

## Minutes

### CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

Thursday, May 27, 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, Steve Sandberg, Jacob Bodway, Marla Connelly, Carrie McCausland, Bob Dando

**Members Absent:** Martha Anderson, Bob Franzen

**Others Present:** Brad Bentley, Kathy Tampio, Liz Woods, Julie Rockcastle, Jodi Gray

The meeting was called to order by Judy Hunt at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Acknowledgement of Guests and Topics Discussions**

Judy Hunt: First item on our agenda is acknowledgement of guests and topics so Jodi or Julie to you want to tell us what's happening? Jacob, do you want to lead that part of it since they made the contact with you?

Jacob Bodway: I received an email from Jodi Gray who is interested in building trails on the Heron Farms. She owns 60 acres adjacent to Heron Farms and Julie who's on the Zoom right now owns 400 acres. They own the Heron property proper. They're interested in building trails or having some sort of trail system at the Heron and then connecting them to ... Julie, hi, do you want to take over?

Julie Rockcastle: Sure, we have a little farm store. We're in the town of Sherman. We are managing 460 acres now, a bunch of family properties and we've had the Heron music festival for almost 30 years, which we have not done now for two year because of COVID. We've transitioned and kind of pivoted into more camping which is working out really well for us. Our opening weekend is this weekend with music and everything. Anyways, our trail system we've got more and more developed in the last couple of years. We've done a 5K trail run twice now, very well received and the only piece that was on the road was just crossing Wait Corners Road and so that's pretty cool. Then Jody Gray was going to get in the call today. She's a horse woman who has started some Heron horse events and last year we identified 6 miles of trails for those events. The property across Wait Corners Road to the east bluffs my sister, she's got a 100 acres there, and that is adjacent to the state land. I got this father who likes to make trails in the woods so he has just about made his way to the state land back in that wood lot for no particular reason, but they are lovely trails with gravel and everything. Jodi's been making a connection to the state trails and particularly the Panama and Harmony horse trail system along with Keith Carrow from the DEC. So we see the potential for people who come here and camp and/or rent air B&Bs do the trails either on bikes or horses or walking and come back and stay with us. We also do dinners on Saturday nights with music, other things and have

the farm store. Reasons to get more people into Chautauqua County and have them stay here and do the ecotourism, agritourism, things that we have going on here. That's pretty much it in a nutshell.

Judy Hunt: So you are requesting us to partner with you, is that ...

Julie Rockcastle: Well I'm really just learning about what you folks are doing. Networking and collaborating is wonderful. I really don't know the opportunities that might be available for partnering yet. Jodi has really been the lead on that and so I'm just willing to listen and see what's already going on. I just watched Jacob's video on his mountain biking and that's exciting. I hadn't heard about that.

Jodi Gray: I didn't see the video. Where did you see the video?

Julie Rockcastle: Jacob just sent it in an email today.

Brad Bentley: I guess Julie from the County's perspective, obviously we have lots of trails in the county as a whole. We obviously have a hard time keeping up with the maintenance of all we have. But certainly we don't want to turn down new offers of expansion of trails. We do have a planning and economic development group that Jacob's aware of as well that is doing a bit more with trail expansion. So certainly any kind of partnership we would want to include that in the discussion. If someone wants to donate stuff to the extension I think that would be something we'd certainly be interested in. I don't know that I have a lot of money to dedicate to the effort yet, but there are grants out there that maybe we could partner on to do some trail development,. but if your dad likes to do it himself.

Julie Rockcastle: Well he's like 87 now so he's getting tired of that.

Brad Bentley: Well I'm sure Jacob will take all ages, but you know a part of it is also if it's on your private land we might need some sort of agreement or easement. I just don't want to send people on your trails (*crosstalk*) in harms way so I'm sure there are some legalities that would need to go along with this.

Julie Rockcastle: Absolutely. We've definitely been working through the insurance piece. My understanding with the DEC is if we don't charge to use trails then the state can include the horse trails in insurance for us property owners. Again, Jodi knows more about that than I do. That seems to be a way to go because you've got to have some insurance somewhere in the mix.

Brad Bentley: Yeah, I think that's probably some of the biggest hurdles as far as the partnership is working (*crosstalk*). I would certainly encourage us to go farther. I'll let the Parks Commission members speak for themselves as well. On the county's behalf I would certainly want to engage with you and figure out what the next steps would be to get you on the map if you will.

Julie Rockcastle: Yes, thank you for that and if anybody wants to come for a visit, Jacob bring your bike.

Jacob Bodway: Julie, I'll send you and Jodi an invite to the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting we have at 10:30 in the morning. That's the overall Greenway Plan meeting. You mentioned the equestrians, you could link with the equestrian trails at North Harmony State Forest. There are I think a few miles of trails there. The Overland is currently, I think at least from what I understand, we don't allow equestrians on the overland trail. So that's something to keep in mind. We'll also be doing construction on the overland trail in that section of North Harmony this summer so certain sections of that trail will be closed as we will have machines in there doing construction. If you plan to have an equestrian trail, well then that would be great. I could hook you up with a couple people who are familiar with that. Carrie is one person who is an equestrian if you're looking ahead to be a shared use mountain bike hiking trail that is a different kind of trail system. Different trail surfaces sometimes if they, depending on if you want to see a natural surface or gravel surface, it all depends on what you are looking to do. We can talk about that later. I can come out and see what you guys have and maybe Keith and I can walk through it and figure out what works best for you guys.

Julie Rockcastle: Sounds great. Thanks. Anything else from me, otherwise I'll leave you to your business meeting here.

Judy Hunt: Well I think maybe we've got a good start on a new venture and we thank you for sharing what you have and your interest with us.

Brad Bentley: And Jacob, if you want to be the ambassador to me, once you go out and look at it, if there is something that I can help you out with now with perspective through the DPF and the Planning & Economic Development crew, I would certainly make those next steps. Thank you Julie. Judy, I have Liz Woods on here as a guest as well. I invited her because she gave me a rare initiative that's going on up in Arkwright, county property. Off of Ball Road we have unauthorized ATV users on the property and it is extensive. It's very concerning. I have gone up there and we're in the process of installing trail cameras up there to see if we can catch who's doing it, but in the meantime I believe one of the adjacent landowners put up a four to five foot mound of dirt across the opening to our property which, I don't know if that's the right answer either but it will certainly keep out people parking in open space over there for now. He's also put up his own signs. (*crossstalk*) I don't know if these guys are going to come back but we are going to try and catch whoever is up there. I'm going to be working with Bart and Mike to figure out what our long term plans are to keep people off of there and contact the Sheriff's office. We're trying to do patrols. Two weekends before I personally took trips up on Saturday just to see if I could catch someone in the act and the only thing I caught was a turkey. We acknowledged the existence of an ATV users. But they have caused extensive damage through the property. I do really want to catch them and prosecute them if I can.

Liz Woods: There are so many though. So many. It's not just one or two.

Brad Bentley: Yeah, it's throughout the property. It's not good. This is probably not just recent, it's probably been built over years started with a single user and then someone said it's a track up here and then it just grew up out of proportion. Now it's very obvious what's happened up there.

Liz Woods: I think that it started from some property owners on the park side, Park Street or whatever (*inaudible*) road. Then the property owners there that allow people to come in with ATVs. See, once they cross the creek, they're on the property. So then, you know ...

(*crosstalk*)

Jacob Bodway: Yeah, I'm really familiar with that area. Ball Road leads down to Arkwright falls if I'm not mistaken, correct? And there are four wheeler trails there. I used to live in Fredonia and I used to bike around up there all the time. It was ten years ago. Those trails have been there for as long as I was riding. Now on my mountain bike I stuck just to the county land and went down to the falls, but Park Road, it connects to the Overland. Last time I was on Park Road it was, there's a lot of blow downs. So unless someone has cleared the blow downs I don't see how you get an ATV through there, but, again, if someone cleared the blow downs then ....

Liz Woods: This is maybe how it started (*cross talk, inaudible*)...

Brad Bentley: I want to thank Liz for making us aware of the most recent developments and we're going to be working to address those. I don't know if there is a short term answer for restoration. This is going to take a bit of work. The first part is letting them know that we are going to be patrolling this area. If they're going to be out there we are going to catch them. I want to catch them first with a trail camera and then see if I could bust the whole lot of them. Soon enough the word will get out that there's people watching the area and they are going to have to move on to some other area. Whether I catch them or not we will work hard to keep them off of our property and stop this from continuing. I just wanted to make the Parks Commission aware what's going on and we'll do what we have to.

Liz Woods: I couldn't be happier.

Judy Hunt: Well we've had one positive and one negative so far. What else goes on this list of guests? Jodi, what do you have?

Jodi Gray: Sorry, I was just admitted. My name is Jodi Gray. I believe Julie introduced herself at the beginning of the meeting. I'm coming in a little bit late to the game today. We are involved with being close to the properties in the North Harmony State Forest and the west side of the Overland Trail. We are jumping on board with promoting our property. We have a house we're opening up for B&B. We want to promote equine-tourism, agri-tourism. We're looking to bring in a lot of traffic to Chautauqua County trail systems and want to become more involved in the sharing of the public trail system. So I'm just new to all this stuff so I am learning a lot of stuff quick and fun and I'm jumping in full force to try to be involved and to help everybody enjoy the public lands. They are so beautiful and be enjoyed by all of us.

Judy Hunt: We welcome you.

Jodi Gray: Thank you.

Judy Hunt: Well I think that we've kind of generated Jacob is going to organize more on this topic.

Jodi Gray: Yeah, really anxious to become more involved and to learn how I can help support the greater mission, for sure.

Jacob Bodway: I'll be in contact with you and Julie in the next week or so after Memorial Day and I'll set up a time when I can come and look at the property and see how we can maybe connect your trails with the equestrian trails in North Harmony. I'll have to have Keith there as well because I'm not sure where the equestrian trails actually are in North Harmony, but I can figure that out.

Jodi Gray: Yeah, we actually have a group out there today. They just called me about 10 minutes before this call started that they're with Keith now and they just finalized the trail layout and gotten the approval from the DEC for the layout that we have for not just equestrian trails, we want mountain bike trails and hiking trails and all of the above so we're going to figure out how to do this together.

Judy Hunt: Sounds like good collaboration.

Jodi Gray: Excited, for sure.

Judy Hunt: Good. Anything else on this topic?

Brad Bentley: Those are all the guests that I'm aware of. So Judy, I think you are on to the minutes.

### **Minutes Review and Acceptance**

Judy Hunt: That's right. I'll entertain a motion to accept the minutes as presented to us by Kathy.

Bob Dando: I move.

Judy Hunt: And a second?

Jacob Bodway: I'll second.

*The minutes of 4/22/2021 were approved as submitted.*

Judy Hunt: Thank you. Minutes Received and approved. Brad, I guess we are on to operations. We do have Sam's report that he sent this morning so want to run through that and answer any questions?

## Operations

Brad Bentley: (Shared Screen)

**Staffing** – We are in the summer so we have Bart Scheer and an assigned road maintainer and 3 seasonal employees that are hired for the parks. So we are up to staff. Bart's up there working hard as we opened the parks on May 5<sup>th</sup> to get them ready. We still have a lot of work to do on ongoing stuff. We are open and the gatekeepers are opening the doors every day.

Judy Hunt: Are any of the seasonals repeat hires? People we had before?

Brad Bentley: Because we were in COVID last year we didn't hire any seasonals last year. I can confirm that none are repeats. So that's fine, we are getting back up to what we should be doing and in addition, if we have a major project going and we need more help, we can also pull from the highway department to get things done so ...

Judy Hunt: That's a strength in your plan, I like it.

Brad Bentley: So it works well to optimize resources.

**Ongoing Tasks** – We're still in the process, we're waiting delivery of the front mount mower. So that should be coming in soon. With regards to the Schrader donation, the bench has been picked up and I actually just reconfirmed with Bart where to install it next week. It's going to be at the gazebo and it's going to be on that leading edge of the hill overlooking the lake. Expect that bench to be installed next week. So if you are out there you can take a look at it. I believe they sent away for the plaque so we'll have to talk to Mr. Schrader about when and how he want that plaque installed. We have the reviewed equipment inventory list up on the tasks. I kind of picked up an administrative resource the last month and she's very good. We're going to give this task to her to help out with the inventory list.

Judy Hunt: Get it off your to do list huh?

Brad Bentley: So I've got a plan and we are putting it in action so hopefully for next month we'll have an updated list on completed tasks. The Erlandson Park timber harvest was awarded to Marvin Troyer last month. The contract is being prepared. We have not received his deposit or insurance information, which is a little concerning. Working with Rick Constantino to try to expedite those documents so we can get this going and get it scheduled so they can go out there and actually clear some timber but also clear the view of the lake on that one section. That's why we have been able to get started yet. The contractor who bid on this has taken his time in getting his documents to us and we can't have him start until we have the documents. We're going to keep pushing for that and hopefully we'll be able to start that very soon.

Judy Hunt: Clearing that view will be another thing off your to do list.

Brad Bentley: Yes it will. My to do list always grows longer than my completed list but it's the joys of. Obviously ongoing tasks throughout the summer. Maintenance of county parks, trails. I'm going to make sure that we don't mow the bird sanctuary. Earlier this year Bart knows what to do but I'll be rechecking to make sure we don't make the error that we did last year. Because of COVID we didn't have the right people. So we'll make sure that we don't

repeat things that I don't like to do. I think making a mistake once, I don't want to make twice. We have made progress on beavers believe it or not up Titus Road. I talked to Bart actually this afternoon. He said he caught a 65 pound one. He caught the granddaddy of the beavers out there. So we are trying to make some progress in ... I think unfortunately someone was hiking at the same time one of the loggers cleared one of the beaver dams and so someone got rushed by a water (*inaudible*). No one was hurt, nothing got damaged but I did get a very pointed email about what the hell is going on. I think they got stranded briefly on the bridge. So not much I can do until we can clear the beaver dam but we are trying .....(*cross talk*). I don't have that sign yet. The good news is we have been out there trapping the beavers. Bart's been going after them. He said he's got 6 so far. The Arkwright county land issue, the unauthorized ATV use we already talked about that. Very concerning, disheartening and we are going to have to figure out how to do this to keep these guys off of there. I think the signs, just the communication out there will probably help. We'll see what else we need to do but I've got some trail cameras. We're going to put those out and if we catch something, we're going to prosecute them. I think as I mentioned through an email, I don't know if it was at the last meeting, I had a request for a memorial service for a veteran at Luensman for June 26<sup>th</sup>. She wanted to include a 21 gun salute. I have not been able to find anything that would prohibit this activity. However, I am making sure that the police are notified, the Sheriff. We asked the Town of Portland if there's a permit required. They said no. I will have the names of every person going out there with the gun. They are going to be coming from the Westfield VFW. They'll all be using blanks in their guns. I'm actually going up there on the day to make sure if there's any patrons, if they see people pulling out rifles from their back of their cars or trucks that the SWAT team doesn't get called if there is an incident. So I'm going to try my best to make sure the chaos does not ensue from just people concerned about what's going on.

Judy Hunt: Sounds like you've covered all the bases necessary to me.

Brad Bentley: I'm trying to make sure that a very positive thing doesn't become a negative. I can't think of anything else but if anybody's got any concerns please let me know in the time between now and next month when this will be done.

**Completed Tasks** – We have the new John Deere tractor and it's in use. We did open the parks on 5/5/2021.

Before I go into the budget I ought to mention a couple other things. COVID – as of now we still have the bathrooms closed. With the opening up of New York and some of that, I'm going to be talking to the Health Department in the near future about if I can open up the bathrooms. I've already made some early preparations to get us somewhat ready to do that. I want to make sure I'm in lock step with the Health Department. What they recommend for activities up there. What kind of cleaning supplies are needed. As we all know at Luensman there is no running water so that gets a little tricky. So we are going to make sure that we have the right cleaning supplies on hand for those activities. So look for in the near future the additional guidance. Once I do that I may put out a press release with the changes. We are taking reservations for the gazebos so if anybody wants to have a gathering it's limited to 20 without a plan, more than 20 with a plan. I be looking to see if I can open that back to normal in the near future. I'll have to adjust all the signage as well. So we've got plans to make the changes. Just not quite there yet with the discussions I need to have. As we all know, the guidance changes on a daily basis with regard to COVID. I'm going to stop there. Does anybody have any questions on it and anything else I covered so far?

**2021 Budget** – Operating Budget – Not a lot of changes on the budget itself. We're about 46% through then end of May which is roughly on target. I don't see any issues long term with that. Our capital projects account is \$136,000. Of that is the front deck mower and the John Deere tractor that have been taken out. Going on to the Luensman bathroom – so I'm going to do a little update here as to why this is still on hold. Justin (*inaudible*) works in my engineering department is in charge of the parks part-time. He's been working on getting some grants from ... so what we're doing is actually going to apply for a grant from the Environment Protection Fund, Parks, Preservation and Heritage Grants and we can get up to a 75% grant, so 25% match for the bathroom. So instead of outlaying all of our cash for the bathroom we want to apply for this grant and see if we can't save some of our money. So that's why we kind of want to put this on hold till we get this applied for. I'm going to be talking to the County Executive tomorrow to let him know that we are going to apply for this grant and get his approval for doing this. I do not think he is going to have an issue but I think this is a great find by Justin. The requirements do not look too onerous. It seems like a lot of money is out there for this particular type of work so I'm optimistic about it and I want to pursue this before I make any steps towards the bathrooms. The second grant that we're actually pursuing as well, and this was brought to the Planning Board back on May 4<sup>th</sup> is a capital projects in regards to the Bethany and Cockaigne trail and get it off the roadway up behind there. It's basically the overland trail development. We can get up to potentially an 80% reimbursement through what's called a recreational trails program grant. This would basically be for construction of about 3.4 miles on the east overland trail through NYS DEC land, private lands Bethany and Cockaigne. We're going to need to get some letters of intent from both those entities to submit with the grant so we'll be pursuing those letters of intent to allow us to be on their property and that will be the first step. Once that's in and we get some approvals that we're going to get this then we can lay out a little more finite path. Cockaigne obviously has some concerns about where that path goes and interacting with the winter skiers and snowmobilers so there's going to have to be some coordination with them as we go to the next steps assuming we get the grant. The cost of this is probably going to be in the neighborhood of \$100,000 or maybe a little bit more. So at 80% that will be about 10-20,000 dollars out of our capital budget. But again, another potentially a really good find as far as money to actually build this section of trail. Now, Jacob, you are part of the discussion on this too so did I get anything wrong?

Jacob Bodway: No, we applied for RPT grant for Allegany State Park 4 years ago. It is a federal grant so you think New York State is slow – it's going to be a process. But if you want me to send over our RPT grants as a model to work from I'd be happy to do that. Ours was very extensive. It's up to you if you'd want that. You will need a map. You'll need a description, the outcomes and all that other stuff but...

Brad Bentley: Yah, if you send it over to me electronically, I'll send it over to the engineer. It will give him a little bit of a flavor of ... And you got awarded that too, right?

Jacob Bodway: Yes we did. It was a \$100,000 grant. We ended up only accepting \$50,000, actually I think it was \$45,000 because we want to not have to be open bid, competing bids for the construction. We wanted to kind of keep it close to Catt County and Trail Construction Associates. They were the ones who built that section of trail at Allegany State Park. It was 4 miles and it cost \$46,000.



Brad Bentley: Justin is looking at some other grants as well. Add ons that we might be able to do to repair some of our bridges. We'll be able to put together a capital bridge program.

Judy Hunt: He's certainly earning his keep, isn't he finding these grants?

Brad Bentley: Yes, I've been kind of waiting for the Planning Board meetings to let the cat out of the bag a little bit. I didn't want to jump the gun too quickly on what we're working on. We have been doing some work over the winter and trying to think about how we can go at some money because we all know it's hard to do anything if you don't have any money. Trying to get it from the taxpayers is difficult, especially since we're working with timber harvest. There's only so many things you can do and only so much money you can get. So we want to leverage our funds as much as we can.

Judy Hunt: Good job on all those fronts.

Brad Bentley: Yah and I've got one more grant I'm thinking about. It's the American Rescue Plan money that the county got. There's a lot of unknowns on how that money can be used for. I'm going to put something on the list and just see where it goes.

Jacob Bodway: Do you have a project in mind?

Brad Bentley: I've got to see a little bit more of what the rules are because I want to kind of tailor it. I just don't want to throw something in there that doesn't meet the requirements. I'd think I'd have a better chance of satisfying if I had the rules.

Jacob Bodway: At the boardwalk we – the Titus Road section, a boardwalk there would be fantastic. Where it's currently with the little bridges and stuff. If we could boardwalk that, a 5 or 6 foot boardwalk that would be a big game changer for that section of trail. That's on my wish list.

Brad Bentley: Brad likes catching those 65 pound beavers so –

Jacob Bodway: I understand that but at the same time it would be – the bridges we have there are already running with water for a full year so those are going to need to be replaced anyway. Make sure the wood is just rotten and in-between both of the boardwalks the bridges that we had are 15, 10, 15 feet of just mud. So the whole section really does need to be bridged. Covering that entire pond all the way to the other side. It's something to think about. I think it would be a good investment for the county. It was something I was thinking about for a grant but again I wouldn't know how to install those, install a boardwalk. Maybe a potential project I think. So, it's up to you.

Brad Bentley: I don't know what's going to happen but I wanted to see the board polled to see what they would like, what could be submitted so I'll keep it in mind for now but paying attention to it. I see Marla is on here. I have a question for you. What are you doing at the state parks for bathrooms? Are you still closed or are you open?

Marla Connelly: Closed? What are you talking about? Record attendance last year.

Brad Bentley: No, for the bathrooms? Do you have the restrooms open now?

Marla Connelly: Yes, our restrooms are all open. We are on extreme cleaning schedules, meeting all the requirements, sanitizer and even Midway is going to be cleaned every 2 hours with the rides and everything too.

Brad Bentley: Well, I'll try to avoid that because I don't have people there to clean.

Marla Connelly: We've got major schedules. We've got lots of overtime and everything just to keep the bathrooms clean.

Brad Bentley: Well, maybe I can help you out if I lead the way to less cleaning.

Marla Connelly: Okay.

Brad Bentley: Maybe I can help you out there with some health department approvals and just open them up and ...

Marla Connelly: Get it in writing.

Brad Bentley: Get it in writing? I'll see what I can do for you. That's all. That's my operational report for June.

### **Legislation**

Judy Hunt: Thank you. I don't think John Hemmer is with us, is he for legislative?

Brad Bentley: No, but I can cover that. Basically the agenda item was the approval of the new commission members that got approved at the legislature last night so welcome new members. I guess it's official. I think that was all for the parks if I remember Kathy, right?

Kathy Tampio: Yes, that's it. The new members are official now.

Judy Hunt: I had Code changes, do we already have that covered?

Kathy Tampio: Yes.

Judy Hunt: That's old business. Sorry I put that on the agenda. Okay, Jacob – trail development updates.

### **Trail Development**

Jacob Bodway: As you know we were awarded the \$25,000 from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo through the Ralph Wilson Fund. We were also awarded another \$15,000 from the Community Foundation, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.

Unfortunately we did not get the Sheldon Fund which I was really bummed about. That's the way it goes. This was for the kiosks. I'm still waiting on the Lenna Foundation and the (*inaudible*) fund. I will be meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> with representatives from the Ralph Wilson Foundation, from the Chautauqua Regional Community Foundation and from the Sheldon Foundation along with Brad and Keith and people from CREDC and all kinds of people about maybe bypassing some of the smaller foundations and just trying to get into the Ralph Wilson money and see if that's a feasible option. First we have to figure out a way to form a consortium for all the user groups in the county. The snowmobilers, the cross country skiers, the equestrians, the hikers, the mountain bikers, and that's proving to be a difficult task because we would have to go under an existing 501(c)3 but we are trying to figure that out. I'm also participating in Give Big Chautauqua on June 10<sup>th</sup>. I will quickly share my screen on that. Here is the Give Big. I'll be sending an email to all of you. I hope that everybody on the board will donate something to the overland trails. This is again going specifically to the overland trail between 474 and Stebbins Road, North Harmony State Forest and Whalen State Forest. We will be doing remediation throughout that entire section, rerouting the trail from chronic wet areas, adding soil in low spots and improving the drainage throughout that entire section. I have, here's the contributions to \$250 or you can do your own amount. I have a little video of the Western New York Mountain Biking Association, who we are and then the focus of the fundraiser and a little bit more information about the trail experience in general. I'll be putting this up on social media a quite a bit and I'll be working with Hike Chautauqua to get some of this on social media. I do have a couple matching, a couple local businesses who are interested in matching (*inaudible*) performance. Wild Performance in Bemus Point will be doing a matching fund and Skillmans in Bemus Point will be doing a matching fund as well. I hoping to speak with Brice from the Tap House in Bemus Point, the golf course in Bemus Point. He's expressed some interest in doing a matching fund as well. I'm looking to get \$5,000. That's a lot for a first time but I think we can get a good bit of that.

Judy Hunt: These matching funds will boost it quite a bit. That's super.

Jacob Bodway: Yes, that will be a good. It's a good opportunity. If we can raise the \$5,000, that \$45,000 threshold, that's the sweet spot as far as I'm concerned anything over that gives us a little bit more leeway, but the 45 really puts us to where we want to be for the reroutes because that's where most of the money will go. Fixing the trails is one thing but rerouting the trail to higher ground or clearing the corridor, doing a little bit of prep work, takes more time and that's more money. Encourage everybody who's watching this on Facebook to donate to the Give Big Chautauqua for the Western New York Mountain Biking Association for the overland trail revitalization project. We will bring that up on social media throughout the next couple of weeks and that's on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Everything's looking real good. Right now Trail Construction Associates is building a trail in Chautauqua Institution. Once they are finished with that we will be out at Whalen State Forest and North Harmony looking for potential reroutes and figuring out what needs to be done in the next few weeks. So we should be getting shovels in the dirt by June, middle of June. Maybe end of June and should be completed by fall.

Judy Hunt: As a commission, we thank you for designating the overland trail as the object of your – the Chautauqua Gives. Give Big Chautauqua, that's what it's called isn't it?

Jacob Bodway: Yes, Give Big Chautauqua. Rails to Trails are on it. There's quite a few foundations on it. The work with the Rails to Trails as well and we're looking at developing new trail in the north county so there's a lot of very positive things going on in the county right now. I'm just trying to get everybody on board and have open lines of transparency is the key. I think having a really successful 5 year action items being accomplished – I think we can do it. It's just going to take a little bit of time and some effort and hopefully we get some grants.

### **Old Business**

Judy Hunt: I think you're just the guy to lead it up. Brad, we're down to the overland parks. You already talked about the one bench at Leunsmann. Anything on the additional bench?

Brad Bentley: I've heard radio silence from last month's visitor. He hasn't come back to us yet but certainly if he does we'll let you know.

Judy Hunt: Well maybe they'll be gathering soon – those guys and he'll get it put together.

Brad Bentley: Yeah, it may just take as with all things it takes time to get a good plan together.

Judy Hunt: There's lots of people to talk to I understand from what he said.

Brad Bentley: Yeah, I think we gave him some good information and gave him a path forward so it's just a matter of him organizing.

Judy Hunt: The ball's in his court now. Okay. Waterways, anything on the beavers?

Brad Bentley: Nothing of significance. I know that Jacob and I have talked about trying to go after a grant to maybe clear it out. As you can tell there's a lot on our plates right now so I'm sure he and I have spent an equal amount of time on it. Maybe a though here or there.

Jacob Bodway: It's something I'm really interested in in doing. Hopefully I can get maybe some local volunteers to go out and clear sections of the waterway but it's just been tough. I gotta find some (*inaudible*) and do it but the past few weeks have been very hectic. We're trying to map the entire county trail system as well. That's something I'm working on with a few people from Chautauqua Lake and the Rails to Trails – we've got some tech people who are able to overlay all the trails including the single track mountain bike trail, the waterway trails – all on a single map on Google Maps. So everything would be easily located on Google Maps. Parking areas, rest areas, lean-tos – everything will be all updated on Google Maps. So that's been taking a little bit of my time as well and also working with the Greenway Plan has been a little bit more exhausting. The county's interested in maybe taking me on as an employee to start leading this project as (*inaudible*) the foundations in the county. We'll see what happens with that but I can only give so much of my volunteer time to the Greenway Plan and it's been quite a bit so far. So I'm hoping that some of the people who work at CREDC can step up a little bit and help out with some of the objectives that I'm looking at. So far they've done a pretty good job.

Judy Hunt: Your ambition is commendable.

Jodi Gray: Just to add a little bit to that. One of the investors in our property works for Google and he is a map guru. I'm going to get you in touch with him. I don't know how far down in your project you are.

Jacob Bodway: Just started.

Jodi Gray: Oh, well, I've got a guy for you. I'll get you in touch.

Jacob Bodway: We're actually going to have a phone call on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 so if you want to give me his email address so I could maybe patch him in or give him a phone call or something. I think it's something we need to have. People use Google Maps for just about everything now and we don't have anything on Google Maps. Even our Rails to Trails and overland maps aren't synced up. So we just need to coordinate a little bit better on getting everything publicized and available to the public.

UNKNOWN speaker: Jacob, I don't see your last name and I just assumed you were a county employee. Who are you?

Jacob Bodway: My last name is Bodway. I'm the president of the Western New York Mountain Biking Association.

UNKNOWN speaker: Okay.

Jacob Bodway: I'm on the Rails to Trails. I'm on the Parks Commission here and I'm kind of spearheading the Greenway Plan. It was kind of dropped a little while ago and we are working on an addendum right now through the Greenway Plan so we can kind of coordinate everything that's been done in the last 10 year and (*cross talk*) some better grants. So here's the addendum so far – current projects of Western New York Biking Association, the County Department of Planning & Economic Development, the Rails to Trails. So we got all of the social clubs- everybody's on it. All the clubs are on here.

UNKNOWN speaker: Actually you're missing a club, oh not, you've got it. Cross Country Ski club.

Jacob Bodway: Yah, we've got everybody on here. The equestrians, the whole gambit here. So what we'll do is we're actually going to take this document and format is using the same formatting software that Pashek Company used when they did the original Greenway Plan. So this will be what we will submit moving forward to some of the foundations for grant requests. Just to show that we are all on the same page. That we are working together to improve the county trail systems as an entire group instead of working in individual silos. So I think this is a really good start to getting what's been done in 10 years and what's the 5-year goal to date. Current projects, project description, location, timeline, cost estimates and funding sources – this is where we're moving right now. It's really exciting. It's just getting the pieces

together and then once we figure out what the foundations are looking for we can kind of tailor it according to their ....

Judy Hunt: The Greenway Plan's been sitting in drawers and sitting on shelves for several years now. It's no accident at all. This is just super because it would be a shame to waste all that effort and money that was put into it. I'm glad you're reviving it. Really a delight. Young blood – we love it. Well, the next on the agenda is Marketing and that's kind of where Jacob's thrust is. Getting our trails done and used. I've got the DEC Agreement with the county. Brad, is that still old business?

Brad Bentley: Yah, I think Keith is still working on that. He hasn't gotten back to me with any updated information but I'm sure it's on his plate still.

Judy Hunt: All right. Well, I don't know of any new business, does anybody else? Except that this meeting is opened a great deal of dialog and positive energy so I think we are on our way. Does anybody have anything for new business? Any questions for anybody? Well, we welcome those who have joined us as guests. You're welcome to return. Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 24 at 4:00 pm.

Brad Bentley: So let's talk about that Judy. I think I have some good news for everyone.

Judy Hunt: Oh really! Maybe we don't have to Zoom? Oh, that means I go back to taking notes. Oh well, Kathy's done a great job.

Brad Bentley: I would like to announce that we watched the legislative meeting last night and Chairman Chagnon has told everybody that their next legislative meeting as well as the committee meetings are going to be in-person in Mayville in the legislative chambers where they can space out in Mayville. My recommendation would be to – our next meeting be proposed to be at the Mayville GOB, Gerace Office Building, in the legislative chambers. I think we have the perfect person to reserve that, Kathy?

Kathy Tampio: Okay.

Brad Bentley: And the reason why I'd say that it is in there is that we have recently expanded our group. The conference room at the airport is just too small to deal with social distancing.

Judy Hunt: Yes, it's inadequate.

Brad Bentley: We don't know exactly what the protocols are going to be for the county meetings and whatever protocols get set up they'll be available, whether it's temperature checks or what not. They'll be available at the Mayville GOB so that we don't have to implement any additional requirements for some other meeting. If everybody's amenable, I would propose that we meet in person at 4 o'clock in the legislative chambers for the next Parks Commission meeting.

Judy Hunt: Excellent! You saved some of the good for the end.

Brad Bentley: I wanted to surprise you.

Judy Hunt: Good job. Well I would like to say to those people who joined us as guests are certainly welcome to join us as guests at the Gerace Building. I will post it in the Post Journal and the Observer in Dunkirk and I want to get this all correct because we do post our meetings there.

Brad Bentley: I think at the time we have the protocols in place I think Kathy could send out what the protocols will be in place for committee meetings. Those get posted as well.

Judy Hunt: I'll have to add that, right.

Brad Bentley: A mask may be required to enter the building. You could take it off when you are seated if you get social distanced. Who knows what the rules are going to be. They'll figure that out as they set up those.

Judy Hunt: So I'll include all of that in my newspaper postings Kathy when I get that from you.

Kathy Tampio: Yes, I'll send you the language.

Judy Hunt: Okay, that's fine. Well, now we can adjourn on a happy note.

*Meeting adjourned at 5:07p.m.*

**Next Meeting: June 24, 2021, 4:00 pm - Legislature Chamber, GOB**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Tampio  
Clerk, Chautauqua County Legislature

*Approved 6/24/2021*