

FOHC MEETING – August 13, 2003

Judge Stohrer Skating Lodge – Emery Park

The Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mary Weinman at 7:04 PM. She thanked all that are helping to facilitate the Hunters Creek project. She said that the FOHC meetings will start promptly and be concise and approximately an hour in duration. They will be meetings not to become a public hearing.

Commissioner Jasinski was given the floor. He thanked Mary Weinman for volunteering to do this formidable task. Her skill and expertise will be an invaluable to FOHC. He gave a brief update on the Emery Road resurfacing and the installation of water lines which should be installed by the Spring of 2004. Hunters Creek is one of the project contracts that will be started this year. \$200,000 has been allocated for the parking lot project as well as signage, kiosk and buffer zone. If it should become necessary, more money can be assigned to the project on an as needed basis. He was hoping to have the parking lot project done but the County Legislature is presently on recess for the summer. When they reconvene in September the bid packages will be send for their approval. He is very optimistic about the parking lot. His goal is for HC to become a focal point to be enjoyed by all. The Wales Center Fire Company requested that the fire road be fixed by the gas company. They feel this is a high priority. Keys to the gate at the access road will be provided for the emergency personnel. It was suggested that a NO PARKING sign be posted on the chain gate at the Centerline entrance.

Burt Lyon, Project Manager, said the plans and mechanics for the parking lot were being reviewed by Public Works Department. They were evaluating the “line of sight” at the lot entrance to be sure it was not a hazard. He hopes the lot will be started next month though many agencies are involved. Highway Department is responsible for the drainage issue and culvert part of the lots. The kiosk was also being studied. It was felt that the design for the kiosk should all be similar throughout the Parks System... (basically the same materials, plans and signage to meet the needs). It would also have to be informative and able to be changed as necessary. Burt said he would try to become more knowledgeable about HC.

OLD BUSINESS:

. **Parking lots and adjacent trail update:** Tom Caley reports that he talked to Dan Rider, Deputy Commissioner of Highways. They hope to put the “topping” on Centerline Road before September 1st. At that point they will be able to start the lot. Depending on the weather, the lot could possibly be done by October. The trail leading off the lot should be hard surfaced. Some landscaping will have to be done.

. **Camping in HC:** Commissioner Jasinski commented on the Reserve Group that had camped in the Park recently. The procedure that has been established and was followed is to receive prior approval from the County with the understanding they remain environmentally conscientious. If this trust is violated, the group will not again be granted access. He also stressed that if any violations of County rules are noted by an individual, the DEC or ECSD are to be notified.

.**Trail Projects for August and September:** Jon Sundquist and Peter Tarnawskyj have been assigned this project. Jon reports that the most agreeable day for trail maintenance is Sunday, September 14th. There are two projects scheduled to be started at that time. These projects will entail the repair of one eroded fall line trail section and the minor reroute of a second trail section that is in danger of falling into the waters of Hunters Creek. (Maps were distributed.) Volunteers on our FOHC database will be e-mailed the necessary information once approval from the County Parks Department is received. A flyer announcing this will be posted at the HC entrances.

.**Kiosk Report:** Jonathan Moscato gave his ideas for some of the information that can be made available at the kiosk. Volunteers will be assigned to various items. Jon Sundquist will do “maps and trail descriptions”. John Sly would be responsible for information on “history/landmarks” in HC. “Ecology/Geology” could be put together by a group such as Audubon Society, EarthSpirit or a similar club by noting points of natural interest. “Rules” of the Park would be contact information, park rules. This would be finalized by the County Attorney’s Office. Ideas will still have to be decided. Some suggestions for additions to the kiosk were: simplified trail loops, information re: the hiking/equestrian trail, trail etiquette pamphlets, implementation of seasonal closure of certain trails. This committee could formulate their plans and give the visuals to Burt Lyon for final approval by the County.

NEW BUSINESS:

. **Minutes:** Linda Caley gave the Chairman a list of “corrections” to the minutes. Mary Weinman clarified that the minutes were actually what was “discussed” by the group at the July 21 meeting.

. **Proposal for stabilization and maintenance of buffer zone:** Linda Caley reports that the “concerned neighbors” have arraigned for 15 volunteers to close the buffer zone on the Northwest boundary of HC. They will present their closure plans at the next meeting for approval by the County. The chairperson stated that it is the hope that all volunteers would support and help with this trail project and all proposed projects in HC.

Tom Caley asked that the parking lot icon on the proposed map handout to be changed to show the correct layout of this new lot. Jon Sundquist will change it.

. **Establishment of formal FOHC Committee:** Linda Caley presented a chart showing all the groups that were mentioned in the Master Plan as part of the steering committee. There was some discussion about a group this size being able to reach a quorum and the size of a quorum. It was decided that all groups would be invited to designate the required numbers of designees. Burt Lyon stated that the County would always have the final vote on any decision reached by this committee. FOHC was considered a trendsetting group due to the diversity of the members.

. **Eagle Scout Project:** Michael Campenella gave a brief report on Eagle Scouts and the project requirements. It will be a service project using other Scouts or community groups. He has to start his project ASAP. Some ideas were designing a temporary kiosk until the County finalizes plans for a permanent structure. Also considered is a trail maintenance project perhaps marking trails with a designated blaze. He will report back at the next meeting. Any ideas or suggestions can be sent to him at airheadsk8er@aol.com.

.COMMENTS:

Equine Rescue Clinic: Peter Tarnawskyj mentioned that there will be a 911/First Responder Equine Rescue Clinic sponsored by the WC NYS Horse Council and the SPCA to be held on Saturday, September 13th at the EC Fairgrounds. Fire Companies in the area would be invited to attend which might be beneficial with the addition of horse trailers to the HC venue.

Chairperson Weinman announced the next FOHC Meeting will be held at the **Judge Stohrer Skating Lodge at 7 PM on Monday, September 8, 2003.**

Commissioner Jasinski can be reached at his office with any problems or concerns – 858-8352. Mary Weinman can be reached on her e-mail: mawwales@yahoo.com.

FOHC Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:08 PM.