

GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

August 19, 2025

Present: Andrea Moroughan, Chair; Josh Leviker, Vice-Chair; Herb Frost; Thomas Kalamas; and Jeff Nellenback.

Legislator Moroughan called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Winter Recreation Plan – Jackie Mahoney, Director of Recreation, Forestry & Parks and SE Group

Jackie Mahoney introduced Dayton who is the one working on the Winter Recreation Plan from the SE Group. Dayton outlined her presentation on Lewis County Non-Motorized Winter Recreation Plan with Overview & Goals; The Process; The Commons Winter Rec Plan; and Near Term Implementation.

The Overview & Goals was about trying to coordinate recreational uses with adjacent state land; defining and improving winter access; identifying grooming/maintenance routes and needs; activating space for non-motorized use; improving wayfinding for all winter recreation uses; and building a family friendly winter destination. Dayton showed maps that showed The Commons, parking areas, county lands, and various trails from snowmobile to ATV.

The Process of creating this Plan was several 2025 winter and summer engagement sessions, survey's, and stakeholder meetings. This was over 41 direct conversations and 215 survey responses. The Community Themes that were gathered were Access & Wayfinding; Use Conflicts; Maintenance, Grooming, and Funding; and Economic and Community Impact. Under the Access & Wayfinding theme there was a desire for expanded access points and longer non-motorized routes; need for more and better signage, maps, and interactive navigation tools; and a need for clear trail usage rules to avoid confusion and conflict.

Under the theme Use Conflicts it stated that many value the economic benefits and access provided by motorized vehicles (ATVs/snowmobiles); others worry about trail damage, noise, safety, and law enforcement; and Lewis County plays well together: with better trail designation, signage, and enforcement desired, rather than eliminating any uses.

Under Maintenance, Grooming, and Funding theme there was a desire for improved maintenance (especially for groomed Nordic ski trails), and concern about funding for trail improvements. Lastly under Economic and Community Impact theme it was stated that motorized recreation is seen as a key driver of local tourism revenue; Non-motorized users seek better access and infrastructure to support year-round tourism and recreation; and Family friendly, Beginner friendly winter recreation opportunities are desired.

Under the Commons Winter Rec Plan there are near term goals and mid/long term goals. The near term goals included improving the southern trailhead; opening a northern trailhead; grooming cross-country ski loops; updating and improving wayfinding; and expanding campsites to norther parcels. The mid/long term goals included rerouting

snowmobile access, building ice ribbon; expanding backcountry trail network; building a northeaster trailhead; and enhancing the whole trail system with backcountry amenities.

The immediate priorities are wayfinding designs, the recommendations are to create design details sufficient to get a bid from signage fabricator, then propose quantity and installation locations to guide installations. Grooming equipment, the recommendations are to create specific recommendations and cost estimates for standing sleds, grooming attachments for cross-country ski trails, and an enclosed trailer. Trailhead Amenities, the recommendations are for Four Season amenities to support access and comfort at trailhead, including restrooms and screens, seating areas, and wayfinding/signage.

By early September the 1st draft of the plan will be ready for review and by November the final draft should be finished.

Lewis County Solid Waste Rate Increases for 2026 – Kip Turck, Director of Solid Waste

Kip Turck explained that the upcoming fee increases would begin January 1, 2026 for both construction and demolition (C&D) as well as municipal solid waste (MSW). The rates are set to increase to \$110.00 per ton, alongside adjustments to tire disposal fees. The draft resolution outlined all the new fees. Legislator Frost questioned if the new dashboard data helped to determine what fees needed to be increased, Kip responded that it did. County Manager Tim Hunt mentioned that with more regulations coming down on DANC it means that there could be fee increases every year.

Legislator Moroughan moved to approve the July 14, 2025 committee meeting minutes as recorded, seconded by Legislator Frost, and carried.

County Manager Tim Hunt reported that yesterday Director of Recreation Forestry & Parks Jackie Mahoney opened the Lee Gulf Trail. Tim asked if there was any interest among legislators for a side-by-side ride of this trail, and many responded that they would be. Tim will set something up and invite the Senator, Assemblyman, Lobbyist and the Sheriff.

The following draft resolutions were reviewed:

1. Amending surcharge and direct haul fees for the Solid Waste Department for 2026.
AYE 5 NAY 0
2. Adopting Local Law No. 6-2025 "The 2025 Amended Local Law Regulating and Permitting Special Events on County Roads, Trails or Other County Property and on any Town Roads and Property where the Town has opted in."
AYE 5 NAY 0
3. Awarding the bid and authorizing agreement with Bronze Contracting, LLC for demolition of collapsed and condemned structure at 1057 Ammon Road in West Leyden at a cost of \$33,400.00 with funds coming from the HAL Capital Reserve. *Legislator Dolhof questioned if the property owner had signed it over to the county yet, County Attorney Joan McNichol stated that they had not which is why this resolution is needed to move forward with the demolition, but she will continue to work with them on that process. Legislator Dolhof asked for clarification on what HAL is, County Treasurer Eric Virkler responded that it is the Capital Account used for the demolition and removal of properties with about \$400,000.00 left.*

AYE 5 NAY 0

4. Authorizing the Department of Recreation, Forestry & Parks to apply for up to \$125,000 in Adirondack Park and Catskill Park Community Smart Growth Program funding and if awarded to authorize acceptance of the funds and enter into an agreement to implement phase 1 of the Winter Recreational Trail Development Plan in areas within the Adirondack Park boundary.

AYE 5 NAY 0

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Nellenback moved to adjourn at 1:30 p.m., seconded by Legislator Frost, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board