

Agenda

Planning & Economic Development Committee

April 15, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Legislative Chambers

Livestreamed on YouTube

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

- A. Call to Order
- B. Approval of Minutes (03/18/26)
- C. Privilege of the Floor
 - 1. Proposed Resolution – Authorize Use of Lake Fund for Cassadaga Lakes Weed Survey
 - 2. Proposed Resolution – Accept State Environmental Quality Review Determinations for the New York State Snowmobile Trail Grant-in-Aid Program for 2026-2027 Snowmobile Season
 - 3. Proposed Resolution – Accept State Environment Quality Review of Proposed 2026 Agricultural District Inclusions
 - 4. Proposed Resolution – Determination of Chautauqua County Legislature on Proposed 2026 Agricultural District Inclusions
 - 5. Proposed Resolution – Appropriating Funding from the 3% Occupancy Tax Reserve for the National Comedy Center for Promotional Activities
 - 6. Presentation – Department of Planning & Development 2025 Accomplishments and 2026 Workplan—*Presented by Department of Planning & Development Staff*
 - 7. Discussion –

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. _____

TITLE: Authorize Use of Lake Fund for Cassadaga Lakes Weed Survey

BY: Planning and Economic Development and Audit & Control Committees:

AT THE REQUEST OF: County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr. and
Legislative Chairman Pierre E. Chagnon:

WHEREAS, the Cassadaga Lakes are an invaluable resource to Chautauqua County and New York State; and

WHEREAS, the environmental health of Cassadaga's lakes is threatened with invasive aquatic species; and

WHEREAS, the early detection of invasive species provides the proactive opportunity to implement targeted lake management activities before the invasive species can spread throughout the lake and negatively impact the aquatic habitat, tourism and recreation activities; and

WHEREAS, the early detection and removal of invasive aquatic species will result in reduced long-term lake maintenance costs and avoid negative impacts to tourism and recreation activities; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Budget includes a \$500,000 Lake Fund to improve the attractiveness and usability of the Chautauqua County's lakes; and

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County wishes to enter into an agreement with the Cassadaga Lakes Association to retain the services of a qualified aquatic biologist to conduct an aquatic weed survey at a cost not to exceed \$5,000; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Cassadaga Lakes Association using \$5,000 from the County's Lake Fund to conduct a weed survey.

APPROVED

VETOES (VETO MESSAGE ATTACHED)

County Executive

Date

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. _____**

TITLE: Accept State Environmental Quality Review Determinations for the New York State Snowmobile Trail Grant-in-Aid Program for 2026-2027 Snowmobile Season

BY: Planning and Economic Development Committee:

AT THE REQUEST OF: County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 59-26, Chautauqua County acts as the local sponsor for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation New York State Snowmobile Trails Grant-in-Aid Program (hereinafter called “Program”); and

WHEREAS, the State Environmental Quality Review (hereinafter called “SEQR”) requires that reroutes or expansions of the existing snowmobile trail system have an environmental assessment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 84-26, the Chautauqua County Legislature designated Chautauqua County as the lead agency responsible for SEQR for State Funded Snowmobile Trails reroutes or changes to the existing trail system for the 2026-2027 program year, and as lead agency Chautauqua County must evaluate the environmental impacts of any trail updates; and

WHEREAS, the following snowmobile trails include updates affecting a new landowner, not previously affected by the existing state funded snowmobile trails:

Trail	Snowmobile Club	Municipality	Modification/Expansion
C1	Cherry Creek Sno-Goers, Inc.	Charlotte & Cherry Creek	Trail moved west of the existing trail to utilize seasonal section of Boutwell Hill Road and Swanson Road right of way, at the request of a landowner
C1	Cherry Creek Sno-Goers, Inc.	Hanover	Trail moved south of the existing trail to utilize crop fields instead of road right-of-way, landowner permission was obtained
S16A	Cherry Creek Sno-Goers, Inc.	Cherry Creek	Trail moved northeast of the existing trail near Deermont Road and extending the trail south to Risley Road, at the request of a landowner
TBA Dybkas	Cherry Creek Sno-Goers, Inc.	Cherry Creek & Villenova	New trail connecting state funded C1C to state funding C4 and to the Stinky Beaver establishment
TBA Farrington Hollow	Cherry Creek Sno-Goers, Inc.	Cherry Creek	New trail connecting state funded S16A to state funded C1A and to the Barn at Farrington Hollow and Cabins at Harrington Hollow establishments
C1	Lake Effect Trail Breakers, Inc.	Ellington	Trail moved west of the existing trail near Waterman Road, at the request of a landowner
C1D	Lake Effect Trail Breakers, Inc.	Ellington	Trail moved south of the existing trail near Waterman Road, at the request of a landowner
S887	Lake Effect Trail Breakers, Inc.	Poland	Unfunded trail connecting C1 to Conti’s establishment, trail moved south of the existing trail to utilize abandoned railbed, at the request of a landowner

; and

WHEREAS, as the local sponsor and involved agency, the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development (hereinafter called “CCDPD”) determined that each of

APPROVED

VETOES (VETO MESSAGE ATTACHED)

County Executive

Date

the eight (8) proposed snowmobile trail updates should be classified as an Unlisted Action under Title 6 of New York Code of Rules and Regulations, Part 617.7 of the implementing regulations pertaining to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act of the Environmental Conservation Law; and

WHEREAS, the CCDPD has prepared Part 1 Short Environmental Assessment Forms (hereinafter called "SEAF") for each of the proposed updates and sent notice of Lead Agency to each of the affect municipalities and requested that any information or concerns be sent to CCDPD within thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, the CCDPD did not receive any comments from the affected municipalities and completed Part 2 and 3 of the SEAF for each of the proposed updates for consideration by the Chautauqua County Legislature with said SEAFs indicating that the probability of any adverse impact of updates to existing snowmobile trail system is very low; and

WHEREAS, the Chautauqua County Legislature has reviewed the SEAFs and supporting documentation; now therefore it be

RESOLVED, that the Chautauqua County Legislature has determined the updates to the existing snowmobile trail system will not have a significant impact and the County Executive is hereby authorized to execute a "Negative Declaration" for the proposed actions.

APPROVED

VETOES (VETO MESSAGE ATTACHED)

County Executive

Date

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. _____**

TITLE: Accept State Environment Quality Review of Proposed 2026 Agricultural District Inclusions

BY: Planning and Economic Development Committee:

AT THE REQUEST OF: County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.:

WHEREAS, the Chautauqua County Legislature is responsible for the Chautauqua County Agricultural Districts No. 1, 7, 8, and 10; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural District Law, Article 25AA Agriculture and Markets Law (AML) established a process by which county legislative bodies may create, review, modify, consolidate, or terminate Agricultural Districts through the State, which the Commissioner of AGM then certifies; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 150-22, Chautauqua County is authorized to conduct a coordinated review for purposes of conducting State Environment Quality Review (SEQR) for actions taken under the Agricultural District Law, and the use of the short environmental assessment form for agricultural districts; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 6 of New York Code of Rules and Regulations, Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act of the Environmental Conservation Law, the Chautauqua County Legislature, as lead agency, must evaluate the environmental impact of modifying Chautauqua County Agricultural District boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the modification of an agricultural district boundaries is considered an unlisted action and as such the criteria of 6 NYCRR §617.7 must be used to determine the degree of environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development has prepared a short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) for agricultural districts for consideration by the Chautauqua County Legislature, with said EAF indicating that the probability of any adverse impact of proposed modifications to the Agricultural District is very low, and

WHEREAS, the Chautauqua County Legislature has reviewed the EAF and supporting documentation, copies of which are attached; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Chautauqua County Legislature has determined that the modification of the agricultural district boundaries in Chautauqua County Agricultural Districts No. 1 and 8 will not have significant adverse impact, and the County Executive is hereby authorized to execute a “Negative Declaration” for the proposed action.

APPROVED

VETOES (VETO MESSAGE ATTACHED)

County Executive

Date

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. _____**

TITLE: Determination of Chautauqua County Legislature on Proposed 2026 Agricultural District Inclusions

BY: Planning and Economic Development Committee:

AT THE REQUEST OF: County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.:

WHEREAS, the Chautauqua County Legislature is responsible for the Chautauqua County Agricultural Districts No. 1, 7, 8, and 10; and

WHEREAS, Article 25AA section 303-b of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law authorizes the inclusion of viable agricultural lands into an existing agricultural district within the County of Chautauqua, in accordance with the procedures set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 280-03 the Chautauqua County Legislature designated January 2nd through January 31st as Chautauqua County's annual period for landowners to submit a request for inclusion of their land in a State-certified Agricultural District; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Section 303-b, an inclusion of viable agricultural land in Chautauqua County Agricultural Districts was conducted in 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Chautauqua County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) reviewed the submitted inclusion requests on February 13, 2026, found that the below parcels of land proposed to be included in the Chautauqua County Agricultural Districts consist of predominantly of "viable agricultural land" as defined in Article 25AA section 301(7) and that inclusion of the land would serve the public interest by assisting in maintaining a viable agricultural industry within the district, and

Ag. District	Parcel #	Landowner	Acres
8	230.00-2-5	Hirsch, B.	88.7
8	368.07-2-10	Pletts, S. & K.	6.7
8	368.07-2-11	Pletts, S. & K.	0.2
1	112.00-1-2	Sam, G.	5.6

WHEREAS, The AFPB vote to recommend that the Legislature accept the proposed inclusion parcels into an existing agricultural district; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. xx-26, the requirements of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) have been considered and processes have been completed by Chautauqua County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 73-26, the Chautauqua County Legislature held the required public hearing on April 22, 2026, in order to gather input from landowners in the districts; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That is it the determination of the Chautauqua County Legislature to modify Chautauqua County Agricultural Districts No. 1 and 8, in accordance with the recommendations of the AFPB and input gathered from the public hearing; and it is further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature be and hereby is directed to file this resolution, the Chautauqua County AFPB recommendation report, maps, and all things necessary to be filed with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets for final certification.

APPROVED

VETOES (VETO MESSAGE ATTACHED)

County Executive

Date

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. _____**

TITLE: Appropriating Funding from the 3% Occupancy Tax Reserve for the National Comedy Center for Promotional Activities

BY: Planning and Economic Development and Audit & Control Committees:

AT THE REQUEST OF: County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1202-j of the Tax Law, County is authorized to use 3% occupancy tax funds for the purposes of enhancing and promoting Chautauqua County, its cities, towns, and villages through the promotion of tourism by supporting activities which develop, operate, and maintain tourist attractions; and

WHEREAS, the National Comedy Center helps bolster tourism in Chautauqua County; and

WHEREAS, the National Comedy Center aims in part to raise awareness of Chautauqua County as a premier tourism destination, ultimately working to support the County's attractions, hotels, restaurants, and retail businesses; and

WHEREAS, the County provided supplemental funding support in the amount of \$260,000 in 2025 to provide partial matching funds required to fully take advantage of a Market NY grant award from Empire State Development; and

WHEREAS, the National Comedy Center has requested additional County support in the amount of \$200,000 for 2026 to bolster a promotional campaign to attract additional visitors to the Center, and ultimately the county; and

WHEREAS, the 3% Occupancy Tax Reserve has a balance of \$287,933.20 as March 26, 2026; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Chautauqua County Legislature hereby allocates \$200,000 from the 3% Occupancy Tax Reserve for promotional activities for the National Comedy Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into any necessary agreements for the above-named project; and be further

RESOLVED, that the A fund Balance be appropriated as follows:

INCREASE THE USE OF APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE:

A.----.----.883.0000	Reserved Fund Bal-Reserve for Occupancy Tax	\$200,000
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; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to make the following changes to the 2026 Adopted Budget:

INCREASE APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT:

A.6420.TOUR.4	Contractual-Promotion of Industry, Tourism	\$200,000
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APPROVED

VETOES (VETO MESSAGE ATTACHED)

County Executive

Date