



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve
Irontone Springs
Libke Field
Pontresina Park

Otsego Lake County Park
Wah Wah Soo
Community Center

**Minutes Regular Meeting
Otsego County Parks & Recreation Commission
April 8th, 2019**

Call to order at 5:00pm.

Members Present: Dave Baragrey, Scott Courterier, Randy Stults, Doug Johnson, Bill Holewinski, Judy Jarecki, Bonny Miller, Kelli Parker and Justin Wing.

Members Absent: Abe Cruz.

Others Present: Kyle Ryan, Roger Latuszek, Keri Swantek, Dave Matelski, Mark Lamberiss, Trevor Burroughs, Bill Raymond, Carrie Miller and John Miller Jr.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Two corrections were noted by Randy Stults. A motion to approve the minutes from the March 11th, 2019 meeting with the corrections was made by Bill Holewinski and seconded by Scott Courterier. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Dave Matelski who is with the Otsego Lake Association and also the chairperson for the Clean the Lake Project spoke about dredging and cleaning the swim area at the County Park and asked if the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Department would do a 50/50 match of the cost of the project. The members asked Dave Matelski to get some approximate costs of this project. Kyle Ryan asked Dave Matelski to get more specific information on exactly where they want to dredge and clean and an estimated cost.

John Miller Jr. discussed his Eagle Scout Project which is building 5-6 bat houses for the Groen Preserve. Carrie Miller and John Miller Jr. presented one of the houses he built. John Miller Jr. said he was encouraged to get the other troop members involved and he suggested cleaning some debris off the trails. John Miller Jr. said he plans to have the trail clean-up and the bat houses mounted sometime in May. A motion was made by Doug Johnson and seconded by Bonny Miller to approve John Miller Jr's Eagle Scout Project of installing 5-6 bat houses working with Kyle Ryan and Roger Latuszek at the Groen Nature Preserve. Motion carried.

Bills: A motion to approve the bills from 3/12/19 – 4/4/19 in the amount of \$9,750.78 was made by Scott Courterier and seconded by Bill Holewinski. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: The members discussed the financial reports from March 2019 for the Community Center, the County Parks and the Groen Preserve.

Director's Update:

-Kyle Ryan stated that a trail ranger recently quit at the Groen Preserve and a replacement for that person will be starting on Monday.

-Kyle Ryan said he hired 2 seasonal rangers for the Groen Preserve and one will be starting at the end of April and the second one will be starting in approximately the middle of May.



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-Kyle Ryan said he has hired 5 of the 7 rangers for the County Park and a couple of them will be starting on Monday.

-Kyle Ryan said the Work Camp has been doing some raking at the County Park.

-Kyle Ryan said the ranger station project at the Groen Preserve is starting in mid-April.

Old Business:

- A. Campground Price Changes:** Kyle Ryan showed the members a map of the sites where the power will be upgraded to 50 amp for the 2020 camping season. Kyle Ryan said 29 new electrical pedestals will be installed. Kyle Ryan said the sites to be upgraded are 1-8, 10, 12, 14-17, 19, 21, 23-27, Dutcher Cabin, Burt Cabin, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39. A motion was made by Scott Couturier and seconded by Randy Stults to raise rates for the 2020 camping season at the County Park plus \$5.00 on sites 1-8, 10, 12, 14-17, 19, 21, 23-27, sites 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39 plus \$8.00 and the Burt and Dutcher Cabins plus \$5.00. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Scott Courterier to seek bids for the electrical upgrade subject to the Otsego County Board of Commissioners approving the project and the associated price increases. Motion carried.

- B. Groen Master Plan:** Kyle Ryan said an employee with NEMCOG does forestry planning. Kyle Ryan said a Forest Stewardship Plan should be compiled in addition to the Groen Master Plan. Kyle Ryan said a trail inventory will be included with this plan. Roger Latuszek said that a trail inventory was already compiled and Patricia Osburn has that inventory. Kyle Ryan said the total cost for these plans is \$12,000.00. Kyle Ryan said NEMCOG is going to apply for a Forest Stewardship Program Grant on behalf of Otsego County Parks and Recreation for \$2,500.00 which would take the total of the project to \$9,500.00. Kyle Ryan identified some of the aspects of the Groen Master Plan include possible uses and programming, new building opportunities that comply with the Conservation Easement, public input, inventory of the existing conditions, infrastructure, inventory of surrounding properties, current and future development, current activity, threats and concerns, trail inventory, planning for the future, goals and objectives, recommended uses, uses that are not recommended, buildings and facilities, implementation plan for buildings and uses and the forest stewardship plan. Kyle Ryan said the plan was going to be long term. Randy Stults asked that short terms goals be identified in the plan as well as the long term goals. A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Doug Johnson to accept the proposal from NEMCOG to go forward with the master plan and forestry plan pending approval of funding by the Groen Trust Fund Board. Justin Wing abstained from voting. Motion carried.

New Business:

- A. Hours at the Groen:** Kyle Ryan proposed changing the hours on Sunday from 8:00am-6:00pm to 10:00am-6:00pm during the winter season. Kyle Ryan proposed changing Thursday and Friday from 11:00am-6:00pm to 10:00am-6:00pm to make up for those two hours removed from Sunday. Kyle Ryan also proposed with the exception of July 4th holiday that the Groen Preserve be closed on Memorial Day, Labor Day and Easter Sunday. Kyle Ryan said he would still like to be open on some of the County holidays. The members left



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the adjustment of hours to Kyle Ryan. Randy Stults asked Kyle Ryan to advise the board on what he decided to do with the hours.

Commissioner Comments: Bill Holewinski said the finance director with the road commission has been in the hospital for a couple weeks but she is doing well.

[Justin Wing explained that he abstained from the Groen rec plan vote because he is related to the NEMCOG person who would be completing the plan.]

The next meeting is Monday May 13th 2019 at the Otsego County Building room 100.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kelli Parker and seconded by Bonny Miller. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23pm.

Attachments as part of this meeting

- Financial Reports from March 2019 for the County Parks, Community Center and the Groen Preserve.
- Bills from 3/12/19 – 4/4/19 in the amount of \$9,750.78.

Keri Swantek, Recording Secretary

Randy Stults, Secretary