CCPC Minutes

 01-16-2025

Members present: Jamie Reynolds, Bob Franzen, Steve Sandberg, Dottie Lauricello, Martha Anderson, Bob Dando, Jacob Bodway,

Guests: County- Pat Smith, Tim Card, Emma Cook, Theresa Draves-DEC, Barb Suckow

The meeting was held at the Chautauqua County Airport Meeting room and called to order at 4:03 pm by Bob Franzen.

The minutes of the last meeting on October 24, 2024 were emailed to all, reviewed with no changes, and approved.

Barb Suckow introduced herself and was looking for information regarding the Conewango/Cassadaga Waterway. Her son is a frequent user of the Waterway trail, and she was there on his behalf asking about the launches and any plans there may be to improve/work on them. Jamie explained the cleanup that has been ongoing with the CWC, and their support as Twan was not in attendance. Discussion was held on the depth of the water and the ongoing issues that the changes in levels(sometimes extreme levels up or down) have on the launches and work on the waterway. She noted the launch on the Falconer Frewsburg Rd, and the Stateline especially. This year there are plans to work on 4 of the launches that are in the worst condition, these being 2 of them, and whether a floating dock/launch system would be appropriate. She stated she may be willing to assist with the purchase of an ADA floating ramp like others in our area if that would be appropriate. Jamie stated he will keep in contact with her when the work begins in the spring.

Jamie handed out the Parks Division 2025 Operations and Maintenance plan for our review. We will discuss the plan in February after everyone has had a chance to review it. The parks remain closed and the snowy weather has allowed good use for XC skiing and snowshoeing. Discussion was held on Millrace Park, its condition, ongoing vandalism and misuse, the entrance, signs, the trail and floating dock there. The Village of Falconer Mayor contacted the Parks Dept regarding the plans that may be in place for it. Possible attendance at a Village Board meeting will be needed to discuss what could and should be done with the Park. The Home Rule Legislation for the 3 properties discussed for possible sale is on track and progressing through the steps needed. The parking areas for the trails are being plowed by our Employees and question was raised on the Summerdale lot (we share with Rails to Trails). Jamie will contact the Town of Chautauqua and discuss it with them (Friday they said they will plow it out). There has been no further update on the Horse trial work in the Law Dept. Tim and Bob Scudder will speak with Law Dept regarding moving this forward. Jamie said the QR codes are being made for the sign in boxes to enable users to just log in and sign in rather than stop and sign in. Jacob stated he has the QR code plaques for the new Avenza trail online GPS maps to place on the sign in boxes also.

Jacob has applied for several grants for the work on Phase 5, totaling $104,000. He cleaned out the drainage on the Westside Trail in North Harmony, Whalon and Panama state forests last fall. Work on Mt Pleasant will begin next summer per Theresa as the logging is being done now with the frozen ground. The Eastside trail off Boutwell Hill where the beavers have built a dam continues to be a problem and the DEC will help assist in trying to find a solution to that with the new Wetlands regulations. We have a new Forest Ranger- Sonja Hale who will be working with Nick Streczywilk in our county.

Twan sent info that the CWC will be working on more signage with CCPC for the waterways.

Jamie and Martha did a First Day Hike on January 1st at the Brokenstraw re-route area of the Westside Overland Trail (DEC did not do one theis year as Theresa was out on medical leave) We had 8 people attended on a very snowy morning and we had a beautiful 3.8-mile hike. Several of the hikers questioned more scheduled hikes put on by the County. We discussed this and the possibility of doing several during the year at our new re-routes and loop areas to introduce more people to new trail areas.

The 2025 Ethics training and financial disclosure forms were handed out and it may also be done online ASAP for each commissioner.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm. Next meeting is February 27, 2025 at the airport conference room