

## Minutes

### CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

Thursday, September 24, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

*Meeting held by Virtual Zoom technology*

---

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

**Members Absent:** Ainsley Smith (Resigned)

**Others Present:** Brad Bentley, Sam Zafuto, Jacob Bodway, Kathy Tampio, Keith Carrow

---

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

#### **Minutes Review and Acceptance**

*Motion by Hunt, Seconded by Anderson, the minutes of the August 27, 2020 meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented.*

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

Acknowledged guests Jacob Bodway and Keith Carrow.

#### **Operations**

Brad Bentley: I sent out an operations report this afternoon. So under staffing, again as we talked about last meeting Bart Scheer is our Assigned Road Maintainer. No seasonal hires in 2020 due to COVID and the budget constraints. So Bart has been out doing things. I'll get to that in a minutes. Completed tasks are timber harvest and restoration of reforestation properties number 9 and 11 has been completed, the ones on North Harmony and Cherry Creek. *(inaudible)* they did a great job and Keith you probably went out and looked at them too or somewhere near them. So I think they look pretty good and I got some revenue for the parks so that's a bonus right there.

Martha Anderson: Brad, is that the revenue the capital projects listed below 173. Is that from this timber sale right here? You have in the 2020 budget?

Brad Bentley: Sam, correct me, does that include the driveway that we just got.

Sam Zafuto: Yeah, that's part of the 173, this was like \$31,000.

Martha Anderson: Okay, thank you.

Brad Bentley: Ongoing tasks is obviously we're still in mowing season and whatever hours we can get Bart that's not mowing, trying to go out and fix some of the trail bridges that were noted last month. I believe he made some progress. I don't know that we've gotten where we need to be but, certainly taken note of the comments from last meeting and we're trying to go out and fix the most obvious ones.

Martha Anderson: I have a question on that, because I was just on the Overland off of the ... by the gorge. There's a huge hole in one of the bridges that people have put rocks over on the bridge to cover it so they don't fall through. But it is in really, really rough shape so I don't know what ones he's doing but that one I think is a real high priority or should be. I don't know if you can let him know that. There's a couple big trees down across that first mile of that trail also that have been blow down. But that bridge is in really rough shape and it's, when you walk on it it's kind of squishy so if somebody goes through it we may be in big trouble.

Brad Bentley: Well, as we know the trails are always at your own risk. But, do you know the trail head marker, a little more specific or send me an email?

Martha Anderson: It's the drop off on Hannum Road right at the very start of the trail at Hannum Road at the gorge. I mean like the very north end of the west side trail. Do you know where I'm talking about?

Brad Bentley: I'm writing it down (crosstalk)

Sam Zafuto: Brad I know exactly where it is. I'll talk to Mike and Bart tomorrow.

Martha Anderson: It's like the section between Hannum Road and Summerdale Road, but it's the very start of the trail up like in the northern part of the west side trail.

Brad Bentley: We'll get that information over to Mike and Bart and see what we can do with it.

Martha Anderson: Also a question on that. Is that money that we got from .. oh I don't recall his name. Somebody was giving us \$500 or something for money to work on the bridges?

Brad Bentley: Yeah, so Bob Van Every had called me and we're going to have to do a resolution to get that money to a specific cause. He had given me a list of what he'd like that money used for so that is going to be going to the October legislative meeting. So I'll work on a resolution for that.

Martha Anderson: Okay, thank you.

Brad Bentley: I'm going to ask for continued mowing and the maintenance. We're doing the best we can with what we've got. Trail issues – as we talked about last time we had a portion of a trail closed, the Westland trail due to the beaver dams. There is an article written in the

papers and actually it looks to be to our benefit. I've received a couple of emails which I forwarded on to the Parks Commission about people need to come in to trap the beavers for us. During beaver season there's a guy that's willing to do it for us and I think that's an opportunity that we're gonna take advantage of if we don't get to it sooner, depends on what Parks is able to do, to get out there. I had a conversation to Keith on doing some improvements out there because once you remove it something else is probably just going to move back in. It's really about the larger plan to disrupt the dams and make sure they don't have an opportunity to rebuild.

Tom Erlandson: I just want to remind everybody that one of the purposes of establishing the trail system in the first place back in 1970 was so people could view nature. With a good beaver dam, at least in my mind. The concept of rerouting a trail around the dam I have no problem with, it makes sense. I do have a problem though with destroying the dam because that really is part of nature. I have no problem with (inaudible) some, that's fine. But let's not destroy the dam, let's make it visible to people who walk that portion of the trail.

Brad Bentley: I'll say as I wrote in my list there, I didn't say destroy. We're going to coordinate with Keith to come up with a plan to make sure the beavers don't return. So whatever that may be, we need to work on the plan to best do that. Keith, do you have any ideas there?

Keith Carrow: I'm working with engineers from New York State. We want to lower the dam, make it a little more reasonable. The dam was breached partly because of the beavers and then beavers have built it back up above what it was previously. We're trying to work with nature, if you like that retained as a marsh, it'll be habitat but it needs to be in better condition than it is. It's a breached dam which – there's work that needs to be done out there.

Martha Anderson: Now, will you be doing that work Keith?

Keith Carrow: It needs to be contracted and right now New York State doesn't have the money to do it but the engineers are working with me to try to get this situation taken care of. It's kind of out of my control because normally I would try to go out there with a potato hook and pull part of dam apart to get things back. I can't touch it. It's too bad.

Brad Bentley: It is affecting the use of the trails, it is closed. I've gotten lots of emails and calls. People wanting to hike the length of the trail and I have to warn them that there's a certain part that closed. They're going to go on it at their own risk. It may not be passable so I do think we need to address this sooner than later. But, it will take us a little bit of time to do it and get things right. The other thing that is coming up, I don't know if everybody saw the announcement on the snowmobile trail that being worked on at Cockaigne. Obviously we were trying to get some trails reroute our trail in that vicinity. That brings up some interesting questions about joint use between snowmobile and Overland trail. Because right now obviously we don't allow motorized vehicles on the Overland trail. But, kind of passing through similar parts so Jamie Reynolds has been trying to coordinate this for over two years. When Ron had it to work with the Bethany camp as well as Cockaigne to get the Overland trail off the road and over to these areas. That's going to continue. I've asked Jamie to go in and find out what's going on with snowmobile trail. Where they want to go, see if there's opportunities to partner. Because if does bring up the question of the joint use. If they are going to be in that same

vicinities. So I just wanted to let everybody know that effort is going on and we're going to see what comes out of that going forward. I guess Cockaigne hasn't been ... I guess their plans as whether they are going to open as a ski resort is still up in the air with all the COVID stuff. So those are the trail issues. The 2020 budget – so the budget was a \$153,070. We've expensed \$107,935 so we're kind of tracking where we need to be. It's still tight but (*inaudible*) that helped us out. Capital projects account as we just talked about is the revenue from the timber sales and most recently commit to the depleted one. The Luensman bathroom capital project has been placed on hold as we talked about previous meetings.

Martha Anderson: For how long do you have any idea?

Brad Bentley: No, I do not. Right now the bathrooms are closed so if I build a new bathroom just to close it seems like it doesn't make a lot of sense. There's two parts to that so it's the county authorizing the projects that are put on hold to be re-established and then I think we need to think about what we're going to do with COVID. Why build a bathroom that's just going to be closed. So we may have to rethink both and figure out what we are going to do going forward. For the Tentative 2021 budget that PJ just presented last night, in that budget for 2021 was a \$154,369, of that \$134,575 was from the occupancy tax and \$19,794 local share money. So that's a change, we previously did not have a local share. But PJ did include it in his budget last night. So that's a good thing.

Judy Hunt: That's good.

Martha Anderson: Does that come from bed tax?

Brad Bentley: We're ... remember where the 3% occupancy tax comes from – bed tax, hotel tax, all of the above.

Bob Franzen: Brad, can we back up one thing there?

Brad Bentley: Sure.

Bob Franzen: Titus Road on the trail we're talking on the beavers up there. That (*inaudible*) Titus Road down to the pond at the bottom of the hill, is that what we're looking at? (*inaudible*) down the trail then turn right to the bottom there? Now there was a big sluice pipe in there that was plugged up? Is that the one that's backing up everything under there? Keith, is that what we're doing ... I haven't been up there to look at it or anything. Was just kind of curious if that would ... where the problem was developing.?

Keith Carrow: No, that ... there's a sluice pipe across the road but that's ... the water feeds to the west and the problem is the man made dam there's a lot of wildlife dam that was built back in the 50's where the trail goes over ... (*cross talk*)

Bob Franzen: There's a sluice pipe under that. We put it in. It's a big huge one. It's like 40 inch or 30 inch sluice pipe under that that drains from the pond across, the trail was right across.

Keith Carrow: That isn't there anymore. You gotta go there. There's nothing there.

Bob Franzen: There's nothing there?

Keith Carrow: It's washed out. It completely wiped out.

Bob Franzen: Oh, I'm sorry. I did not know that. Okay.

Keith Carrow: There's a bridge over that that you could, may not walk across.

Bob Franzen: Okay. I'll take a look at it. Okay. I wasn't aware that that sluice was gone.

Keith Carrow: Yeah, that's no longer in existence.

Martha Anderson: It moves when you're out there?

Bob Franzen: Very good.

Judy Hunt: Take your cell phone with you Bob in case you need rescue.

Bob Franzen: If I can find one, yes, thank you.

Keith Carrow: I can meet you out there sometime if you want to plan it.

Bob Franzen: Okay, I'll do that. I can catch up with you then. One more little thing there Bob, our (*inaudible*) lean-to, I don't know if it means anything they, along the Cassadaga is kind of a mess down there, picnic table chopped up and a couple bridges going across there too. They've lost a couple boards and I don't know if that's anything we have to have taken care of too. (*inaudible*) we've hadn't got anything to do with it but maybe we can somehow get it stood back up, or ...they're starting to take boards of it to be used as firewood.

Brad Bentley: Yeah, I wish we had a way to stop all that stuff. I mean it's just ... we've had people leaving mattresses, I do find that there's a general at times, a general lack of respect for trail and the trail system and the more people that use it the worse it gets. I wish we had the ability to police it and go catch those that are doing that kind of stuff but, as you know it's ...all you can do is try to maintain and clean it up after someone else degrades them. I'll let Mike and Bart know to take a look at that and see what we can do. We'll see what we can take care of. Any other questions? Alright, that's it for the Operations report. I guess now to legislation, John?

## **Legislation**

John Hemmer: Okay, I'll start. As legislation goes we did pass a couple of resolutions about the new snowmobile trails so the County's going to be the lead agency for environmental on those. I don't believe we're going to do any construction or anything on those. I think it's just support. As Brad said, the budget PJ presented last night and we're having budget hearings

in the week of the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, the whole week there will be budget hearings. The Public Facilities hearings will be on Wednesday, the 7<sup>th</sup>. I guess that's about it.

### **Trail Development**

Brad Bentley: Next one on there is trail development. I think I've already covered that.

### **Overview Parks**

Brad Bentley: Overview of the Parks – we're still in our COVID protocol. The parks are open but we are still requesting no organized events until closed. It's limited services, social distancing protocols are still in place so we've been operating under that for the last months and it continues that way.

Martha Anderson: When are they going to close the parks?

Brad Bentley: What's the date Sam? While Sam's looking that up I'll ...it's early November whatever it is.

### **Waterways**

Brad Bentley: The waterways, I will say they are in rough shape. That's probably an understatement. Obviously they were not where they needed to be before COVID hit and the furloughs and I think they've only got worse. It's going to take a concerted effort to get it back to where it needs to be. There's also trees in the way, there's probably some jams going on. Eventually they're going to find their way downstream to something so one way or another they might get cleaned out but there's still lots of issues that are out there on the waterways. I certainly got in some emails and calls giving me information on that. I wish there was more that I could do but with current restrictions on the budget and resources, we're doing what we can on the trails first. That's it, Sam – date?

Sam Zafuto: Yeah, we have agreements with the gatekeepers set to expire November 15<sup>th</sup> for both parks.

Martha Anderson: Okay, thank you.

Sam Zafuto: That's all dependent on the weather obviously.

### **Marketing**

Brad Bentley: We still have haven't done anything about the Wegmans trail. They still want to announce it maybe next year so I want to make sure the beaver dams are taken care of and all the trails are open. I'm going to continue to take a look at that and see how much we can pull that out. I'll turn it over to you Bob for Old Business/New Business.

### **Old Business**

Bob Franzen: For old business there, just looking at where we're going (*inaudible*).

Judy Hunt: I didn't list the Luensman bathroom realizing that's on hold. That's why it's not there on Old Business.

Bob Franzen: That's good. I don't know who we could end up by doing anything with it this year or next year. We'll just have to keep looking and see if we can make it into new business. Any other old business we ought to be looking at here?

Judy Hunt: That resolution for Van Every, do we need to do something or do you just do that Brad?

Brad Bentley: I think I've got everything you guys have made notes in prior meetings. I've everything I need to be put together in the resolution. I was going to do it in September but due to a lack of other agenda items, last month's Public Facilities got cancelled before I could get a late resolution in. In talking to John, we just decided to make it for the October agenda.

Bob Franzen: Now does this, this resolution for this money, is that something that can be looked at what we need for bridges, and (*inaudible*) and chop down in the wintertime here and then take them down in the spring or is it something that has to be done on site?

Brad Bentley: I think both options are available. Bob did give me a list of things that he wanted worked on. So I think we're going to apply it to the things he identified. I don't know the cost estimates for everything he was looking at. He gave me a list, I'm pretty sure I'm going to run out of money with all the things on his list. Takes time if we can do it now but if it stretches into next spring that's fine as well.

Bob Franzen: If there's nothing going on in wintertime is there anybody that could help Bart down there at Falconer if we did? I don't know if your mechanic would take care of mowers or if something had to be changed or anything like this which used to get done with the parks department in the wintertime? But I don't know if with the help and the way everything is now, is there somebody that would be in there to help him out? Or is it I guess what you've got to get it fixed?

Brad Bentley: Well actually back in the old construct when the airports and parks were together Bart actually left to go work for the airports and plow runway. So we really didn't have a winter parks employee. So under this construct, Bart is 100% parks now so he will be working on some maintenance items. He'll be able to go out there and the nice thing about the way it's structured now is if Mike does have some guys that can help, he sends them out. I believe there's actually somebody helping him today. That's an operational call that as opportunities present themselves, Bart gets some help. But obviously as you know, our roads and bridges come first and we'd rather do a lot of catch up on those right now.

Bob Franzen: Yeah, I know that, yes. There's a couple of pot holes that have been there a three weeks, I notice that so ..

Brad Bentley: We're, a lot of the crews are out there on the roads and bridges right now. If the weather turns a little bit colder and we're doing less of that work, we have some opportunities. Bart will likely get additional help but it could be a day, it could be an hour, could be whatever but the construct we are under now, it just happens on the day so it's actually more efficient.

Bob Franzen: Old Business – does anybody have anything else for old business?

Martha Anderson: I have a question. Because Bart is so busy and we've talked about the new maps and everything we have, none of the trail boxes have maps in them or sign-in sheets. A lot of them are full up and people write on the front and backs of them for sign ins and I don't know if like we could get those maps and put them in there? I mean I know that winter is coming so we don't need them so much now but people have been out there. I've seen a lot more use of the trails and it's just ... not maps.

Brad Bentley: So I have a question on the sign in sheets. Because I asked Sam to go find out the old sign in sheets. So these people sign in and some of them say some not so nice things on them. I'd like to see those things put to good use. If we are going to spend the amount of time that we do on them. We do nothing with them but put them in a filing cabinet.

Martha Anderson: Well at one point I did a whole bunch of checking them and everything and we took it to the, I forget which meeting it was, Public Facilities Hearing or meeting or something with this whole stack of them on trails we use to try and get money and stuff for us so we did use them at one point. But, there's, I mean when they are full people can't sign in on them so it's, I don't know.

Brad Bentley: Well I'd like to have a, you know some idea we're putting these things to good use, there's a plan in place. You know, let's have, it's always nice to have people sign a piece of paper, but let's make sure we have something that we can use this for, uses data or information. You know what are we doing with it? Right now I feel like all we are doing is collecting them and they get shoved in a filing cabinet somewhere.

Martha Anderson: Well we used them at that point to show that the trails are being used and actually probably only one out of five or ten actually sign in when they go to the trails. So we were trying to put out getting more money for us and with summer help because this whole stack of sign in sheets from all the different areas and show (*crossstalk*) that only half the parks, it was just in favor to do that but you know it's just something – that's what we used it for then.

Judy Hunt: Jacob, in your grant application it might be helpful to have that kind of information.

Brad Bentley: Could someone help me with that. I mean I'd be more than glad to turn the sheets over to someone to tabulate and put information together and bring a report back to the commission. I mean we can gather the information but I don't have the resources to go do all the accounting and heavy lifting of piecing that this information together. If there's someone on the commission that has time to kind of make these things useful, otherwise I fear that we've put a lot of effort and we are getting no return.



Martha Anderson: Well if you want me to go through them I will do that again. I've done it before and if I can get all the sheets, I'll organize them and I'll come up with some numbers.

Tom Erlandson: Not to dedicate someone else's time, but seems to me that would be a good function for commission members. (*inaudible*) I said was that that would be, I don't want to dedicate anybody else's time but it seems that that would be a good function for commissioners, perhaps volunteers, but certainly commissioners and if we could get, Martha if you would get all those past years or whatever is in the records of sign in sheets we could parcel them out, you know, I'd be glad to do the overview parks for example. I've had reports on them in the past years, nothing recent, but we had data for example of the different states, how many states people represented, how many people of course. Some of the comments. There's information there that can be recorded, summarized and used to a good purpose.

Keith Carrow: Comments aren't always desirable. A lot of times I'll check those, tree downs (*inaudible*), I think they are useful.

Martha Anderson: And there's always the idiot that's out there that writes ridiculous things on it that just, it's very sad, but unfortunately that happens. It's always going to happen because there's always going to be those people around, but there's a lot of good comments on them also I think. So if I could somehow meet with somebody and pick up all those papers, I'd be more than happy to do it.

Brad Bentley: Sam, could you get with Bart to make sure he collects all the sign in sheets ..

Sam Zafuto: Yes, he's got them and we have just all the old ones that are down here in Falconer.

Brad Bentley: So depending on how far back you want to go I know Sam ..

Sam Zafuto: I have everything that was up at the airport is down here so I have all of them.

Brad Bentley: So depending on how far back you want to go, I think there may be 20 years' worth of sign in sheets.

Martha Anderson: Hell no!

Brad Bentley: Be careful what you ask for you just might get it.

Martha Anderson: Well what do we do with them but stuff them in a file cabinet. I might as well take them and look at them.

Brad Bentley: Well, I was going to look at them but I just didn't have the time to do it. So anybody that wants to take a look at it, I'd be more than appreciative. I feel the work of

putting them out there and collecting them is doing some good other than shoving them in a filing cabinet somewhere and taking up space.

John Hemmer: So, Sam's got them. Tom, or Bob, one of you guys is going to pick them up for Martha, or Martha, you going to go and pick them up?

Martha Anderson: We've got to pick them up. Are they down in the Falconer place now?

Sam Zafuto: Yeah, I can get them, they are across the street – I can bring them over to my office, the admin building on North (inaudible).

Martha Anderson: Okay

Tom Erlandson: Martha, I'll take the overview parks and work on those and I think we can start on this current year and work back.

Martha Anderson: Okay, how about next week?

Sam Zafuto: I'm here all week till 3:30 Monday through Friday.

Martha Anderson: Okay, I'll be down next week to pick those up. Do I need like a dump truck? Just kidding.

Brad Bentley: A two wheel dolly might not be a bad thing, but I think you can probably hand carry them out.

Martha Anderson: Okay, thanks.

Brad Bentley: I guess I'll raise it up if no one else is going to bring it up, Ainsley had submitted her resignation from the Parks Commission. I believe that there's an opening. I'd put in there that Jacob Bodway is on the Zoom call today. He's expressed an interest to prior to this that he's moved back to the area now and he has an interest in joining the Parks Commission. So he had emailed me and I asked him if he wanted to join us and he said yes so I'll have him make his pitch for himself. How do you want to do that?

Tom Erlandson: We have always ever since we have been in existence made efforts and I will say successful efforts to have Commission representation from different parts of the county. Ainsley is of course from Cherry Creek area so I think we should look at somebody from north county. Maybe the northwest county or I'm sorry, northeast county for representation.

Judy Hunt: But that could be in addition to Jacob.

Kathy Tampio: If I could interject here for a moment. Currently you have a seven member board plus one chairman of the Public Facilities committee and these are all for three year terms. Ainsley sent an email of her resignation and Brad we really need a written one with

original signature to submit to the county clerk's office. Now her term would expire the end of this year so you could wait until next year instead of appointing by resolution someone to fill out a term until the end of 2020 and then have to reappoint them again in 2021 but I'll also point out that all of your members expire the end of this year except for Bob Franzen and Judy Hunt which expire the end of 2021. So we'll also need for the legislature to approve appointments or reappointments for all the other members.

Martha Anderson: And when does that happen Kathy?

Kathy Tampio: Well we can reappoint this year for the next three year term for the people that expire in 2020 or you can wait until January. It's just I guess in the winter months not a lot is going on for you except maybe some planning so it's up to you guys whether you want to take some time to talk about this and make some recommendations for appointments.

Martha Anderson: Probably a good idea to wait and do it for the next year rather than doing just a couple month's appointment right now.

Kathy Tampio: For that one position, yes.

Martha Anderson: And the last time didn't we, when we had a resignation, I can't remember who it was, it was Tom Jordan, that we had a little resume or something? I don't remember what we did, but we did something. Anybody recall how we did that?

John Hemmer: Yes, usually the proposed new Parks Commission member has to fill out just a short resume. It's just a form, like a one page form, it's very brief. Kathy, you have those, like a resume right?

Kathy Tampio: Yeah, I can get them. Usually it's something that the County Executive's office has. I can get that for you. But this is an appointment solely by the legislature.

Judy Hunt: Do we have a number limit?

Kathy Tampio: According to the documentation I have, you can have 5 to 7 members. So up to seven.

Brad Bentley: Just so that I'm clear, my email was not nominating Jacob in any way. It was only information that (*inaudible*) ... to reach out to ask her for a official resignation, but I know Jacob has come to this group previously. I just thought I would relay the information that he shared to me off the record. If you will, and let you guys deal with that information ..

Martha Anderson: Can I ask where Jacob lives? What part of the county is Jacob from? I don't know.

Jacob Bodway: I currently live in Bemus Point.

Martha Anderson: Oh, welcome. Me too.

Tom Erlandson : I'm making a list here, we already have two from Bemus area. We have Martha and Marla both. Two commissioners from the Town of Ellery, Bemus Point if you will.

Jacob Bodway: I understand the point of having people all over the county, but at the same time I use all the trails, all the time. I'm on the west side and east side overland. I use, I kayak the waterway trails, I'm at the parks all the time. I'm chainsaw certified. I'm also president of the western New York mountain biking association. We do not have not have any mountain biking representation on the commission. I'm close friends with Keith and I'm also tied into DEC, not only here but also in Catt county and in Erie county so I have a lot of connections and writing a grant for \$50,000 to help improve the trails. I think I would make a really good fit on the commission. I believe that I'm ambitious, I am enthusiastic, I use the trails on a regular basis, I help clear the trails, I volunteer, I'm trying to get the greenways back together.

Judy Hunt: This is the nomination speech we were hoping to receive.

Jacob Bodway: Yeah, it's, I moved back in part because I love the recreational opportunities here. That's why I'm here. It's a big reason. Family and nature so I think I would be a good asset. I've worked with Bart, I've talked to him on the phone on a regular basis, I also met with him on trails. I helped him a little bit with some of the bridges, I have a BAS with DEC to do work on the overland trails. I'm happy to write a resume, I think my resume will stand up to anybody's resume. So I'd be happy and I want to get involved politically in the county as well. I want to get involved with the county. It's not just because I like being in the woods, I want to make a difference here. I feel as though I am young enough, I've got enough years in front of me that I can leave a mark in Chautauqua County that I think would be a positive mark because I understand the importance of ecotourism. I'm leaving after this meeting actually to a mountain bike festival in Pennsylvania, it's going to have a whole bunch of people there so any questions?

John Hemmer: I think to Tom's point yes, we have tried to get a representatives from different parts of the county, but I also think that it's important to have people on the commission who actually use the trails and this is .. Jacob certainly sounds like he fits that part of the bill and I think that matters more what part of the county he's from.

Judy Hunt: He's certainly invested, that's for sure.

(crosstalk)

John Hemmer: Worrying about what area of the county team members come from ...

Tom Erlandson: John, again we have 40 years of history here, I don't care if you want to throw that away or not, go ahead, but you're from the north county John, and every one of our commissioners now is from the south county – we have Busti, two from Ellery, one from Findley Lake, one from Jamestown, one from Frewsburg and I do think that countywide representation is important. If I were from the north county, I'm not sure I would like it.

Marla Connelly: Well I know that we tried last time to find somebody. I know we went to a whole bunch of people who were involved with trails and you didn't find anybody which is why you asked me, Marla. Because we didn't want to have two from the same place, but from what I understood, you guys couldn't come up with anybody up there. So I'm in favor of tossing that out the window.

Tom Erlandson: Well Marla, that's fine, but let's talk to some people. I remember talking to friends of mine in the north county. I'm for suggestions. John, maybe you could do that with some of your constituents? I wouldn't give up on this yet. I wouldn't throw it out the window.

John Hemmer: Okay, certainly we do have as Kathy pointed out, we don't have to fill this position tonight, but I do think that we need to attempt to get a good member. A participating member. If tradition has it that we have members from around the county that's good, but I don't think that that should eliminate anybody who has a really good interest and comes forward and asks to become a member. Tom, if you've got somebody in mind please introduce them and bring them forward and I guess anybody else on the commission who has a friend or knows someone who would like to be a participating member on the board in the commission, that's great, we should hear from them.

Judy Hunt: (*inaudible*) to expand our numbers.

John Hemmer: I don't know. That's, I think the number of members was determined by the original resolution, I think.

Kathy Tampio: Yes, it was. But it can be changed if the legislature so desires.

Steve Sandburg: Why don't we work towards changing that at the beginning of the year and then make a couple of additions to the commission at that point, including Jacob of course.

John Hemmer: Yeah. That sounds good. We can develop a resolution to change that, to change the number of members to the Parks Commission.

Judy Hunt: Is that a resolution that we need to generate?

John Hemmer: Well, yeah. What we can do is, I can get with the law department and talk to them and come up with something and bring it to the commission meeting and you folks can take a look at it and add or subtract to it.

Judy Hunt: Something else under Old Business on the next agenda, expansion of members.

Steve Sandburg: But I think we have to make a concerted effort on the lakeshore, northern point to find one or two people. We are pretty heavily weighted in the south and we certainly need their viewpoints.

Judy Hunt: Well, you're right, it is, but we can't pass up Jacob. We can't ask him to move.

*(Crosstalk) (Laughter)*

Jacob Bodway: I'm never moving again.

Steve Sandburg: I'm just saying we need to make a concerted effort to find somebody up there in addition to Jacob and not just wait for somebody to raise their hand.

Judy Hunt: John, that's your bailiwick so you're to get on it.

John Hemmer: Okay.

Kathy Tampio: One more thing, it may be a moot point, but for those of you whose term expires at the end of this year, make sure you if you want to be reappointed.

Martha Anderson: Can they like fire us if they don't want us there?

Kathy Tampio: I suppose they could but it's not a very nice thing to do.

John Hemmer: It doesn't happen very often.

Steve Sandburg: Thank you Jacob for bring that information to us and for your interest.

John Hemmer: Yes, thank you very much Jacob. We do need to ... enthusiasm, and that's ...

Jacob Bodway: Not too long – I'm in my mid 40's

Judy Hunt: Believe me when you're 79 that's very young.

Kathy Tampio: I'll make one more point. The original resolution that created the Parks Commission was from 1973. This really might be a good time to update the Parks Commission resolution because it also said that not more than a majority the members of the commission shall belong to the same political party. I don't know if we need to have that in there anymore.

*(Laughter)*

John Hemmer: That sounds like it might be illegal.

Judy Hunt: Can we get a copy of that resolution? Can you send that to us Kathy so we can review that?

Brad Bentley: Are we in violation of that Kathy?

Kathy Tampio: I have no idea what people's parties are.

John Hemmer: You don't have to put that on the resume.

Kathy Tampio: No

Judy Hunt: I've got lots of stuff for old business.

John Hemmer: All right.

Judy Hunt: If anybody has anything they want to get listed under New Business let me know before I send the agenda so I can always add it to it. I have our next meeting as October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bob, you want to adjourn this meeting?

Bob Franzen: Maybe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> we'll be able to really sit down and talk to somebody face to face. We'll see what happens.

John Hemmer: I guess if you want to try and have an in-person meeting you're going to have to find a place for it. We used to have them at the airport. I haven't talked to Ron. Well Brad, would the airport be able to host a Parks Commission meeting face to face?

Judy Hunt: I have a facility here in Findley Lake that is socially distanced and will accommodate 20 people.

Brad Bentley: So the airport has room. I think the key piece is from the legislative meeting last night is that you have to make accommodations for recording capabilities, Zoom capabilities.

Judy Hunt: Even if the public could come and we could accommodate them?

Brad Bentley: Well some members of the public may not feel comfortable attending in person and so you'd have to make that accommodation.

Judy Hunt: Oh, I can't do that from this facility, but they would be socially distanced.

Brad Bentley: And that's what would make the airport a little bit of a challenge as well because there's limited internet capability up there. As well as you need something that would be able... a camera and recording device. In that conference room we don't have that.

Judy Hunt: No, and I don't have that in the room in Findley Lake either.

Brad Bentley: I think the options are if you wanted to meet in person it'd be probably the legislature chambers because that where that capability is kind of set up right now.

Judy Hunt: Well then that's IT people spending more time, that was a problem wasn't it?

Brad Bentley: Well it would be minimal because it would be basically able to be accomplished through the current setup. So if you guys wanted to meet in person that would be there. I'm hesitant to meet in person just because of my job and the exposure I have to a lot of

folks. I kind of minimize my in person because in case I'm a-symptomatic I try to minimize my exposure to others.

Judy Hunt: I think we'd best

Brad Bentley: Well, things could change, times changes, so I take my cues from the legislative meeting, the way they do their meetings. I believe the one last night was hybrid, part in person, part on Zoom. And so I think following in their lead that's where I would probably be at and follow what they're doing.

*(Cross talk)*

Brad Bentley: It's John and Bob's call to make that determination of where they want to be. That's just my opinion.

John Hemmer: Thank you Brad. We would certainly have ... If we wanted to do that we'd have to go through the IT department and make sure that they could accommodate us at that time so if we can do that I can contact our IT department and see if that time slot would be available and get back to you.

Martha Anderson: Good idea. I would appreciate that, thank you.

Judy Hunt: Okay, that sounds good.

Keith Carrow: Bob, did you want to discuss sales that are happening on state forest that are affecting the trails? I have two timber harvests going on right now that are affecting part of the trail on the west side. So there's one that's happening on the Panama trail that's affecting the southwest corner. At *(inaudible)* closed the trail and at the very north end of the trail. It's actually happening on Panama State Forest, so the next state forest to the north. That's temporary. They are working along pretty quickly but *(inaudible)* so I'm not exactly sure how long it's going to take, for the next meeting I'll let you know where we're at. The next state forest is Whalen State Forest is pretty much taken off the west side overland trail now. I've got to redirect it along the road which leads to another area that's closed so from Eggleston Road to *(inaudible)*. And they're working along pretty quickly but it's not a safe environment for people to be hiking right now.

Bob Franzen: Okay. That's good. We'll pass it along.

Martha Anderson: Thanks Keith.

**Next Meeting: October 22, 2020, 4:00 pm – by Zoom**

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Tampio  
Clerk, Chautauqua County Legislature

*Approved 10/29/2020*