

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PARK OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT (O&M)

DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2012

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS MONROE
MERLINO
KENNY

KEVIN HAJOS, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
WORKS

ROBERT BLAIS, MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE
DANIEL G. STEC, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR DICKINSON

PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD

SUPERVISORS CONOVER

MASON

STRAINER

TAYLOR

WOOD

DAVE DECKER, DIRECTOR, LAKE GEORGE WATERSHED COALITION

WILLIAM LAMY, PROJECT MANAGER, CLARK PATTERSON LEE

FLINT STONE, LAKE GEORGE WINTER CARNIVAL

LARRY BENNETT, BEECH MOUNTAIN ENTERPRISES

SEAN QUIRK, REPRESENTING EAST COAST SNOW CROSS

MIKE CONSUELO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAKE GEORGE REGIONAL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*

NICOLE LIVINGSTON, SECOND DEPUTY CLERK

Mr. Monroe called the meeting of the Park Operations & Management (O&M) Committee to order at 9:34 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2012 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the agenda packet were distributed to the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Monroe stated there were four proposals from Robert Blais, Mayor of the Village of Lake George, for use of the Festival Space.

Mayor Blais said the first proposal was from East Coast Snow Cross for use of the Festival Space on January 25-27, 2013 for a sanctioned Snow Cross Race for which more than 400 attendees were anticipated. He advised that Sean Quirk, representing King Neptunes, was in attendance. Mr. Monroe asked if the request pertained to the north side of the property as plantings had been completed on the south side and Mayor Blais replied affirmatively. Mr. Monroe inquired as to the usage fee for the Festival Space for this event and Mayor Blais suggested Mr. Quirk explain the event. Mr. Quirk stated he had contacted the promoter for East Coast Snow Cross which was a large event that he felt would be beneficial to Lake George. He noted previous East Coast Snow Cross events had been held in Plattsburgh and throughout New York State into Canada. He explained a gate would be erected leading to the event and a fee would be charged for adults with children being admitted free of charge. Mr. Quirk informed he and Mayor Blais had discussed the usage fee and he asked if \$1,000 would be acceptable.

Mayor Blais stated he hoped this event could be held in Lake George on an annual basis, assuming the Festival Space proved to be of adequate size once construction was completed. Mr. Quirk distributed copies of a map of the property to the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes*. He explained the map detailed the desired location of the race track, gates, pit area, bathrooms and vendor tables. He acknowledged although the race track would be on the north end of the property, the pit area, vendor tables and bathrooms would be located on the south end. He commented the racers arrived with 18-wheel trucks and were sponsored by Monster Energy Drink. Mr. Quirk pointed out the promoter of the event anticipated 100 to 150 hotel rooms would be booked for the event. Mr. Monroe noted according to the map the event would be held only on the north side of the property and Mr. Quirk apologized for the confusion.

Kevin Hajos, Deputy Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, asked if anyone associated with the event would be hauling in materials and Mr. Quirk replied the event employees would make snow if needed and would bring in the equipment necessary. Mr. Hajos asked if they would bring in material such as stone or fill and Mr. Quirk replied in the negative.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to authorize use of the Festival Space of the Charles R. Wood Park by East Coast Snow Cross on January 25-27, 2013 for a fee of \$1,000. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21, 2012 Board meeting.*

Mr. Monroe commented the next item on the agenda was to discuss the possible use of the Festival Space during the Lake George Winter Carnival. Flint Stone, representing the Lake George Winter Carnival and the North East Snow Cross Series (NESNOX), said he had worked with the Lake George Winter Carnival for the last few years. He stated he would like to utilize the track on the north side of the parcel which would be established by East Coast Snow Cross for their January 25-27, 2012 event. He noted the two events would be very similar in nature. He mentioned the NESNOX did not possess the necessary equipment to make their own snow and would groom and maintain the track established by East Coast Snow Cross until their event was held during the Lake George Winter Carnival.

Mr. Stone informed the participants would be local residents and New York State law required they be over the age of ten. He pointed out the NESNOX purchased a \$1 million insurance policy for each of their events which was sufficient for an event with 45 to 64 racers. He added measures were taken to ensure the safety of participants and spectators. Mr. Monroe asked if a registration fee was charged for the event and Mr. Stone replied affirmatively. Mr. Stone added any fees charged usually covered the majority of the costs associated with the event but he usually paid the remainder himself. Mr. Monroe asked about a proposed usage fee for the Festival Space and Mr. Stone replied the event was part of the Lake George Winter Carnival and NESNOX was a second party in this endeavor.

Mr. Kenny asked if there was a proposal from the Lake George Winter Carnival and Mr. Hajos replied he only had their proposal from the previous year. Mr. Hajos noted last year there had not been enough ice on Lake George and both the SunKiss Balloon event and TNT Monster Truck event had used the Festival Space, as part of the Lake George Winter Carnival. He commented a usage fee was not charged to the Lake George Winter Carnival for these events. He mentioned a resolution for an agreement with Lake George Winter Carnival for use of the Festival Space in 2011 and he proposed if there was a lack of snow and ice this winter, the same agreement should be utilized. In answer to a question, Mr. Stone reiterated the NESNOX would utilize the snow leftover from the East Coast Snow Cross event.

Mr. Monroe pointed out the Lake George Winter Carnival did not pay a usage fee last winter; however, he added, East Coast Snow Cross would be charged a fee of \$1,000 and the Committee needed to be consistent. He noted if Lake George had been properly frozen last year the Lake George Winter Carnival would have taken place on the ice, as opposed to on the Festival Space. Mr. Hajos responded the SunKiss Balloon event would have been held on the ice but he did not believe it would have been safe for the TNT Monster Truck event. Mr. Kenny asked if there was any need for the Lake George Winter Carnival to use the Festival Space if there was snow and ice this winter and Mr. Monroe replied the Festival Space was needed for the NESNOX event. Mr. Kenny commented a \$1,000 usage fee should be charged either to the NESNOX or the Lake George Winter Carnival and Mr. Quirk said he would discuss the fee with the promoters of the Winter Carnival.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to authorize use of the Festival Space of the Charles R. Wood Park by the Lake George Winter Carnival and/or North East Snow Cross Series on February 9-10, 2013 for a fee of \$1,000. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21, 2012 Board meeting.*

Mr. Monroe said the next item on the agenda was to discuss the proposal for use of the Festival Space by The Big Apple Circus and Mayor Blais noted Mike Consuelo, Executive Director of Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce, was in attendance if there were any questions. Mayor Blais stated a week prior, The Big Apple Circus had indicated their intention to return to Lake George in 2013. He said a contract had been received which was identical to the previous contract with the exception of the dates. He added the event would be held July 13-28, 2013 with setup being two to three days prior to the event and tear down being two days following the conclusion of the event.

Mayor Blais noted the usage fee charged to The Big Apple Circus for 2012 was \$8,000 and the County had awarded \$15,000 in occupancy tax funding for operating expenses. He stated he had checked with the planners for construction of the Festival Space and had been informed portable toilets would be necessary for a July 2013 event on the site. He added the Festival Space should be graded in time for the event and the contractor would work on the south side of the property while The Big Apple Circus was being held on the north side of the property. He advised the area between the Festival Space and Route 9 would be available for use by The Big Apple Circus for their "village".

Mayor Blais informed The Big Apple Circus had not garnered the amount of profit they had expected in 2012; however, he added, typically the event needed three years in the same location before the venue was deemed successful. He stated The Big Apple Circus anticipated the County would want a usage fee for the Festival Space of \$8,000 and he requested the Committee approve the use of the Festival Space contingent on approval of occupancy tax funding for the event in the amount of \$15,000. A brief discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to authorize use of the Festival Space of the Charles R. Wood Park by The Big Apple Circus on July 10-30, 2013 for a fee of \$8,000, contingent on approval of occupancy tax funding in the amount of \$15,000. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21, 2012 Board meeting.*

Mayor Blais suggested the need for a local law for governance of the Charles R. Wood Park including rules for usage and hours of operation. He said he had received guidelines from other municipalities concerning their parks. He commented he would continue to work on the drafting of the local law for review by the Committee at a future meeting.

Dave Decker, Director of the Lake George Watershed Coalition, distributed copies of a Stormwater Management Improvement Project Status Report to the Committee members; *a copy of same is on*

file with the minutes. He reviewed the Report in detail and noted over 15,000 different species of plants had been planted. He said the landscaping contractor had completed work and the site had been stabilized. He advised a Certificate of Substantial Completion would be issued based on the "as built survey" completed. He noted the site was monitored weekly to ensure the plant growth had taken root. Mr. Decker pointed out the plantings were under warranty until November 2013. He apprised the landscaping contractor would return in the summer in support of the warranty and establish a watering system for the plants.

Mr. Decker informed of some water flow issues which were in the process of being corrected. He said he had requested the engineer to submit a formalized operation and maintenance budget for the long term sustainability of the South Parcel Wetland Operating Stormwater Treatment System. He stated grant funding had been earmarked for a Map, Plan & Report to establish a Stormwater Management District in order to provide a plan and funding mechanism for long term operations and management of the Stormwater Management System. He noted if the Stormwater Management District was approved, it would be an action of the Town of Lake George based on the location of the property.

As there was no further business to come before the Park Operations & Management (O&M) Committee, on motion made by Mr. Kenny and seconded by Mr. Merlino, Mr. Monroe adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk
As typed by Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist