

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2016  
INDIAN ISLAND GOLF COURSE  
RIVERHEAD, NEW YORK**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Arthur Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton

**ABSENT**

Kathleen Gooding	Vice Chair, Town of Shelter Island
Terence McSweeney	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Michael Rosato	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton
VACANT	Member at Large

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Tony Trotta	Superintendent
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

**GUESTS**

Legislator Al Krupski	1 <sup>st</sup> Legislative District
Laura Halloran	Budget Review Office

**PUBLIC PORTION**

There were no members of the public present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2016**

Page 3, Chair's Report, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> to last sentence – Chair Hopkins is very hopeful that the Lake Foundation will contribute \$4,000.00 and perhaps the second year **will be picked up through fundraising.**

**A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Cardillo. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**

## COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson welcomed Legislator Krupski and Laura Halloran, representing the Budget Review Office.

Commissioner Dawson reported that I.R. 1071, pertaining to changes made to the fee structure that the trustees approved at the last meeting passed the Legislature without issue. Two housing agreements (North Fork Preserve and the building at Mill Pond in St. James) and nine fundraisers were also on the agenda and all were approved as well.

The golf courses re-opened for the new season on March 11<sup>th</sup> and the courses are all in good shape.

Commissioner Dawson asked Terry Maccarrone to give a brief presentation on the capital budget program that was sent to the Parks Trustees for their review prior to the meeting. What was adopted in the previous year's capital budget was not deviated from very much because of the current budget crunch.

The only big change in the capital budget program is in CP 7507 which is Blydenburgh County Park. In 2017, \$500,000.00 was added in construction funds to be put back into the capital budget because there was \$500,000.00 that was to be appropriated last year but it was used as an offset for another project at DPW and so those funds were lost. As a result, Parks has requested that those funds be placed back in but it must be voted on and approved first. The County Executive and Budget Review Office will review the proposed budget and come up with their own final adopted budget.

Commissioner Dawson stated that when Parks acquires capital funds the department tries to do as much work as possible in-house in order to stretch dollars. Last winter, the Parks Department completed a project at Timber Point marina and saved approximately \$2 million. Parks bought the materials and did all the electrical and deck work in-house. A few years back, Parks also installed water at the campgrounds at Cedar Point CP in-house. The electric was upgraded at Southaven CP two years ago and both last year and this year there has been an increase in reservations made.

Terry added that the Parks Trustees could see an example of a capital project currently in the works right at Indian Island GC at Hole #5. A bulk head was replaced (working with DPW) because the sea wall had deteriorated and the green was re-configured.

**A motion to approve the proposed capital budget as presented was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Sickles. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**

Commissioner Dawson also asked for approval of the Cathedral Pines CP Master Plan that was presented at the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chair Hopkins inquired as to how long the project would take. Commissioner Dawson stated that this is a multi-phase project and would depend on the funding received. Nick Gibbons reported that the planning phase has already been completed and an environmental review approved, and it will not need to be re-visited. Terry added that the consultant made a series of recommendations but that Parks may choose not to implement every one of them and may decide to institute some of them at a later date.

Commissioner Dawson added that once updated amenities are added to a park, usage increases right away as occurred at Cedar Point CP. Electric, water and sewer availability are always the services most requested by the public.

**A motion to approve moving forward with the Cathedral Pines CP Master Plan was made by Chair Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Leudesdorf. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**

Legislator Krupski thanked all for the old saw mill from Cathedral Pines CP that he was able to acquire for the Long Island Antique Power Association. They were very grateful for the donation and have an old saw mill up and running at their facility on Sound Avenue in Riverhead which is very impressive.

Legislator Krupski reported that there was a meeting earlier this week to discuss use of the parcel adjacent on the west side to North Fork Preserve. The County preserved the parcel as farmland in 1991 and now it has to be farmed every two years in order to remain compliant with Chapter 8 law. It is of great interest in the community to learn how it will be farmed and it will need to be decided upon over the coming year. Commissioner Dawson stated that the County has a few ideas that it is currently reviewing for use of the parcel.

Legislator Krupski reported that he had received a constituent call regarding the Parks reservation system. The constituent plays golf at Indian Island GC and stated that he wasn't able to renew his Green Key at Indian Island which he was always able to do in the past. Commissioner Dawson stated that constituents can renew Green Keys if they provide two proofs of residency, they can renew their Green Key at Indian Island GC and play golf the same day. One proof has to be a photo ID and the other proof must have an address on it. The only thing that someone would need to go to the Parks Operations Office at West Sayville GC for is to prove that they are a disabled veteran who was disabled during service.

Legislator Krupski reported that there is a parcel in Jamesport that he would like to preserve and he created a resolution for it to be preserved as open space. It is a grave site, a ceremonial location and there are artifacts on the parcel which make it valuable to the community. The site would be managed by the Town of Riverhead.

There is a water quality issue at Goldsmith Inlet CP and Legislator Krupski displayed a map to show where the problem lies. The county built a jetty at the inlet back in the 1960's and the town took ownership of it. The sand used to bypass the jetty and cause a lot of erosion. The end of the jetty is now deteriorating so the sand can no longer bypass. It has been listed as impaired by the DEC and the town is suing the DEC because it won't do any more testing for pathogens, which tend to reopen a lot of these water bodies. It is not impaired by road runoff.

Cornell Cooperative did testing years back and determined it to be impaired due to pathogens from wildlife. A meeting was held between the town and DPW to request that the County do a little more dredging because it needs to be done hydraulically. About ten years ago, dredging was done which opened up a huge channel but it filled in again almost immediately. The inlet is almost totally closed up now at low water.

Legislator Krupski stated that it was determined that the Parks Department needs to apply to the S.C. Health Department's Office of Ecology dredge screening committee to perform an environmental quality study and for recommendations to be made. He added that it was also suggested to arrange a meeting between the Health Dept., DPW, Parks Dept., the Town Board and Town Trustees. Commissioner Dawson stated that the Parks Department will contact Bill Hillman, DPW to discuss the possibility of dredging work at the inlet.

Commissioner Dawson asked Nick Gibbons to give an update on the dredging project at Smith Point CP. Nick reported that there are about fifteen dredging days left and it is estimated that the project will be completed by early to mid-April. Work is currently being done right in front of the pavilion and the last phase of the project is underway. Nick is targeting for a May 1<sup>st</sup> opening.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Hopkins requested an update on the bid process for a contractor for the Meschutt CP septic system project. Terry Maccarrone stated that it hasn't started yet and is currently with the Contracts Division. DPW is still hopeful to get it completed by Memorial Day.

Chair Hopkins asked for an update on the concessionaire's request to move ahead with a free standing restroom. Commissioner Dawson stated that it is still in the discussion stages with the concessionaire and design plans need to be submitted.

Chair Hopkins inquired about the erosion problem at Meschut CP. Commissioner Dawson stated that purchase requests went in for 3,500 cubic yards of sand and Parks is working with DPW for assistance, making sure it doesn't interfere with the new septic system project that will be going in. Terry added that Parks has asked DPW to loan a few large excavators and operators to dump the sand. Parks has also asked DPW to fast track a dredge project to nourish the beach since there is only ten feet of beach left and no beach at all when it's high tide. Commissioner Dawson added that there is already a maintenance permit in place with the DEC to put sand on the beach and the funding was approved at Parks Committee yesterday.

Chair Hopkins reported that she had received a complaint about the condition of Brookside CP. Commissioner Dawson stated that there have been ongoing problems with vandals and Parks is considering installing security cameras there.

Chair Hopkins commented that she was reviewing the trustee meeting locations and found that there are at least four towns that are not represented. Southampton, Southold, Brookhaven and Shelter Island were missing and some of the other towns have two meetings. Commissioner Dawson stated that alternatives to the schedule are open for discussion. Trustee Leudesdorf suggested the possibility of a meeting at Fisher's Island. In August, there is an annual meeting of the Town Board at Fisher's Island because it is part of the Town of Southold. Legislator Krupski suggested contacting the Town Supervisor and looking into some transportation to provide a tour of the island. Cathedral Pines CP was brought up as a possibility as well.

Commissioner Dawson added that the concessionaire at Cedar Point CP will not be returning this year. Joe Kaelin passed away and an RFP will be going out as quickly as possible so that a replacement can be put in place for the upcoming summer season since it is an integral part of the campground at this park.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee McKay inquired about preserved lands having to be commercially farmed once every two years because it was brought up at a meeting he recently attended in Huntington. Legislator Krupski explained that this is through the Chapter 8 law. He stated that the reason for the change is that on the South Fork people buy up preserved land and pay \$100-200,000.00/acre which takes the land out of agricultural production. On the North Fork the selling price for restricted land is at about \$25,000.00/acre which is much less, and there is a good market for it. Trustee Sickles added that the Peconic Land Trust has been very active in giving farmers the opportunity to purchase land with additional restrictions. Legislator Krupski stated that a meeting of the Farmland Committee in Riverhead is scheduled to discuss such questions as how much of the purchased public land would have to be farmed and what the repercussions would be if the land is not farmed as required.

Trustee Cardillo reported that the Advisory Committee for the North Fork Preserve has issued a list of recommendations pertaining to the use of the park land which is based on all of the public meetings that were held over the past year. The farming, hunting and camping communities were all invited and represented at the meetings, as well as many residents and the Northville Civic Association. Representatives from the equestrian community were invited to the meetings but did not attend. Some of the attendees didn't realize that the county

purchased that land to be used as county parkland (some active and some passive recreation) and preferred that the land be left as it is.

Commissioner Dawson commented that he had briefly reviewed the recommendations and found that much of it calls for environmental studies. Legislator Krupski and Trustee Cardillo agreed that the drainage issue will need to be addressed. Both Commissioner Dawson and Legislator Krupski thanked Trustee Cardillo for his service on the Committee.

Trustee Cardillo inquired about the restroom repairs at Indian Island CP. Commissioner Dawson reported that the purchase order was placed for the solar panel on one unit and for some batteries to be replaced on the other unit.

Trustee Leudesdorf inquired about the status of plans for the new dining facility at Peconic Dunes CP. Commissioner Dawson reported that the county has received notification from Vito Minei, of Cornell Cooperative Extension that it is no longer willing to commit to contributing funds to offset the cost of the dining hall that was verbally agreed upon for the new long term agreement. This current agreement expired in 2016. A new long term commitment and what will be decided regarding the dining hall is uncertain right now. Commissioner Dawson will be meeting with Vito Minei in the near future to re-evaluate and work out a new agreement between Suffolk County Parks and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at the Scully Estate in Islip on Thursday, April 21, 2016.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee McKay and was seconded by Trustee Cardillo. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**