed.

Bob Franzen: Yeah right, I noticed that up there at Luensman, there's no water, there's no power, no flag, no nothing and I know that that is not on as long as it's COVID.

Judy Hunt: Can we go back to minutes review and acceptance so we can get that part of the agenda taken care of folks?

Bob Franzen: Okay,

Judy Hunt: Any changes?

Bob Franzen: I think everybody got a copy of it. We looked it all over, I think I did anyway and it's kind of far back so I, stop and think about a few things that was on there.

Judy Hunt: Well I had to think about September but then I remembered we didn't have a meeting in February cause of the weather.

Marla Connelly: Well January 23rd is the most recent meeting.

Judy Hunt: Except I sent meeting minutes from the 17th. I'm glad Marla caught that. When you see that oops from me you know that, that's what happens when you don't have... So are they okay? Okay – we never bother with a motion and all that.

Legislation

Judy Hunt: Do you have anything more John?

John Hemmer: As far as resolutions that go this month concerning the parks, I don't believe there was anything specifically concerning the parks. I asked Steve Abdella to come to the parks meeting today because he has an update on use of volunteer labor and the parks. I thought maybe this would be a good time to bring that up.

Judy Hunt: That's fine. I had it under old business. Go ahead Steve. Your time is valuable.

Steve Abdella: Thank you. I did have some conversations and was ready to come before you much earlier than this but the pandemic got in the way of that and so I think this is the first meeting since that time. With regard to the use of volunteers on I guess primarily the overland trails, but I suppose it could apply to the parks as well, the first distinction that comes up in looking at that is which portions of the trails, and this would apply to the trails, are on state land and then which portions of the trails are easements that the county obtained on its own. With regard to the portions of the trails on state land which it turns out in the case of the mountain biking group, it is really solely where they would like to do work, technically the county's trail on the state land is really there by license or temporary permission. The county doesn't in that case have an actual permanent easement, the trail is there just because state DEC allows it to be there. So from the state's perspective, back then I had a discussion with Keith Carrow about this as the local DEC representative, the county periodically signs a cooperative agreement with state DEC regarding the county utilizing those portions of the state land as a trail and what the county's responsibilities are and liabilities are. As far as other groups potentially doing work on state land, the state would be seeking an agreement frankly similar to what the county signs as far as those groups going forward with work. The good thing about that is the state already has its own systems set up with regard to actual agreements and addressing things like insurance and liability and workers comp and so forth so that the state would handle all of that. The state's biggest concern in that instance is that you would have in essence more than one outside group interested in working on a trail on state land. In this case you would have the county and potentially other outside groups needing to make sure that it's coordinated and in this case to the extent the county has really been the primary custodian of the overland trails where they exist on state land, making sure that the coordination takes place and the county is happy with and then

agrees with the overall plan that they or any other group would be doing. I just wanted to make sure because I had a discussion with county union representatives, and as to work on state land the union recognizes that those trails ultimately belong to the state and not to the county, and the union is not going to assert any issue or user concerns with volunteer agreements that occur on state land. In that regard I guess what I'm getting to is any sort of volunteer work to take place on state owned portions of the overland trails is really just simply more of a coordination issue with state DEC and in particular with Keith Carrow and in that regard I don't know that Brad, you and I spoke about this directly, but, it was my understanding that there was some money allocated for 2020 by the county for some work on the state owned portions of the trails, namely the bridges. I think we would just be wanting to coordinate from both a financial standpoint side and a work standpoint to make sure we can maximize the use of available resources. If it turns out volunteer groups are willing to do work on bridges that are on the state owned portions of the overland trails, that might allow county money to be allocated to do projects on the county owned portion of the trail. In that regard if we can come back and talk about it globally in a minute, with regard to the portions of the trails or parks that are on county owned land or county easements, there really isn't a legal mechanism yet that the county has for work on the county-owned portions of the trails. The county does not yet have agreements prepared to allow volunteer work or liability forms or workers comp coverage, or any of those things. It's not to say we couldn't do that but what was sort of coming through as I had these discussions was that there seems to be potentially plenty of work for volunteers to do on the state owned land and we could potentially, at least until we run out of work on state owned land just steer the volunteers toward the state owned parcels and have them work with us and Keith Carrow on those projects. And then with regard to the county-owned easements and land, the union does have concerns about that being areas that have historically been exclusive bargaining unit work and it's not that the union is completely opposed to volunteer work on the county owned portions of the trails but, they pointed out rightly so that there's always safety issues. Are we talking about volunteer groups coming in with chain saws or other mechanized tools? And the union is just throwing out, wouldn't that be better for our county trained staff to do when county liability is at stake on those portions of the trails. What I'm coming away with is perhaps a plan in which as I state we try to steer volunteer work toward state owned portions of the land. For other volunteer work, if we really identify something that would be on county portions that would be activity for which in the future we may develop county forms and address liability issues. In any event, we would need to work with the union on as to any work on county-owned portions of the trails that would probably end up being by comparison much more light work like picking up sticks and twigs and other things. Maybe not so much volunteers going in with chainsaws on the county owned portion. Those are my thoughts and I had an initial discussion with Jacob Bodway from the mountain biking group and they were perfectly fine with that because as I said at this point everything that they would like to do is on state owned portions of the trails, not on the county owned portions. So they're ready to go as far as coordinating with the county and then with Keith Carrow to allow them to move forward with projects on the state owned land portions.

Judy Hunt: I guess it's a go then Brad, huh?

Brad Bentley: Sound good!

Judy Hunt: So you'll get in touch with them, Garret Cain, is that the right guy?

Bob Franzen: They'll want to do it on the waterways there.

Judy Hunt: Oh, I'm sorry.

Trail Development

Martha Anderson: When I was on Harris Hill bike trails the other day just hiking, walking, they were out there cleaning up. They had their snippers and their cutters and they had a little wheelbarrow. They were clearing out down falls and stuff that were over the trails. They were working at it.

Judy Hunt: And they offered materials and labor well that isn't any cost to us either. I guess they can have at it.

Steve Abdella: Yes, I think it's just a matter of coordination and the left hand knowing what the right hand is doing. If the county has plans to replace a bridge or something, whether it's by donation from Bob or otherwise, that that's coordinated with the projects that the mountain biking group would like do so that we maximize the benefit.

Judy Hunt: I think that they would be very amenable to that. They're very cooperative, don't you think Brad?

Brad Bentley: Yeah, at this point I'm not doing much on the trails. Anything they can do is a benefit to the parks.

Judy Hunt: So we don't need a resolution to permit acceptance of labor and materials, Steve? I had that as a possibility. A liability waiver, we don't need that?

Steve Abdella: Not as to work on the state land portions of the trails, no.

Judy Hunt: Well that will probably keep them busy, so there's plenty to do. They can get all that done and want to come on the county, we'll pursue it then.

Steve Abdella: I think that in terms of identifying the ultimate purpose for Bob Van Every's donation, that's something to look at in terms of making sure that coordination is done. But, obviously in the case of Bob's funds, that could be devoted, I don't know to what extent there are bridges on county owned easements as opposed to the state owned lands but, it could be allocated towards either in that case. It's just a matter of not wanting to repeat what the mountain biking group may be planning on doing on its own.

Brad Bentley: Well maybe by writing the resolution can say county owned land. We would inherently coordinate it so that Bob's money doesn't get mixed up in it.

Steve Abdella: Possibly. Depending on Bob's wish, I might suggest still leaving it open ended just thinking there's still plenty of work to go around on the state, even just the state owned portions.

Brad Bentley: Well I hear that Bob's going to give us like 10 million dollars so we could
.....

Judy Hunt: Oh, that would be very nice.

Bob Van Every: Where did you hear that Brad.

Brad Bentley: Oh, heard it here, someone said it.

Judy Hunt: You found treasure in the woods? Not that 10 million dollar chest I guess. That wasn't around here. Well I guess we've kind of covered... well we're not doing any trail development I would think.

Bob Franzen: No, not right now I would think.

Waterways

Judy Hunt: I added in no water. Is Cain going to do waterways do you think?

Bob Franzen: Well, the same with Gary Cain that they wanted to do the volunteer work and everything. I think that all state, I don't think the county has anything to say on the waterways itself but the parking lots or whatever they are, trying to launch a boat, now that would probably be on either county owned or something like that. That might be a little touchier than it would be if it would be just on the water itself. If they just went do and cleared log jams down there I don't think there is anything we can do about that. I think that's just strictly whoever went down through there.

Judy Hunt: But they were talking something about a boat launch weren't they?

Bob Franzen: But that's what I'm saying. If it's with a boat launch or anything like this, it's gotta be something the county would have to be involved with because it's on our access points there through the county.

Brad Bentley: I heard that Gary was wanting to work on a boat launch. The way he did last year was he just basically went through and did a river clean-up.

Judy Hunt: Oh, maybe I'm wrong.

Brad Bentley: He took out tires and trash and debris.

Martha Anderson: Cut up logs jams and stuff like that.

Tom Erlandson: Brad, can you give us an update on the Town of Carroll work on what we call the back (?) launch site on the Falconer-Frewsburg Road?

Brad Bentley: Sure, as I kind of described in my email to everybody, Town of Carroll called me because they were having people park on their lawn and their property. Because the

parking lot for the access to the creek there was getting filled up. It was too small for them. So they called and said they wanted to expand the parking lot. After looking at the lot, who owned it, trying to find easements and discussed with Steve Abdella and determined that this was all fully town owned land, Frewsburg water district. The town had asked me for providing resources and equipment to clear trees and expand their parking lot. I was telling them the same thing I'm telling everyone right now, I don't have the dollars' worth of resources to support efforts like that. I basically in conjunction with Steve's recommendation said that the town could do whatever they wanted, it's their property. If they want to expand their parking area so that people can access the creek, their parking lot, I have no problems with it. They did ask for some milling materials, generally millings don't make a good parking lot surface. If anyone has driven on millings it kind of sinks in. So I think they are better off doing it with some gravel but, I said if you want them I can make them available to you. Again, that was under more shared services, I mean the county DPF and the highway department in the town of Carroll. So really that's as far as I know they are working on that. They did not discuss any other plans with me as far as other things. I know there are other things that are written in the paper but, you've got to be careful what's written in the paper some days. They don't always report discussions that were had ...

Bob Franzen: Is that all waterway property or waterworks? The parking lot is all on Frewsburg water?

Brad Bentley: Best I can tell there's no easements, there's no documentation that says that the county has anything to do with it. The county doesn't take care of that parking lot, so I don't have

Bob Franzen: The Parks Department does. Parks Department always took care of that.

Brad Bentley: Parks Department?

Bob Franzen: Yeah, waterway, Parks Department we always took care of it. We mowed it, painted posts down there, cleaned it all up, we inputted new sluice pipe down on there. That was because the park was getting full of water there and we put in sluice pipe over and drained it off.

Brad Bentley: I don't think we're talking about the same property.

Bob Franzen: Across from (inaudible)?

Brad Bentley: As far as I know there's not a sluice pipe there. Maybe we're talking about different property. Is this the Frewsburg Water District where the water treatment plant is?

Bob Franzen: Right, and the old back..(inaudible) is on the opposite side of the road. Is that county road 55 or what?

Brad Bentley: I'd have to google map in here. But the best I can tell there is no easements or anything that said that I had the right to go, or obligation to go ...

Bob Franzen: Okay. Back yonder many, the parking lot that was there was, it put a boat ramp in there to the Conawango. Treated lumber all the way through there on the end of that parking lot so that you could get into the creek. It's always been that it was maintained by the Parks Department and I was under the assumption that the county owned a piece of that property and that up above there belonged to the waterworks.

Brad Bentley: I looked on the county tax map and there is no county ownership of that property.

Bob Franzen: Okay, we maintained it all these years and never knew, that's news to me, really.

Judy Hunt: What a nice guy you were Bob.

Bob Franzen: Well, that was part of the deal there, when they put the lots in there that it was taken care of by, that was with Kurt Bower, Samson, way back when Ron Johnson, everybody from

Brad Bentley: I don't think we're mowing it. I gotta believe the Frewsburg water district is mowing it and maintaining it. Because it's their property. I'd have to ask Mike if he's mowing it but I don't think we are maintaining it.

Bob Franzen: We always used to maintain it down there and then the driveway and everything else, the driveway to the road, we took care of everything there. It was always been that way but, I don't know, maybe we were doing it just as a good neighbor. I don't know.

Brad Bentley: I can tell you this – I think there's a lot of access points in the waterway that we are not maintaining. So, we just don't have the resources or the manpower Bob.

Bob Franzen: Right, I realize that. I know that that is but I didn't know over these years that it wasn't county. See, that's what I was saying.

Brad Bentley: Yeah, I looked on the tax map and I tried, I wanted to make sure because if it's my property then I think the county would want to have some say in... but if it is fully on their property 100% what rights do I have to tell them yes or no. It's their property.

Bob Franzen: We always maintained it and we had put parking lot posts in there and we put extra gravel when and painted up the posts every year, put up a new sign up front and we always mowed it. That's why we're saying I didn't realize it's not a county Parks Department deal. I was always under the assumption ever since I worked for the county that that's what we did.

Brad Bentley: I think that as times change we've lost resources in the parks and things have fallen by the wayside that used to use as a good neighbor but never really had any agreements on or. I think we're going to find that there's a lot more of those out there than this.

Bob Franzen: The one on Route 60 then across from the old rendering plant down there that is not ours even then?

Brad Bentley: I'd have to look at each item, I don't know.

Bob Franzen: Okay, not a problem today. We'll check it out and see what we can come up with.

Brad Bentley: I will say that documentation on waterway trail is very difficult to find. It just doesn't exist. I think a lot of the entry points were done with handshake agreements.

Bob Franzen: Good possibility I guess.

Brad Bentley: Makes it difficult.

Bob Franzen: Yes, okay, very good.

Brad Bentley: That's as far as I know what's going on with the Town of Carroll.

Bob Franzen: Okay, that sounds like a wonder to us.

Old Business

Judy Hunt: Under old business I list the Luensman bathroom. Is it just sitting there? It's not being used. I was referring to the new one.

Brad Bentley: Not only are the parks closed but all capital projects that are either you started or kind of started were being re-reviewed and so that's been put on hold.

Judy Hunt: I thought so.

Bob Franzen: I would think.

Brad Bentley: That is one they want to let it loose. Right now they've stop work on it

New Business

Judy Hunt: Any new business from anybody? Nope.

Bob Franzen: We've covered a lot of business.

Judy Hunt: The next meeting would be July 23rd. Kathy, will you enable us to do this again if necessary? And it probably will be.

Kathy Tampio: Yes, I'll be able to. I'll set it up if we are doing a Zoom meeting again.

Judy Hunt: Okay, thank you so much.

Bob Franzen: Alright. Have a good day everybody.

Tom Erlandson: Before we end, Brad I've noticed at Erlandson and probably Luensman and quite possibly at trail heads on the east and west side as well although we haven't checked those. The boxes where the sign-in sheets are. Sign in sheets variously are either full or torn. Is there a way that Bob and I for example could get some blank sign-up sheets and go around to the trail heads and go around to Luensman park and replenish some of those sign-up sheets so that people can sign-up?

Martha Anderson: I would be willing to do that too on the trails on the west side.

Brad Bentley: Are they used a lot?

Bob Franzen: If we can get some, we'll go do some.

Bob Van Every: Tom, excuse me for butting in but I presume that that was done purposefully so people wouldn't be touching the pencils and spreading COVID.

Tom Erlandson: Well that may be but my point is that people are trying to sign in, at least that's my observation and the sign-up sheets are in deplorable condition.

Bob Van Every: They're nonexistent in many of the boxes.

Brad Bentley: Sam, notwithstanding the transmission issue, do we have blank ones that we could give to Tom?

Sam Zafuto: Yes, they're over in the (unaudible) office and we can get them tomorrow morning.

Brad Bentley: You want to stop by Tom and get them or?

Tom Erlandson: Down in your office?

Brad Bentley: Sure.

Tom Erlandson: Yeah, okay. Sure.

Brad Bentley: We'll have Sam have them ready for you.

Sam Zafuto: Unless you want Tom just give me a call I'll make sure I have them for you.

Tom Erlandson: Okay. Thank you.

Judy Hunt: Leave the pencils out in the sunlight. Maybe that will clean them up.

Brad Bentley: I think maybe what we'll do is we'll put the sign-up sheets out there. They'll have to use their own pens. That way we're not going to (crosstalk)

Judy Hunt: That's a good solution. Most people have one in their car. Those are at the trail heads so. Okay.

Kathy Tampio: I have one question. Who is the number 6490 on the screen?

Marla Connelly: That would be Marla.

Kathy Tampio: Okay, good. I'll put you down.

Martha Anderson: Are we all set? I'm losing battery so I'm going to click off out of here real shortly with battery.

Bob Franzen: Okay, I think we're set. We'll hold on till July meeting.

Judy Hunt: Bob wanted phone numbers for our members and when we sign in we all use email. Is it, maybe we don't want to put our phone numbers on the website? I'm not sure.

Martha Anderson: I don't want mine on the website.

Judy Hunt: Okay. Alright, if you send me your phone numbers I will make a list and get it to Bob so he has one. Please do that.

Martha Anderson: Sounds good.

Judy Hunt: Thank you.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Tampio
Clerk, Chautauqua County Legislature