



# Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA  
Clerk

DAVID H. KNAPP  
Chairman

MELANIE VILARDI  
Deputy Clerk

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## COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES – JULY 13, 2021 DEBRA J. CODY, CHAIR

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Tassone, Mr. Bush

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ms. Kuhn, Mrs. Ervin

**ALSO ATTENDING:** See attached

Chair Cody called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. *A motion was made by Mr. Bush, seconded by Mrs. Tassone, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

### **1. Memorializing Resolution in Support of Requesting Commercial Motor Vehicles to be Mandated to use a Global Positioning System (GPS) that Accounts for Low Bridges and Overpasses**

Mrs. Tassone:

- This is for the Bridge on Onondaga Lake Parkway, which gets hit constantly, tried numerous things and it does not work, still getting hit
- GPS use on trucking devices, for commercial use; they use an infrared system; not enough technology
- GPS tracking device that will cover trucks, buses, rentals, people out of state, this will help save the bridges
- Depends on how long it will take to go through Albany

Chair Cody responded to Mrs. Tassone:

- Albany is only in session from January – June, unless a special session

Mrs. Tassone asked what Albany does with all of the memorializing resolutions. Chair Cody responded:

- Depends if there are enough calls from other counties; not sure if there are other counties with this issue
- NY spent \$4.3 million to prevent vehicles from striking all bridges; issued guidelines, obviously an issue in other parts of the state

Mrs. Tassone said not to mention the 15 million to repair the bridges. Chair Cody said maybe they can check with other counties. Ms. Lesniak said that Ms. McNamara can check with the Clerk's Association, which should get some attention.

Chair Cody stated they will take a tour of the Nature Center, but first Mr. Kelley will give an update of what has been going on, and what projects have been put in place at Beaver Lake.

Mr. Kelley:

- There are 400 programs a year; in the middle of summer camp right now; canoe program is pretty vibrant
- One of the projects from the capital plan is replacing a large section of the boardwalk; seeing some engineering on it right now

Chair Cody asked if the pandemic held it off. Mr. Kelley responded:

- Yes it was pushed off when austerity came out; it is being re-engineered

- Infrastructure is vast; spread out from Fabius to Baldwinsville and each park has its own mission in what they do
- Heidi Kortright has found unique ability with her team to stay laser focused on that mission of education and being a nature center; important for Parks Department commission for families
- Ms. Kortright has found and stayed focused on education; has a great team

Chair Cody asked if the boardwalk had to be closed down due to all the rain. Ms. Kortright responded:

- No, for most of spring and summer the water was low; 2017 had a lot of water and flooding
- Last year was not a good year with the pandemic; people needed to go somewhere and get away from home, especially people with small children
- Saw a large increase in attendance; it is quiet, there are grills, hotdogs, music, walks
- Also saw an increase in memberships; people that came were very happy
- Interesting part of Beaver Lake is that it was privately owned by an attorney that lived in Baldwinsville; they wanted to get away from the village; bought property in the 1930's; family approached the state to build this out, but they were not interested; directed to the county who fortunately let them build this out
- It was once someone's home; about 700 acres

Mr. Kelley:

- During the pandemic, everything shut down; had record revenue numbers; showed here at Beaver Lake
- Kudos to Ms. Kortright and her team, took a lot of juggling

Mr. Bush said a million plus was budgeted for the boardwalk, and asked how they will get it done using the same amount of money now that is has been pushed off. Mr. Kelly replied:

- Waiting on updated numbers, price of lumber has sky rocketed; \$1.1 million, maybe a little high; still pretty sure they will be right there around that number

Mr. Bush:

- Like to build things, but have to maintain them; always seem to cut short because of a project; certain materials will extend life rather than cut corners

Mr. Kelley:

- The infrastructure ages; what is different about Parks Department infrastructure is that it provides a direct service to public; have to be on top of that for the buildings and infrastructure
- Operating budget at end of year - can free up some money from infrastructure and balance things out
- When presenting Capital Plan, projects have flexibility; what preventive maintenance is based on

**2. BEAVER LAKE NATURE CENTER:**

**a. Tour**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.



DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE  
DATE: JULY 13, 2021

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Judy Tassone	Leg
Ken Bush	Leg
Deb Cody	Leg
Heidi Kortright	Beaver Lake (Parks)
Brian Kelley	Parks
John DeSantis	Leg
Evette Velasco	Leg
Darcie Lesniak	Leg