

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
October 19, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Resource Management Committee Chairman Philip Curran.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Committee Chairman Philip Curran.

Roll Call: P. Curran, A. Cyr, G. Barnes, D. Fanton, G. Hanchett, J. Ricketts-Swales, P. Stockin

Other Attendees: G. Barnes, D. Bigelow, C. Braack, A. Carrow, K. Demick, K. Dirlam, B. Harris, S. Havey, D. Healy, K. Hooker, L. Hunsberger, C. Jones, C. Knapp, T. Linn, B. Perkins, J. Ricci, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross, S. Torrey, E. Zalar

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried to approve the September 22, 2022, Resource Management Committee minutes.

NYSSA President Edward Zalar

New York State Snowmobile Association President Edward Zalar explained that he was representing 220 snowmobile clubs with more than 15,000 members that volunteer their time maintaining approximately 10,500 miles of trails throughout New York State. Mr. Zalar stated that he is asking for the committee's support of a resolution to increase snowmobile registration fees. Mr. Zalar explained that the current \$45 registration fee had not been increased in 17 years and that the new proposed \$65 registration fee is in line with the rate of inflation. Mr. Zalar stated that all but \$5 of those registration fees go directly to the trails fund which then goes directly to the individual clubs for the maintenance and grooming of the trails, bridge construction, and equipment purchases. Mr. Zalar stated that the resolution will allow the DMV to raise the registration fees.

Committee Chairman Curran stated that raising the registration fees is a good idea considering that the maintenance of the trails will never end, and he is 100 percent behind it.

Legislator Cyr stated that he also supports this and is glad to hear that most of the money from the registration fees stays within the clubs and that the volunteers do a great job maintaining the trails.

New York State Snowmobile Association (NYSSA) Trail Development and Maintenance Fund

NYSSA President Edward Zalar requested a resolution urging the State to increase snowmobile registration fees in collaboration with the New York State Snowmobile Association (NYSSA) and its 220 snowmobile clubs of which the Allegany County Snowmobile Federation, Inc. is a member.

The last snowmobile registration fee increase was in 2004, two years before the Snowmobiler Rights and Responsibility Act took effect (Ch.609, L.2005). This is the longest-tenured registration fee schedule since the trail fund was first established in 1987. Adjusting for cost of living and inflation increases, a club membership fee of \$45 in 2005 would equate to \$65 today, and the non-club member fee of \$100 would be worth \$135.

The New York State Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance Fund, which is fully funded by snowmobile registration fees, is a dedicated source of funding that helps municipalities, and their snowmobile club partners to properly maintain and groom the State's snowmobile trails. This fund is used for both maintenance and equipment purchases, both of which have seen significant cost increases over the past several years.

The proposed snowmobile registration fee increases are critical for long-term fiscal planning and sustainability of snowmobile clubs and the trail system in New York State.

The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, seconded by Legislator Barnes, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

COUNTY HISTORIAN

County Historian Craig Braack attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

Mr. Braack offered an anecdote about the Civil War as follows:

Shortly after the American Civil War ended in 1865, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) formed. The GAR consisted of Civil War Veterans from the north. Around the same time, the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) was formed in the south. Both groups were instrumental in petitioning for various veteran benefits. Eventually, the two organizations merged and became so powerful that every politician running for office after 1866 counted on the votes of the GAR. Allegany County had 17 GAR posts. The last standing GAR hall is now the Friendship Community Center on Water Street. Upon receiving a letter from a man in New York City, I learned that there is currently an organization called The Sons of the Union Veterans. This NYC man received a call from a fellow brother of his that had recently purchased a book from Friendship, New York, at an Indiana auction. They had never heard of Friendship, New York, and after a Google search, they reached out to him. The GAR post in Friendship was called the Jeremiah Hatch Post #241, named for a soldier that died in the Civil War. There were 30 million people in America at the time of the Civil War with 30,000 people in Allegany County. Allegany County lost over 500 men in the Civil War. Just think of that proportion and what that meant. The book from that Indiana auction ended up being a minute book from the GAR Hatch Post in Friendship, New York, with entries from 1911 to 1923. I have never seen such a creature, let alone have one in our collection. It is phenomenal. The handwriting is gorgeous, and it contained a page of receipts and bank statements from a bank in Friendship I'd never heard of before. This is fascinating material, and the book is now part of our collection. If I'm ever inclined to do another book on our County history, I think it'll be titled, you can't make this stuff up.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Soil and Water Conservation Executive Director Scott Torrey attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Torrey indicated that they are wrapping up projects due to the changing weather.

Committee Chairman Curran raised concerns about the stabilization of the stream bank in Friendship. Mr. Torrey stated that they had done an emergency repair about 4 years ago to redirect the stream away from homes. Committee Chairman Curran asked if they were going to try and recover any of the lands where that stream had eroded. Mr. Torrey stated that they plan to line the corners where the stream is eroding the banks, but not reclaim any land per se. Committee Chairman Curran asked if they were going to put "riff-raff" up behind the houses. Mr. Torrey stated that they planned to stay along the edge of the current stream. Committee Chairman Curran wondered if changing the slope of the area would have any effect. Mr. Torrey stated that it is all sloped and that the vegetation had grown so much that it will slow down any erosion.

YOUTH BUREAU

Youth Bureau Director Brian Perkins attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Perkins stated that there will be a SADD conference on Friday, October 28, 2022, at Genesee Valley Central School if anyone is interested. Mr. Perkins stated that they had a Youth Bureau call, and they are still looking at the best way to handle the adjustment of transitioning to a new calendar year.

Legislator Healy asked what would be on the agenda for the SADD conference. Mr. Perkins stated that they have keynote speakers coming down from Roswell to give presentations to the kids about vaping which is a big issue in our schools. Mr. Perkins stated that some of the presentations will touch on marijuana as well. Mr. Perkins stated that local artist Eric Jones from Clarksville, NY, will be there demonstrating pumpkin carving with the kids, and they will be given a pumpkin that they can carve on their own. Mr. Perkins explained that this is a way to give the kids something more active to try to make this conference a little bit more memorable.

Legislator Barnes asked if the Youth Bureau is actively promoting anti-drug use among youth. Legislator Barnes stated that it's important that every school have an annual assembly that discusses the facts about the misuse of drugs and the dangers involved. Legislator Barnes stated that he doesn't believe that this issue is being pushed hard enough. Legislator Barnes stated that he did not recall any recent injuries or fatalities with youth and fentanyl, but it's out there and they should be continually warned every year. Mr. Perkins stated that he believes the schools have their versions of the SADD club and that all schools are invited to this conference. Mr. Perkins stated that they are certainly open to going to schools and doing something more. Legislator Barnes stated that at the least, middle and high school students should be given information every year. Mr. Perkins stated that he agreed and that he is open to doing whatever he can to facilitate any programs if the schools are interested. Committee Chairman Curran stated that the problem with fentanyl is that it can be hidden in anything, and a very small amount can have serious consequences.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Laura Hunsberger attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Hunsberger stated that she had sent out invitations to their annual meeting and reminded them that it will be on November 1, 2022, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Belmont Legion. She explained that the speaker is from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and they will talk about different energy programs that are available here in the Tri-County area. She also stated that they will be sharing an energy educator between Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Allegany Counties which is being funded through NYSERDA and PUSH Buffalo (People United for Sustainable Housing). Ms. Hunsberger stated that 4-H will be holding its open house that evening and it is for anyone with kids that would like to learn what 4-H is all about. Ms. Hunsberger stated that on November 5, 2022, there will be a Produced in New York live cooking demonstration at the Belfast School. Kids that are participating will have 45 minutes to prepare a recipe with something specific to New York State. Ms. Hunsberger stated that if anyone is interested in judging or spectating to let her know.

Legislator Healy thanked Ms. Hunsberger for her prompt response to his question regarding the varieties of apples in New York State.

Committee Chairman Curran referenced the monthly report regarding the "working with farmers" section and asked what style of farming they are doing. Ms. Hunsberger explained that most of them are probably involved with some form of livestock and that they are working with them to expand, whether they require more acreage, more stalls, or pasture management.

Legislator Cyr thanked Ms. Hunsberger for working with farmers because it is important in our area.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators