

Minutes  
Planning & Economic Development Committee  
**December 14, 2022, 6:00 pm, Legislative Chambers**  
**Livestreamed on YouTube**  
**Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY**

Members Present: Harmon, Wilfong, Rankin, Penhollow, Gustafson

Members Absent: Muldowney

Others: Lee, Chagnon, Slagle, Abdella, Cantino, Sharp

***Complete video of meeting can be viewed on YouTube***

Legislator Harmon called the meeting to order at (6:33 p.m.)

Approval of Minutes (11/9/22)

MOVED by Legislator Gustafson, SECONDED by Legislator Penhollow.

*Unanimously Carried*

Privilege of the Floor

Hello everybody my name is Jeff Cantino. I am the President of the snowmobile clubs of Chautauqua County. We represent the 5 clubs within the County and we maintain over 450 miles of trails within the County. I am here tonight because I would like to solicit support for a registration fee increase that has been widely bantered around with the State Legislature and since for about a year now and it's gaining speed again and we're trying to get resolutions from various Counties, especially big snowmobiling Counties of which Chautauqua County is to support it in resolution form. So with that, I have some handouts if everybody would like to look at them. I brought about 10 of them. There are 2 pages, just the summary and then a sample resolution. Just a little bit about what the New York State Snowmobile Association is, we're an all-volunteer organization which provides guidance and direction for the snowmobiles clubs within Chautauqua County and throughout New York State. What we're doing is we're proposing a New York State snowmobile registration fee increase as there's a large funding gap between what the trail fund supplies to the snowmobile clubs and what are actual expenditures are on trail maintenance. With this proposed increase if it does go through and gets into the New York State budget, it'll generate an additional 2 million dollars to the trail fund and of course lower that funding gap between the maintenance cost and what we receive from our trail fund. So the reason for the increase is to –

Legislator Harmon: Just one second, you are speaking for a group of people so we have 5 minutes allotted for the privilege (*inaudible*).

Mr. Cantino: Okay, so the bottom line if this fee registration goes in place, we will increase the trail fund by 2 million dollars. What does that mean to Chautauqua County? What that means is we average approximately 250 thousand dollars of the 4.2 million dollar trail grant that is fully funded by snowmobiler's registrations. That 2 million dollar increase will represent approximately 119,000 additional dollars coming into Chautauqua County to help maintain our trail system. A well maintained trail system is a safe trail system and it'll increase the tourism. We have a great trail system and we can keep it that way and improve it. It increases the economic engine that snowmobiling is within the County. Thank you.

Legislator Wilfong: Jeff, what is the registration fee now?

Mr. Cantino: Right now, it is \$45 if you are a club member, a New York State Snowmobile Association recognized club member. If you are not it is \$100.

Legislator Wilfong: And what are you asking for and how much is the increase going to be?

Mr. Cantino: The increase is – I'm sorry I'm – 45 yeah - and then the out of state registration from 100 – out of state and non-club member from 100 to 125. So it's a minimal increase when you consider our registration fees since the New York State snowmobile association trail fund was formed haven't gone up since 2004 and we all know how prices have gone up.

Legislator Harmon: These need to be raised.

Legislator Rankin: How much do you rely on grants? Because I know the state level received (*inaudible*) for different clubs.

Mr. Cantino: I know the Cherry Creek Sno-Goers which is 2 of our bigger clubs. Cherry Creek Sno-Goers and Chautauqua Lake Snowmobile club have applied for grants. Cherry Creek did not receive grants last year but very few snowmobile clubs did receive any recreational trail grant money last year, federal monies. The Chautauqua Lake has received I think probably close to \$400,000 in grant money.

Legislator Rankin: (*Inaudible*)

Mr. Cantino: Yeah some of our clubs have just recently become 501C3 nonprofit volunteer organization so that they can – that's almost imperative to getting these grants and a couple of our clubs have just recently obtained that status so now they are applying for grant monies.

Legislator Penhollow: (*Inaudible*) we can give support or I can only speak for myself, support so what is that mechanism? How does that work? It's a significant increase of increase revenue for Chautauqua County. We know the importance of the snowmobile clubs in the trail programs or in the County. We've heard that from the IDA and planning many many times in front of this committee. So how do we collectively as a committee, 1 and 2, do we collectively as a committee support these minor increases?

Legislator Harmon: Well now that it's been presented, I would really kind of differ to maybe the legal department (*inaudible*).

Chairman Chagnon: I believe that the Legislature clerk is preparing a motion for Legislator Penhollow to present to the Legislature next Wednesday. A motion of support for this.

Clerk Lee: That is correct and I can add anybody else's name to the motion.

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Proposed Resolution – Confirm Re-Appointments - Chautauqua County Planning Board –  
*Presented by Lauren Sharp, Planning Technician*

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Appointments and Re-Appointments - Chautauqua County  
Food Policy Council - *Presented by Lauren Sharp, Planning Technician*

*MOVED by Legislator Penhollow, SECONDED by Legislator Wilfong to Amend by  
adding an additional appointment - Unanimously Carried to Amend*

**Jessica Wuerstle**  
**14 North Jerboa Street**  
**Dunkirk, NY 14048**  
**(New Appointment)**

*Unanimously Carried as Amended*

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Reappointments to the Chautauqua County Agricultural &  
Farmland Protection Board - *Presented by Lauren Sharp, Planning  
Technician*

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2023 Budget for Snowmobile Trail Development and  
Maintenance Grant - *Presented by Lauren Sharp, Planning  
Technician*

*Unanimously Carried*

Discussion – Electric Related Concerns – *Presented by Craig Miller, Village of Brocton Mayor  
and David Haselton, Trustee*

*MOVED by Legislator Gustafson, SECONDED by Legislator Wilfong to adjourn.*

*Unanimously Carried (7:03 p.m.)*

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,  
Olivia Lee, Clerk of the Legislature/Kristi R. Zink, Deputy Clerk