

AGENDA: Parks Commission
Wednesday, March 27, 2019 6:30 PM

Location: Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Educational Center at the Ward O'Hara Agricultural Museum

1. Approve/Correct Minutes (attached) from the February 27, 2019 meeting.
2. Presentation of the new Sterling Nature Center design by Beardsley Design Associates, funded by the Friends of the Sterling Nature Center.
3. We had no resolutions for March:
4. We have one resolution for April.
 - A. AMENDING RESOLUTION 63-19 AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF SEASONAL STAFF FOR THE PARKS & TRAILS DEPARTMENT FOR THE 2019 SEASON
5. Emerson Park:
 - A. CFA Grant for the Deauville Island Improvements:
 1. TWMLA (landscape architect) has conducted core samples for the new pedestrian bridge and are finalizing design documents for the bid phase.
 2. Park Programming Initiative planning meetings were conducted by The Parks & Planning departments and led by Biederman Redevelopment Ventures. Feedback was overwhelming in favor of expanding/adding food & beverage options, a broad program of public events and use of the pavilion for public events.
 - B. The sluiceway excavation: county planning, representatives from the City of Auburn and Buildings and Grounds staff have scheduled a planning meeting to address this effort.
 - C. The Ag Museum sewer pit: Installation is scheduled for April 8 - 11.
 - D. The new county website; the new Emerson Park page is being created and facilities module is being populated with our current inventory of rentable facilities.
 - E. Painting of the exterior of the Merry Go Round theater is being quoted.
 - F. City of Auburn will be constructing an extension on the south side of the pump station located on the pier to house activated carbon used for the water treatment required by the presence of HABs. Drawing attached.
 - G. The contract with H&J for the management of the Emerson Park Pavilion expires in 2021. The current extension sets a proposed May 2019 deadline for releasing the RFP for a new 3 year contract. We will be soliciting broad input to inform the final document.

Ward W. O'Hara Ag Museum/Dr. Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Educational Center Update (Tim Quill Director PT):

- A. Wiring in Garage exhibit has been completed by BOCES.
 - B. Insulating parts of the museum will begin next week. This will be completed by museum staff where possible. A 5 year insulating plan is being drafted.
 - C. County Fair/Big 6: organizational meetings are taking place with all involved groups participating.
 - D. Museum Parton/Staff/ Volunteer Recognition Outing will be Wednesday June 12 Mark Your Calendar
 - E. Museum Board meeting: Monday, April 8, 2019, first meeting of 2019
 - F. June 1, 2019 Old Ways Day at Museum 10 A.m. till 4 P.M.
 - G. Preparing the museum for Spring/Summer Season
6. Sterling Nature Center (Jim D'Angelo Director PT):

See attached pages.

7. Owasco Flats:
 - A. No report.

8. Trail Update:
 - A. The Auburn Fleming Trail: maintenance requests are being managed on an as needed basis.
 - B. The Cato-Fair Haven Trail: ATV use on the trail has created challenges for the trail use and grooming in the winter months by the snowmobile clubs. The Cayuga County Snowmobile Association has sent the attached communication to the ATV club and Parks & Trails Department will survey and document areas on concern when snow melt allows. The impact of the ATV use on the trail and lack of ongoing summer season maintenance to the trails as per the use agreement has caused trail conditions to decline. Trail use agreement, resolution and photos of the trail conditions from the fall of 2018 are attached.
 - C. Cato Brutus Trail bridges: crane and rigging quotes have been received for the 2 remaining bridge sites on this trail. Updated general quotes have also been received from a vendor that had previously sent information on options for the 2 remaining spans. \$25,000 has been included in the 2019 budget and CC Soil & Water has offered assistance again in the site preparations. DEC and Army Corps of Engineers has been contacted to update and extend permits and plans for both sites.

9. New Business
 - A. Parks Commission member search; County and City of Auburn officials have been contacted regarding a candidate from the City of Auburn to fill the vacancy on the Parks Commission.
 - B. Attached are some examples of Parks & Trails department branded logos to start the process of rebranding the department. Signage concepts are also included to for reference as a signage plan is needed for the department.

10. Announcements:

Cayuga Count Parks & Trails Department Park Signage and Way Finding Design Initiative

Purpose: To select design parameters for a department wide signage plan to achieve a consistent, professional, updated brand image immediately identifiable to the community.

Department branding examples:





Signage Design examples:



Sterling Nature Center Director's Report,
Submitted by Jim D'Angelo
March 2019

1. I have a base schedule of Thursday, Friday and Saturday for March and April with other days as needed for meetings, programs and other work. I am scheduled 80hrs for March and 90hrs for April.
2. Logo re-design, with the new building project we are looking at redesigning the logo. Below are three drafts under consideration. We would like to keep the lake, bluff, sunset themes of the original logo with possible addition of a heron.



3. Lake shore erosion, some areas are seeing considerable amount of damage. This is a continuation of the high water event from two summers ago combined with current weather conditions. The February high wind event saturated the bluff face with spray from the lake. This in turn froze creating frost heaving of the bluff face two feet deep in some places. With warmer weather this is now thawing and slumping down onto the lake shore. We are continuing to monitor the bluff and adjacent trail conditions to ensure visitor safety and will close or redirect trails as needed.
4. I will be offering some Sunday programs starting in May to complement the current Friday and Saturday programs
5. We are looking into different signage to help with some of the continuing issues



6. Visit the Nature Center's Facebook page for updates on recent wildlife sightings.
7. Programs, most have been well attended, averaging 18 people per program for 2019.

a. Winter Wildlife Hike	3	February 09, 2019
b. Bat House Workshop	19	February 23, 2019
c. In search of Owls	28	March 09, 2019
d. Signs of Spring		March 23, 2019
e. Blue Birds, with John Rogers		April 13, 2019
f. Walk when the Moon is Full		April 19, 2019
g. Poetry Extravaganza		April 27, 2019

March 11, 2019

TO: Tucker Whitman, Chairman of County Legislature
Andrew Dennison, Cayuga County Legislator
Parks and Trails Commission
David Gardner, Director of Public Works
Carl Martel, Deputy Director of Public Works
Gary Duckett, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds
Douglas Dello Stritto, Park Maintenance Supervisor

The snowmobile clubs in northern Cayuga County have been maintaining the county trail for snowmobile use during the winter season for over 30 years. A few years ago the county opened the trail to ATV's in the spring and summer months with the understanding that the ATV club would maintain the trails during that time of the year. It was also understood that the ATV club is responsible for keeping the trail free from ridges and potholes caused by their use.

The snowmobile clubs have found that each year which passes the trail becomes more worn from the ATV's. The ATV club is not maintaining the trail as it was intended and per the agreement between the county and the ATV club.

The snowmobile clubs spend many hours trimming the trail, removing fallen trees, replacing signs, etc. Some years they also have hired a contractor to ditch the wetter areas to resolve drainage issues that the county has not had the time to accomplish. This expense has been a burden to the snowmobilers who try to raise funds to accomplish some of these tasks. The ATV club has equipment to smooth out the trail, but the president informed us that the age of their members do not enable them to fix the trail. Furthermore, the president of the ATV club informed us that the snowmobilers are doing no work on the trail! To be honest, the snowmobilers who have been doing much of the work are not young folks either, and they do a lot of work on the trail or hire work done if the county is unable to provide assistance.

The snowmobile clubs run trail grooming machines to smooth the snow moguls on the trail and to make the trails safer for the users in the wintertime. We have found several moguls that cannot be smoothed out by our groomers due to the potholes caused by the dirt being stirred up from the ATV users.

We have never been against the ATV folks using the trail as long as they keep up their part of the work. Since this is getting further out of control after each ATV season, we feel that something needs to be done to resolve the issue. We feel that the ATV club needs to grade and level the railroad bed surface on a regular basis to avoid the eroding and potholes that are a hazard to walkers, bikers, skiers, snowmobilers, horseback riders, and others who use the trail.

Very truly yours,

Cayuga County Snowmobile Association
Cayuga County Snowmobile Association