

# **FOHC MEETING – November 12, 2003**

## **South Wales Memorial Building – Emery Road**

Chairperson Mary Weinman called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Agendas were distributed.

Parks Commissioner Larry Jasinski was given the floor. He talked of some recent accomplishments: opening of new lot at Hunters Creek; new waterlines at Emery Park and the hiring of an architect to do work at Emery. Project Manager Burt Lyons is not in attendance.

Linda Tarnawskyj and Jean Jablonski will record the Minutes of tonight's meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1.It has been requested that meetings be tape-recorded. Since there is no budget, there are no funds to purchase an audio tape recorder. If anyone has one to loan in the future, it would be appreciated.

2.Parking Lot Update: Commissioner thanked Tom Caley for the design of the new lot. John Sly presented a list of questions for the Commissioner (See Attachment A). Commissioner responded that gate security will be installed in the Spring; Highway Department is working on signage; Landscaping – will increase the size of the berm on left side of driveway; drainage will be improved in the Spring; snow plowing will be done by crew at Emery Park weather permitting; lot will provide parking for 25 cars and 4 horse trailers; a permit from Town of Wales is not required for a County Project; an Environmental Impact Study was not needed. Tom Caley said that any proposal for drainage on main trail have to be staked out for the contractors. Peter Tarnawskyj said that any further suggestions could be put on the Agenda for Spring.

Jon Sundquist mentioned the need for stone to harden the main trail connecting the old and new lots. It could be a driveway mix that could be moved by the volunteers.

Commissioner asked him to let him know the type of stone and fabric and the amounts needed to stabilize this trail. Peter Tarnawskyj will provide the Commissioner with a drainage plan for connector trail.

3. Trail Projects - Jon Sundquist and Peter Tarnawskyj report that 3 trail work days were held this Fall and 4 projects were completed. A number of eroded trails were rerouted. The last reroute was the trail off the new parking lot. Records are being kept of volunteers and amount of time spent volunteering. It is estimated that over 500 man-hours have been expended so far.

4. Kiosk Report: Michael Campanella reports that he sent a letter to the Commissioner with the plans but did not get a response. Commissioner Jasinski gave him verbal approval at tonight's meeting and a letter will be signed stating such tomorrow. It was stated that this kiosk would be "temporary" since the Master Plan suggests the all Parks will have the same natural design. Jonathan Moscato mentioned that it is essential that this kiosk be erected as soon as possible. Text and maps are to be agreed upon by FOHC.

5. "Concerned Property Owners" Proposal for Stabilization and Maintenance of Buffer Zone - Richard Corsi reports that a diagram/map and a letter was submitted to the County showing their proposal for buffer zones, elimination of trails in buffer zone and the closing of 3 trails (area of Campanella, Keem, Corsi). Commissioner said that he cannot sign this document based on advice of County's legal department since it is not a legal document. Commissioner Jasinski said his proposed elements for Hunters Creek are that it be 1.) Environmentally friendly, 2.) User friendly, and 3.) Protective of the integrity of the adjacent property owner which he demonstrated by moving the parking lot. Buffer zones are not to be 200 ft. No other County Park has 200 ft. buffer zones and he cannot do that. He will try to maintain the 150 foot buffer zone as recommend in Master Plan whenever possible but will do what is required to protect private property. He proposed erecting fences if needed. R. Corsi declined the offer of a fence since he said it would only serve to draw attention to his property boundary. On the issue of boundary lines, maps are available at County Hall. Deeds on file can be compared with deeds of property owners. It was suggested that property owners' survey compared with the recorded boundary lines could possibly serve as an agreement. Trespassing on private land was discussed. Without a police force, this is difficult for the Parks Department to monitor. ECSD or DEC can be called with license plate # or vehicle descriptions. Bike patrols or mounted patrols could conceivably be used to monitor inappropriate activity. The Sheriff could be asked for more patrols. Jean Jablonski mentioned that cooperation with the FOHC volunteer group and the "concerned property owners" could help the overall impact on the trail system. She suggested that a group meet with Richard Corsi on Sunday to view the trail leading to his property. The

main part of the trail adjacent to the Campanella property will be closed in the Spring. It was further agreed that since this trail intersects with two other trails by the creek crossing only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of this trail will be closed and it was noted on the map.

The Commissioner again stressed that no ATVs or hunting is allowed on County property. It was suggested that a letter be forwarded to the DEC inviting them to our next meeting so the topic of illegal hunting can be addressed.

Commissioner Jasinski asked about snowmobiles using HC. Their presence has been allowed at numerous County Parks. He had gotten an informal request from a snowmobile group. The controversy was discussed. No decision was made at the point.

6. FOHC Committee: Chairperson Weinman passed out a copy of the letter that she is sending to all user groups of the Park. The letter asks if they want representation on the steering committee. It is proposed that there will be 25 members on the Committee and a quorum will have to be established. Stakeholders have to make the decisions. Legal reviews will have to be established prior to proposals by the group.

7. "Tranquility Trail" Steven Smolarck will work on this project and report in the Spring.

8. Proposal for Signage: Commissioner Jasinski will have all the necessary sign made by Public Works. Mary will e-mail a list to him. Park rules will be posted at the parking lot.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Jon Sundquist proposed "seasonal closure" of certain trails. This could be flexible and implemented in the Spring. Kiosk would be used to get the message out to the users.

Larry Keem mentioned that two 12 foot wells are still open. The Commissioner will give this information to Project Manager Lyons.

The "Concerned Neighbors" group expressed concern about the approval process and the need to establish the approval process with guidelines being set prior to the proposals. They want to be sure that all "closed" trails be eliminated from all Park

maps. They asked the Commissioner that all signage be approved and all Park rules be publicized. They also proposed principles that should be followed.

. Development of a adopt-a-natural “stewardship” program between Erie County and FOHC: John Sly said there is a link on the County web.

**COMMENTS:**

Richard Corsi commented that he did not feel that Commissioner Jasinski was being responsive to his needs and requirements.

**Next Meeting: (Tentative) Tuesday, January 6, 2004 at 7:00 PM at South Wales Memorial Building on Emery Road.**

Tonight’s Meeting ended at 8:35 PM.

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Recorded: L.Tarnawskyj/J.Jablonski 11/12/03

Approved: M.Weinman

## **ATTACHMENT A:**

**These are the comments and questions asked about the parking lot at the last Friends of Hunters Creek Meeting. For future meetings, hope to send you list of questions before the meeting.**

**John J Sly**

1. The parking lot is great, but will not be used by all until the access trails are built and reinforced. People will continue to park along the road to avoid the mud.
2. The new parking area is the "trail head" for the west side of the creek. The existing trail from this parking lot to the old parking lot and access road is unstainable. When will this trail be rebuilt to withstand heavy use ?
3. As part of the November trail maintenance, a new access trail was made from the north side of the new parking area to the rerouted Hunter Creek Trail. This will result in directing most of the use to the creek side trails . For better disposition, we need permission to make additional access trails to connect to trails leading to the upper trails.
4. "this parking lot will have a security gate". Will a gate be installed ? When? Who responsible for locking and unlocking ?
5. What is the landscaping plan ?  
What will the topsoil piles be used for ?  
Will "large boulders or wood bollards to delineate the outer edge of the parking lot" be installed ?
6. Hunters Creek parking lot - Drainage improvement - When scheduled ?
7. Plowing the parking area for winter use and recreation at the

park

Planned for this year ? Who will do? How often ?

8. Was an Environment Impact report prepared for the new parking lot ?

9. Was a Town of Wales permit issued for the construction of this new parking lot ?