**Parks, Lakes, Recreation, and Tourism: MEETING MINUTES for 28 April 2021**

To be held via Zoom, 7pm, 28 April 2021:

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Call meeting to order:

* + Gene Centi - present
  + Ralph Palcovic - present
  + Chris Cernak – present (for part of the meeting)
  + Jenn Sturgess - present
  + Amanda French - absent
  + Barb DeLuca - present
  + Rachel Simonds - present

Items discussed:

1. Welcome Booklet review
   * One add left to come in; 24 ads total. Trying to make it free, but probably won’t be possible with our budget. Jenn asking the PLRT to cover 725 dollars (875 covered by the town), leading to approx. $50 per ad. We are approved for $1000 against that cost from Fulton county.
2. Father’s Day Fishing Derby planning
   * Flyers are made. To be sent out tentatively at the end of this week. The event will be from 7am until 1pm, Saturday June 19th. 100 % payout/prizes.
   * Jenn spoke with Jim’s Bait Shop and he is willing to donate. Chris is going to check with Runnings.
   * Sign ups available at Camper’s Corner Store, Canada Lake Marina, Lakeview Store, and Caroga Lake Marina.
   * Weigh station on West Caroga will be Scott Horton’s dock and East Caroga Lake Association will also have a weigh station.
   * Flags/markers for the weigh stations are needed. Ralph offered supplies that the Fire Department uses for the ice fishing tournament.
   * Tom Lyons from Canada lake/green lake expressed interest in the fishing tournament. Gene will send over his contact info.
   * Awards/prizes will be held at the Caroga Fish and Game Club outdoors and will follow COVID guidelines.
   * The Caroga Lake Marina offered a discounted rate for launching on that date for people registered in the tournament - $5 to launch.
3. Yearly calendar review
   * Change bike fest date to August 21.
4. Memorial Day parade planning
   * Parade route is going from Wheelerville school to intersection at the old Jammer past Vroomans (intersection of London Bridge Road (CO HWY 111)/CO HWY 112/Morey Road.
   * Highway department and DOT will be informed of the parade.
   * Parade will begin at 10am on May 29.
   * Barb has requested assistance with contacting the veterans in the town of Caroga so they can have a space in the parade.
   * Barb is reaching out to town businesses and associations about participating.
   * Once the flyer is ready, Ralph will get it distributed to other fire departments in Fulton/Montgomery counties.
   * We are still looking for bands or others to participate.
   * We will be putting the ad on the PLRT facebook page and the new town webpage: Caroga.town
   * Invited Assemblyman Smullens
   * Question was asked: if someone from the public wants to participate, what do they do? Jenn will help put together a sign up form.
   * Jenn informed the meeting that the racecar driver from Fonda wants to participate.
   * Will be asking the CLVFC to do traffic control.
   * Kim from Paradise Ranch may bring horses. Barb will follow up.
5. Summer farmer’s market
   * Jenn brought it to the PLRT’s attention that people are asking if the farmer’s market is going to continue. Used to be held at Sherman’s in the parking lot. Gene said he talked with Rick Rub and see if we can coordinate with the CAC; Jenn will check with Linda to see if she has contact info to find out how that was organized in the past and Gene will reach out to the CAC.
6. Update on flags
   * 5 flags donated from Taylor Made.
   * We will need to ask Matt Hillock to see if he is willing to put the flags up again.
   * Amanda sent the cost on the flags, 48 by 72 is 22.68 per flag. We already have the holders. Will need to go through the poles; will probably need to get new poles.
   * Will need to get an 60 by 96 flag for the golf course by the monument; may need to replace the pole. We do have lighting for it. Ralph feels it should be smaller, pole may not hold up a flag that big. Gene is going to take a look at that pole tomorrow. Ralph will look up what the standards are. Look into the pole that is at town hall unused.
   * Jenn asked how many flags do we need? We are looking to do the poles with streetlights and need to determine which street lights are going to be eliminated. We currently have 40 holders. It was suggested that we place flags up through to Pine Lake and out on Route 10 towards the current Wheelerville School.
   * Resolution to buy 20 flags at $22.68 each. For a total of $453.60. Resolution proposed by Gene Centi to buy 20 American flags from Taylor Made that are 48 by 72 and $22.68 each, buying 20, for a total of $453.60. Ralph seconded the motion. None opposed.
7. Hometown Heroes Project
   * No updates
8. Summer Youth Program
   * Gene talked with Colleen Ricciardi and discussed the state guidelines/COVID. Gene reported that Colleen thinks that it should not run the summer program the way it has been run in the past and that we cannot run a structured program.
   * We are having difficulty in communication with both WUFS and Colleen.
   * Another issue is that the Golf Course is using the Glenn Harris Park. Gene is reluctant to have children in that area for various reasons.
   * Gene suggested other types of family activities instead. There is still our portion of the budget available.
   * Ralph talked with Colleen this evening (Colleen was not at the meeting) and reported that she stated summer rec is not going to happen and she is going to be involved in the summer school program.
   * Rachel suggested that we look into other options, like providing take home activities or craft kits. Rachel also suggested that we can do these things without the need to have Colleen as a director if there is no structured program.
   * Gene provided some suggestions about the golf course and that we should gear our golf course to a family course and see what we can do to connect it with the kids. One suggestion is a movie night on the golf course, music thing. Jenn suggested reaching out to the Caroga Museum to see if they want to do anything.
   * Rachel suggested connect with the CAC. Kyle Price was on the meeting and agreed to look into doing programming together, something like Saturday morning kids show. Said he was happy to help.
   * Barb mentioned that the fire department always had a kid’s day with National Grid, Sheriff’s department, etc, and suggested we could still do something like that.
   * Gene asked for the CACs calendar; Kyle will send when it is ready.
   * Gene suggested that Amanda, Jenn, and Rachel work on the youth program to make something happen. Budget will be around 10 to 12 thousand dollars.
9. Other
   * Jeremy Manning and Wheelerville Bike Trail: Chuc is the head of the Adirondack Foothills Trail Alliance (AFTA). Information and background from Chuck: AFTA was started approx. three years ago in Old Forge with CAA Central Adirondack Association like a tourism group that works with the businesses to organize events. They came to Chuck about building trails and worked with the town to create some trails in that town, and then eventually Herkimer county. Brought many visitors and a bike fest (sponsored by the tourism group) that first year with over 1,000 people. Had food/vendors/etc – similar to what Jeremy wants to do. Are a 501cr now. Have expanded and are helping to manage and create trails and work with the DEC on state lands and other areas and on town lands.
   * There are 15 miles of trails in Peck Hill state forest. Jeremy wants to be able to connect to that eventually.
   * There is a network of riders in the area and the question was posed to perhaps expand membership of AFTA to here? There is also another bike club in Johnstown.
   * Jeremy informed the PLRT of a date change for the bike fest instead of August 28, will be August 21 (same weekend as the last date of CAC concert series) to create flow between events.
   * Oak Mountain and then North Creek are the next closest real bike trail systems to the north.
10. Fireworks
    * Ralph brought it up at the fire department meeting to launch from rear of fire department property. He felt that it is possible to launch from the rear of the fire department and the fireworks would be visible. Fire Department agreed. Advised to talk with the fireworks company more.
    * Gene asked how long is commitment time to get the vendors for the fireworks and who is available. It will be looked into further.

* Public Comment – none
* Motion to adjourn by Barb and seconded by Ralph.

Rachel Simonds

Secretary PLRT

9/14/2021