

# **TOWN OF CORINTH, TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**October 14, 2021**

**6:00PM**

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

### **ROLL CALL:**

Supervisor Lucia  
Councilman Butler  
Councilman Byrnes  
Councilman Collura  
Councilman Halliday  
Bookkeeper Halliday  
EMS Coordinator Fogarty  
Highway Superintendent Eggleston  
Town Clerk Peris

### **EXCUSED:**

Councilman Collura  
Councilman Halliday  
Bookkeeper Halliday  
Building/Code Officer Brooks

### **PRAYER:**

Prayer given by Supervisor Lucia

### **HAL RAVEN PRESENTATION:**

Looking to receive approval for Tourist Operation of the Town owned Railroad. Would like to be up and running by spring. The Town Board was given a copy of the plans. A discussion was held regarding the presentation and the following was discussed.

\*Councilman Butler---Test Run for the Train-would it have people on it or not? Hal Ravens---We would put the rail cars together and possibly put some local folks on board for the test run.

\*Councilman Byrnes---Condition of the Tracks? Hal Ravens-----operable, no issue with the current track conditions. Could maintain cargo speed of 25 MPH and passenger 30 MPH. We are looking to go 10-15MPH. General Maintenance needs to be done and with regular use many of those items would be eliminated.

Would it be expensive to get the rail up to standard for freight? Hal----It is ready now. Would need to be maintained, trees trimmed, brush cutting, vegetation removed etc.

What is the cost for bringing crossings up to spec. and to maintain? Hal----Would need to get more information. May need to do a manual crossing to start.

Would it be a 1-year lease at a time? Hal----Yes to start

\*Public-Kiley Crooks---how many passengers would Max Capacity be? Hal 50-75 per car. Ideally a total of 100-150.

Certified engineers report from 1 year ago-could the public get a copy. Steve Fisk will send a copy to the Supervisor to be distributed.

Cost ---proposal -full cost analysis before it could run. Looking to see a long- term plan.

\*Jim Martin----has limited experience from a planning perspective. Keeping with the Town's comprehensive plan. Believe the Mill site is still viable. Value in Rail line & community. Intriguing proposal---would need to have constant things for rider to do to make it viable. Great idea with lots of caring & commitment.

## **SNOWMOBILE PRESENTATION:**

Chaz Albertson, President of the Saratoga Snowmobile Association. Currently has 1120 members (134 Corinth members). Voted #1 Snowmobile club in New York State. Organized group with a \$135,000.00 budget, grooming equipment, operators along with volunteers. Asking for approval to use the rail tracks to connect with Warren County. Will ask for approval and funding from NYS

to maintain trail-put up signs-warnings, etc. Association will carry a non aggregated insurance policy. Town would have no liability during the snowmobile season.

RESOLUTION NO.: 234  
INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Byrnes  
WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION  
SECONDED BY: Councilman Butler  
DATE: 10-14-2021

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH SARATOGA SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR LICENSE TO ACCESS TOWN OF CORINTH RAILROAD FACILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the default of Saratoga and North Creek Railway, the Town owned rail facility is not currently being used for rail traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Saratoga Snowmobile Association, Inc., has requested permission to create and maintain a snowmobile trail that would connect NY State Snowmobile Trails S49 and S80 via a new trail located in part on the Town's rail tracks; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board finds that the creation and maintenance of such a connector trail would be in the best interests of the residents of the Town, by adding recreational and economic value for the Town as a whole and that such access presents only minimal risk that can be mitigated;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Corinth Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to execute an Agreement in such form as the Supervisor and Town Counsel approve, so long as the Agreement includes the following minimum terms and conditions:

The Agreement shall constitute a revocable license for the Saratoga Snowmobile Association, Inc. to create, maintain and operate its trail system on Town property and at such specific locations from the north boundary of the Byrnes property to Anton Mountain Road as shown on the attached map;

The license shall be revocable and terminable at will in the sole discretion of the Town;

Prior to any use of the Town property, the Saratoga Snowmobile Association, Inc. shall inspect the license area, including the rail bed, tracks and any other portion of Town property, real and personal, to be used and report, in writing, to the Town Board specifying the condition and any existing damage or irregularity in the Town property;

The Town reserves the right to follow up any such inspection report with its own inspection prior to any use under the license agreement;

The Saratoga Snowmobile Association, Inc. will have an obligation to close the portion of the trail from County Route 10 and including all portions of the trail on Town property in the event there is not sufficient snow to allow safe use of Town property that will not damage the rail facility;

The Town reserves the right to mandate closure of the trail on Town property on account of insufficient snow or needs of the Town regarding the rail facility;

In the event of a closure of the trail based on insufficient snow, the Association shall not operate any grooming equipment on the rail facility;

The Saratoga Snowmobile Association, Inc. shall provide liability insurance naming the Town of Corinth as an additional insured for any claim or loss on account of property damage, personal injury or death with minimum limits of \$2,000,000.00 per occurrence and shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Town from any such loss or claim regardless of insurance limits;

The Agreement shall include such other provisions deemed appropriate and in furtherance of this Resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER,**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board authorizes and directs the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk and/or Town Counsel to take any actions necessary to effect this Resolution.

Duly adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES : 3

ABSENT: 2

NOES : 0

Motion Passed

## RESOLUTION# 235

### **That the Town Board Supports renaming Negro Hill to Fitch Hill, In Honor of the Bravery of the Fitch Family to Free Enslaved Americans and as a sign that Corinth is and Continues to be a Community of Welcome for all.**

A Motion by Councilman Butler and Seconded by Councilman Byrnes to Support the renaming of Negro Hill to Fitch Hill, In Honor of the Bravery of the Fitch Family to Free Enslaved Americans and as a sign that Corinth is and continues to be a Community of Welcome for All.

Whereas, Negro Hill is a hill in the Town of Corinth, New York, with coordinates Latitude 43.1255°N and Longitude 073.5514°W and is a recognized place name with the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Board of Geographic Names (BGN), the federal agency responsible for maintaining the database of federally recognized place names in the United States and with the authority to approve requests to change the names of such recognized places,

Whereas, Negro Hill appears on the 1942 Saratoga, NY, 1:62,500 scale USGS topographical map as "Nigger Hill" and the 1955 Lake Luzerne 1:62,500 scale USGS topographical map as "Negro Hill,"

Whereas United States Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, in 1963, mandated that "Negro" will replace "Nigger" in all federally recognized place names,

Whereas, Negro Hill was likely named as such in the late 19th century and early 20th century through local usage as a result of oral and written reports of the efforts of the family of Henry and Laura Fitch, a black couple who maintained a cabin near the summit of the hill, to conduct escaped slaves northward across the hill and toward freedom in Canada, as recounted by A.M. Hollister (*WPA Historical Survey of Corinth and The Country School Master and His Pupils*), Mabel Pitkin Shorey (*The early history of Corinth, once known as Jessup's Landing*), Tom Calarco (*The Underground Railroad in the Adirondack Region*) and most recently, by Rebecca Wasserman in her March 7, 2021, historical essay, *Fitch Hill*.

Whereas, the enslavement of black Americans was immoral and assisting in their escape from slavery was a noble and heroic exercise that carried serious and grave risks to anyone engaged in it, especially to free black Americans and especially following the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which made assisting escaped slaves an illegal act,

Whereas, Corinth, NY, has a history of being anti-slavery, including hosting meetings in the 1840's of the Liberty Party, a 19th century abolitionist political party, as recounted by Tom Calarco in *The Search for the Underground Railroad*.

Whereas, referring to this hill as "Nigger" and "Negro" is offensive, because the N-word is a slur meant to degrade black Americans and the name "Negro Hill" perpetuates a sense that black Americans are different from other Americans and continues to hide the heroism of the Fitch family,

Whereas, the USGS BGN is actively seeking to replace place names that include "Negro," its Policies allow for commemorative names for persons with a "direct or long-term association with the feature, or have made a significant contribution to the area..." and proposals for name changes are made in cooperation with local governments,

Whereas, a request of the Board of the Town of Corinth to pass a resolution of support for the renaming of Negro Hill after the Fitch family has been made, supported by individuals, associations and corporations of individuals around Negro Hill and the Corinth Librarian, the Corinth Town Historian, the Saratoga County Historian and the New York State Historian,

Now be it resolved,

That the Board of Councilmen and Supervisor of the Town of Corinth supports renaming Negro Hill to Fitch Hill, in honor of the bravery of the Fitch family to free enslaved Americans and as a sign that Corinth is and continues to be a community of welcome for all.

Duly adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES : 3

ABSENT: 2

NOES : 0

Motion Passed

**APA PROJECT:** the Town Board received notice of a project at the former Koch Property.

**BRIDGE LETTER:** letter received concerning the Pine St. Bridge. Highway Superintendent will evaluate the Bridge.

**4-H NEWS:** information given to board regarding 4-H Halloween Extravaganza

**HEALTHY CORINTH:** meeting minutes given to board

**SHERRIFF STATS:** Given to the Board

**MORTGAGE TAX REPORT:** Aug. 2021 \$17,792.50 Sept. 2021 \$23,788.00

**FALL FESTIVAL:** Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> 12-4PM. Live music, food vendors, face painting, pony rides, pumpkin decorating, 25 vendors, PTSA, Booster Club, Ax throwing, Coloring Contest, Basket Raffle. Rain projected may shift to Sunday.

### **RESOLUTION #236**

#### **TO APPROVE TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES DATED 09/23/2021.**

A Motion by Councilman Byrnes and Seconded by Councilman Butler to Approve Town Board Meeting Minutes Dated 09/23/2021.

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Excused 2

Motion Passed

**2021 ABSTRACT**

**Abstracts for 10/14/2021**

Voucher A -210481-210511

B -212318-212339

CM -217200-217218

DB -213255-213279

General Fund A \$ 21,743.17

General Fund/Outside Village - B \$ 9,502.70

Community Development Grant -CDGB \$

Highway/Part Town - DB \$ 77,352.81

Medical - CM \$ 15,409.92

Home improvement \$

Fire - SF \$

SW Consolidated Water 220014-220015 \$ 47,865.49

**Sewer/ Water**

Eastern Avenue \$

Tranquility \$

Passarelli \$

Dorset \$

Corinth #5 \$

**Lighting**

Eastern Avenue 215010 \$ 257.81

Eggleston Avenue 216010 \$ 133.94

South Corinth 214010 \$ 222.49

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**TOTAL \$172,488.33**

**RESOLUTION# 237**

**TO APPROVE BILL-PAY ABSTRACT DATED 10/14/2021 TOTALING \$172,488.33.**

A Motion by Councilman Butler and Seconded by Councilman Byrnes to Approve Bill-Pay Abstract dated 10/14/2021 totaling \$172,488.33.

Ayes	3
Nays	0
Excused	2

Motion Passed

**EMS:** nothing to report

**REPORTS:** The Town Board received the following reports:

- Bookkeeper
- Highway
- Building
- Seniors
- Landfill
- Town Clerk

**PUBLIC:** nothing from the public

**TOWN BOARD:**

**COUNCILMAN BUTLER:** Nothing further to report

**COUNCILMAN BYRNES:** Nothing further to report

**TOWN CLERK:** Nothing further to report

**ATTORNEY:** items for attorney-client only

**HIGHWAY:** During budget talks asked to purchase a truck original price \$195,000.00 current price \$136,000 which is a savings of \$60,000.00. Prices will change 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. Would be paid for in 2022. Can we order now?



Also, the Skid Steer loader with planer head original \$95,000.  
Can purchase now for \$69789.00. Enough left in budget to cover can we  
purchase now?

Town board said yes to both.

**RESOLUTION #238**

**TO ADJOURN TO ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVLAGE.**

A Motion by Councilman Butler and Seconded by Councilman Byrnes to Adjourn  
to Attorney-Client Privilege

Ayes	3
Nays	0
Excused	2

Motion Passed

Respectfully Submitted by  
Brenda Peris, Town Clerk