

## A Brief History of Lake Park, 1934 to 1938

by Devon A. Taylor, Mayville Historian

On August 9, 1934, Mayor Andrew A. Carlson called a special meeting of the Village Board which was held in the office of the Mayville Realty Co. on Thursday night August 9, 1934, at 9:30 P.M. for the purpose of discussing the purchase of the property owned and occupied by the Pittsburgh Ice Co., described as follows:

Beginning at a point at the bounds of the highway leading from Mayville to Chautauqua and 33 feet northwesterly from the northwest corner of lands owned by Dickenson and Wife and noted on map made by C. Eugene Bently as the Riser property, thence northeasterly parallel to the Dickenson northerly line and 33 feet distant therefrom the shores of Chautauqua Lake, thence along the shores of Chautauqua Lake to the lands of the Pennsylvania R.R., thence southwesterly along the right of way of the Pennsylvania R.R. to lands of the State Highway, thence southeasterly along the highway to the place of the beginning. The foregoing property, as described, contains about (10) acres of land, and has a frontage of about 1050 feet on Chautauqua Lake, to be the same more or less.

After a discussion of the proposition, it was decided to buy the property and the following resolution was made by I.L. Davis and seconded by C.E. Helgran.

Resolved that the Village of Mayville, N.Y. purchase the property above described for a sum not to exceed (\$6,000.00) Six Thousand Dollars to be paid on delivery of a Holland Land Co. search to date, showing a free, clear and unencumbered marketable title, together with a warranty deed conveying the above premises. The property to be used for Village Park purposes.

Adopted:

A roll call vote was taken as follows.

Aye: Carlson, Davis, Hitchcock, Sommers and Helgran.

Nay: None.

Signed by:

Andrew A. Carlson - Mayor

Ira L. Davis - Trustee

Edwin G. Hitchcock - Trustee

George W. Sommers, Jr. - Trustee

Chester H. Helgran - Trustee

A Special Meeting was duly called by the Mayor on Thursday evening September 20, 1934, at seven o'clock. The following resolution was presented and voted upon.

Resolved that the Village of Mayville purchase from Elizabeth O. Moore, property known as the "Union Ice Company Property" and described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land situate in the Town of Chautauqua, County of Chautauqua and State of New York, same being a part of the lands conveyed to Frank H. Chace by the Union Ice Company by warranty deed bearing date of February 2nd, 1926, and recorded in Liber 530 of deeds at page 209 in Chautauqua County Clerk's Office, said lands being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at an iron stake set in the bounds of the highway running from Mayville to Chautauqua and at the northwesterly corner of lands owned by William Dickinson and Anne Dickenson; deed of which was recorded on March 11th, 1919, in Liber 428 on page 300; running thence northwesterly for a distance of 367 feet to an iron stake; thence

southeasterly for a distance of 217.8 feet to an iron stake; thence northwesterly to a point where the southerly line of the Dickenson property, if extended, would reach Chautauqua Lake; thence northerly; along the shores of Chautauqua Lake to the lands owned or controlled by the Pennsylvania Rail Road; thence southeasterly along the line of the Pennsylvania Rail Road to the lands of the State Highway to the place of beginning.

Said property to cost the sum of \$6,500.00. It is further resolved that the property be used for Park purposes and to be under the control of the Village Board of Trustees.

This was passed unanimously, and the property was paid for in two checks. Check number 326 in the amount of \$400.00 and check number 327 in the amount of \$6,100.00.

With the completion of the purchase of these two adjoining properties, the village secured a plot of land nearly 12 acres in size as reported in the newspaper of September 27, 1934 (see final page). The purchase was made in cash, with no increase in tax rate or issuance of bonds.

The paper also reported that, "The site is now being cleared of weeds and will be available for use next Summer for picnics and other recreational activities. With a little work, the beach property will be made one of the best on the lake for swimming and will compare with that at Sandy Bottom at Hartfield. The beach has a gradual slope which assures the safety of those who cannot swim and makes it an ideal spot for bathing."

A Special Meeting was held on Wednesday evening, December 12, 1934, at 8 o'clock with the Mayor and all Trustees present for the purpose of meeting with the Planning Board.

All members of the Planning Board were present and agreed to serve. George Dudley was appointed as temporary Chairman.

The Village proposed to the Planning Board, in part, that a Running Commission make a study of the Village and work out a plan for betterment that could be carried out over a period of years unaffected by changes in administration, etc.

The new Board was given no fixed leads, but it was stated that the matter of first importance was the new park and bathing beach.

"At the present time we have cleared the land and beach and built a road so that the park is now accessible and available for limited purposes."

All members of the Village Board of Trustees were present at a Friday June 21st, 1935, Special Meeting that was held to discuss plans for a bath house for the Park. The meeting was adjourned with no definite action taken. Another Special Meeting was held on Monday evening July 8, 1935. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss specifications of the proposed bath house. Again, no action was taken.

At a regular meeting held on October 1, 1935, Village Clerk Ben W. Graper was asked to insert the following ad in the Mayville Sentinel. "Wanted - Prices on 4 inch to 6 inch Maple Trees delivered at Village Lake Park." He was also to have a Notice posted in the park, "Notice - \$10.00 Reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone damaging property in the Village Park." Next a Special Meeting of the Trustees was held Tuesday evening, November 12, 1935, at the Peacock Inn at 7:30 P.M. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the purchase of shade trees for the Village Park. It was agreed to purchase 150 Silver Maple Trees @ 85 cents each for the Lake Park.

On April 21, 1936, a budget was adopted that included, under the General Fund, \$2,000.00 for a Bathhouse, Pavilion, and other Park Improvements. A hearing for the adopted budget was scheduled for Tuesday April 28, 1936.

A Special Meeting of the Trustees of the Village was called on Monday evening April 27, 1936, with all members present. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss plans and

specifications for Bath House on Lake Front Park.

The Village Clerk was instructed to," advertise for bids requiring a \$5.00 Deposit for those wishing to take copies of specifications. All bids are to be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond amounting to not less than 5% of the amount of the base bid. Said check to be made payable to the Village Board, Mayville, N.Y. Said check to become forfeited should contractor be lowest bidder and refuse to enter into contract with said Village Board for the sum named in his bid or proposal. The successful bidder on this work will be required to furnish a security bond furnished by a reliable and satisfactory bonding company for at least 50% of the amount of the contract. The cost of said Bond to be borne by successful contractor and to be included in his bid figure. Bond to be satisfactory to Village Board. In lieu of Bond, satisfactory evidence of responsibility shall be furnished. The Village board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Bids shall be delivered to the office of the Village Clerk at Mayville, N.Y. not later than noon on Saturday May 9, 1936.

On Monday May 11, 1936, bids on building the bathing pavilion were opened but placed on the table for further discussion. Further discussion took place at a Special Meeting held May 13, 1936, but no definite action was taken. Action was finally taken on May 21, 1936, during a Thursday night meeting held at the village office. Mr. Alfred Farr was present, and it was argued by the Board to buy the lumber for the Bath Pavilion from Farr Lumber Company. At the June 16, 1936, meeting, Trustee George Sommers made a motion that a check for \$500.00 be drawn in favor of Farr Lumber Company as part payment on the bath house. It was seconded by Ira Davis and passed. A final check, number 1413, for \$1,105.89 was paid to Farr Lumber as authorized at a regular meeting on July 21, 1936. A Special Meeting had been held at the Village Lake Park for inspection on Monday evening June 22, 1936.

On July 14, 1936; a Special Meeting was held at Village Park to meet with the Recreational Instructors. Plans for the summer program were discussed and the instructors were asked to submit their requisition list for materials needed. Village Clerk Ben Graper was also asked to place an "ad" in the Sentinel for applications for a concession in the Village Park.

Walter Kane was given permission to run a concession at a Special Meeting held July 27, 1936. The terms Kane agreed to were as follows:

"This Agreement entered into between the Mayville Village Board and Walter Kane provides as follows: The Village agrees to permit said Walter Kane the privilege of checking clothes; the checking cost not to exceed 10 cents per person. The Village also grants permission to sell soft drinks, ice cream, candies and such other commodities as will not conflict with Park Rules and Regulations.

The said Walter Kane agrees to keep bath-house clean and orderly and to see that same is not defaced.

This agreement to run for the balance of the season of 1936 and not later than October 15th.

The Board retains the right to terminate this agreement for just cause."

At a Regular Meeting, held August 18, 1936; "It is resolved that \$15.00 be paid to the Recreation Program to help defray expenses for the Field Day Meet at Village Park on Saturday August 22nd."

W. Marsh was present at the November 3, 1936, meeting requesting permission to place his Steamboat on the Village Lake Park for the winter months. Permission was granted, "providing he would sign an agreement to have his boat removed by May 1st, 1937, and leave

the property in exactly the same condition as prior to leaving the boat, and in event the boat is not removed by said date, the Village has the authority to have it removed at Mr. Marsh's expense or at the expense of his heirs." Mr. Marsh had previously been given permission to build a dock at the left end of the shoreline at the Village Lake Park. This permission had been granted at the July 7, 1936, board meeting.

It was noted in the newspaper, September 19, 1936, that, "Instruction Was Given to Nearly 6,000 Persons at Lake Park This Season." Attendance figures for the work done by the Chautauqua County Adult Education Program in Mayville during the past summer show a large number of people who took advantage of the opportunities offered them, both at the ballpark and the new Lakeside Park.

The two teachers, Phillip Skeps and Marjorie Russell, were called upon to give instruction to some 5,744 persons from July 14 to August 28. Besides this number, there were many more that merely took advantage of the park for swimming and did not attend any of the swimming or lifesaving classes. The most popular of the courses offered was swimming, with an aggregate attendance in classes of 1,995 persons.

The work in Mayville is under the supervision of a county committee, whose chairman is Homer S. Block, of Lakewood. The immediate supervision is done by the local committee composed of George Sommers, I.L. Davis, A.A. Carlson, E.G. Hitchcock and C.E. Helgran.

The budget for 1937 was proposed at a meeting held for that purpose on April 15, 1937. \$500.00 was included for Park Improvement and Expense. At a May 18, 1937, meeting, a motion was approved that the Clerk order 4 Doz. Beach Baskets @ \$3.25 per Dozen. Special Meeting, June 22, 1937, Tuesday evening 8:00 P.M. - The meeting was called for the purpose of meeting prospective Lifeguards for Lake Park. Mr. Alfred Livecchi, chairman of Adult Recreation, was present and introduced Mr. Wolfe who took over the duties of Lifeguard and Recreation at Lake Park. Discussion on building a Band Stand for the Park also took place with no action taken. Special Meeting, July 13, 1937; Tuesday evening, 8 o'clock - Miss Virginia Elander of Lakewood came before the Board to apply for the position of Playground Instructor for Lake Side Park. The Board agreed to hire Miss Elander at a salary of \$20.00 per week for the balance of the summer.

September 7, 1937, Regular Meeting; It was moved by Sommers and seconded by Davis that the following Resolution, "that the Hickman property, Water St. N1-vacant 3/4 acre and Erie St. W1-vacant 2 acres, recently purchased by the Village be used for Park purposes." The motion was carried.

At a June 28, 1938, meeting, the Board agreed to have a telephone installed at Lake Park as per the price quoted by Mr. Appleby of Mayville Telephone Co. at \$18.00 for the first year and \$16.00 thereafter for the summer season.