

# Notes from May 2011 Board of Trustees Meeting

From the Desk of Hugh A. Butler, President, Chautauqua Property Owners Association

## **RE: Chautauqua Institution Trustees Meetings May 6-7, 2011**

Following are my impressions and notes from the recent sessions held in the Colonnade and Bellinger Hall with most of the Trustees and senior staff in attendance. I was an observer in the Program Policy and Asset Policy Committee meetings as well as in the full Trustees meeting on Saturday.

My privilege in being welcomed to these proceedings has been enlarged by a great sense of accomplishment which arises from the impressive array of talent and intelligence which these people bring to the task of sustaining and improving the Institution and its environs. Their dedication and love of this place and are evident are a factor in all the weighty deliberations I saw.

Items of interest to property owners are the only ones I report here, though I was fortunate to hear about program elements and other interesting matters.

### ***Turner (North) Gate***

Two entry lanes will be created soon, if the good weather holds, routing all traffic from 394 at the north entrance through the wrought iron gates and past a gatehouse now being planted in the asphalt of the interior parking lot. This will diminish the number of parking stalls inside the gate. No entry will be available through the south highway road during the season. Parking outside to the front of the Turner center will still be available.

A walking path will be painted from Palestine up the right side of the Hurst parking lot, eliminating some parallel parking spots, thence across the grass above the tennis courts leading to the back entrance of the building.

The building at the end of Hurst on the highway which houses theater equipment will be inside the fence as that gate is no longer functional.

### ***Storm Water Drainage***

A significant federal grant will supplement perhaps a third of the costs projected in last November's report. The grant is in recognition of the Institution's innovation and leadership in key areas of water quality improvements.

A number of property owners have been taking steps to ameliorate the overall drainage problem by adopting "dry well" approaches rather than sending run-off into the storm drains.

Drains around Bestor Plaza will be cleared by season opening, giving some relief from rain and mud puddles but the larger project of running new drainage lines down Pratt to the Scott Avenue ravine will be delayed until the fall.

### ***Road Projects***

Also on the list of work which is largely funded by the real estate transfer fees, contracts have been let for significant road rebuilding on Scott and Peck as well as along portions of South Lake Drive and Maple Avenue.

The new Community tab on [www.ciweb.org](http://www.ciweb.org) is updated periodically to display project status and other items of interest to property owners.

Director of Operations, Doug Conroe, has mailed letters to property owners nearby to several of these projects with specific information about impact to their ability to access their property during construction. With cooperation from the weather, these projects should be completed by June.

### ***ALU Study Group***

Bob Jeffrey (CPOA Area 6 representative) Chairs this body of 16, representing many aspects of property owners, renters and developers on the grounds which met Wednesday, May 4. Bob reports that the group has a lot on its plate but he is confident they will produce a workable report in time for the Trustees meeting in November.

President Tom Becker once remarked that our community is difficult to compare to others in that we grew up around a program rather than the other way around. This and our historical landmark status presents additional burdens on land use planning. Feedback on architecture and land use issues should be directed to Bob or other members of the group (see community news on website for complete list) including CPOA Area 3 representative, Markie McCarthy.