

## Commerce committee meeting summary for February 2, 2016

### Attended:

Members M. Friedenauer, G. Campbell  
Assembly members Case, Lapham  
Employee Leslie Ross  
Mike Eberhardt Park Superintendent, Bill Thomas, Albert Kookesh-  
Governor's office, all by phone  
Sean Gaffney, Park Ranger Travis Russell, Trooper Neason, Bear Foundation  
Shannon Donahue and Pam Randles, Debra Schanbel (chamber), Jeanie  
Kitayama  
Reporters: Karen Garcia, Emily Files

Began discussion to review edits of the Property Tax incentive program. Further changes suggested. Please see other breakdown and emails for detail on that discussion.

### Chilkoot Lake road discussion

The road ownership has transferred from DOT to DNR, and Parks will be managing. Park's regulations now apply.

The improvement project, funded 4 years ago, is on hold until final contract documents can be finished, and the construction can be completed with minimal disturbance to the public activities, timing is the issue.

Note that the plans have been set aside waiting a few years for the DOT DNR discussion to be resolved, it is presently not the top priority for the Park's Statewide folks; Director Ben Ellis is the person to contact on this issue.

Mr. Eberhardt stated that the road will be treated like a highway for public access. Only for safety will it be closed. He stated he cannot think of a time in the past in which any situation would have qualified the required level to close the road.

Parks does not have money to increase staff to add a bear monitor  
Leslie Ross, Director of Tourism and Sean Gaffney brought up questions as to the possibility if the position was borough funded, and stated that TAB is working on this suggestion.

Campbell moved for the recommend to the assembly to have Mr. Thomas work towards getting the improvements moved to the top of Parks priorities, Friedenauer seconded, both voted yes.

Trooper Neason announced that Haines will have a Wildlife Trooper stationed here May 1<sup>st</sup>.