

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2015
MEADOWEDGE, WEST SAYVILLE GOLF COURSE
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Vice Chair, Town of Shelter Island
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
Terence McSweeney	Trustee, Town of Babylon
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Jim Barr	Parks Superintendent
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

Legislator Jay Schneiderman	2 nd Legislative District, Parks Committee Chairman
Christina DeLisi	Legislative Aide to Dep. Presiding Officer Jay Schneiderman

PUBLIC PORTION

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2015

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Leudesdorf. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson reported that the Request For Proposal (RFP) for the Concessionaire at Meschutt is out and responses are due by March 27, 2015. Beach Huts is the existing concessionaire. Trustee Sickles has agreed to be the Parks designee on the advisory committee.

A motion to accept the RFP was made by Trustee Sickles and seconded by Trustee Leis. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

Parks has been working on the Capital Budget and will be presenting it to the County Executive's Office. Commissioner Dawson stated that he hopes to bring it to the Parks Trustees at the next scheduled Board meeting for approval.

Introductory Resolution #1084 which amended the Parks Capital Budget to include funding for Cupsogue Beach was passed by the Parks Committee yesterday and should go before the full Legislature on Tuesday.

Introductory Resolution #2175 amended the Resolution to establish the North Fork Task Force Advisory Committee and include a Parks Trustee. Trustee Cardillo has agreed to be the representative.

A motion to accept the North Fork County Park Advisory Committee was made by Trustee Borden and seconded by Trustee McKay. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

Introductory Resolution #1028 to amend fees for Veterans was also on the table. It allows the Parks Department to utilize a New York State Driver's License which identifies a Veteran on it as proof of military status. The Parks Department used to accept only the DD214 document but the new rule will make it easier for all.

Golf courses are scheduled to open in two weeks, weather permitting.

Commissioner Dawson stated that if any of the Trustees have questions pertaining to the temporary facility at Cupsogue County Park, Jim Barr was present to answer them as he has been working very closely with DPW to be sure that the Parks Department is ready for opening on Memorial Day.

Trustee McKay inquired as to the type of temporary structure that is being planned at Cupsogue. Jim explained that there will be a mobile concession stand and a mobile trailer for restrooms. They will be located to the east of where the east pavilion was prior to the fire and well out of the way of where the permanent structure is being constructed.

Temporary showers will be provided. There will be the existing boardwalk from the ocean to where the building was and it will be complete in its entirety with some repairs that are needed. . When Parks opens for operation, all boardwalks and ramps will be complete. Halfway down the ramp, a staircase will be built that will go down to the concession stands and wooden decks for people to sit and have meals. It will be designed so that the decks can remain after the permanent facility is completed. Parks will own the temporary structures so that they can be moved and utilized in other parks once the permanent facility has been built.

Legislator Schneiderman inquired if the temporary structures at Cupsogue will be ADA compatible and Jim stated that they will be compliant. Legislator Schneiderman also inquired about the possibility of creating additional parking spaces or having a designated drop-off area. Jim stated that if additional parking is possible, it would only create a very small number of spaces.

Trustee Sickles inquired about maintenance storage for tools and supplies while the temporary structures are being utilized. Jim stated that Cassone cargo trailers will be used. The existing lifeguard trailer may also be repurposed for summer office staff to share with the lifeguards. If there isn't enough space for that, an additional trailer will be acquired.

Jim added that the purchase order was issued by DPW for carpentry, plumbing and electric contractors for the Cupsogue rebuild. The carpentry contractors will begin work in two weeks to demolish the existing dock that was damaged and also put in pilings. Suffolk County Parks is going to supplement the job by providing a crew of County employees to work in conjunction with the hired contractors. This will save a great deal of money. DPW issued a \$100,000 purchase order for a plumber to install a pump system to take the sewage and pump it

into the existing cesspool. Working together departmentally and completing what can be done in-house will save a lot of additional funds.

Commissioner Dawson thanked Legislator Schneiderman, who also serves as the Deputy Presiding Officer and Parks Committee Chairman for attending the Parks Trustee meeting.

Legislator Schneiderman brought up a bill sponsored by Legislator Hahn whereby when County parkland is taken through eminent domain and the County is paid for it, he expressed that those funds should go back into a fund to be used only for purchasing more parkland.

Legislator Schneiderman expressed his concern about the prevalence of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses in Suffolk County. He reported that State Parks would like to be involved with the County task force working on this issue because they are dealing with the same problems. New diseases and allergies are now occurring so as a result there will be an environmental review process to address this problem. Vector Control is also involved and the committee will hopefully come up with a treatment plan and make some recommendations for reducing the number of ticks on the trails and in our county parkland. He stated that the problem is nationwide, but most prevalent in the northeast and currently considered the #1 infectious disease.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Hopkins inquired about what the current plans are to control the Southern Pine beetle issue. Commissioner Dawson reported that Parks met with the NYSDEC and they are working very aggressively in taking down trees in Munn's Pond County Park. Parks is still actively assessing the situation and the DEC has been taking aerial surveys to get an accurate counting of where they are most prevalent. The problem is pretty extensive at Lakeland County Park as well and it has also been found at Cathedral Pines and Sears Bellows. It will be a long process, similar to the Asian long-horned beetle problem. It's better to cut the trees down in the winter when the beetles are dormant because you can cut the trees down and leave them. Once the beetles become active again you have to take down the infected trees and also a buffer of trees around them. The distance of the buffer of trees that must come down depends on the height of the infected ones. The DEC and the Pine Barrens Commission is doing the analytical work to determine if simply thinning out of trees in certain instances might be better.

Chair Hopkins inquired on the conditions of beach erosion this year. Commissioner Dawson reported that it isn't any worse than average. A beach re-nourishment is currently being done at Smith Point County Park but work is a little behind schedule due to the poor weather conditions this winter. There was some erosion at Meschutt County Park and there is a purchase order in for sand lost under the pavilion but it should pose no problem for the upcoming season. There is long term funding in the capital budget to have a dredging project done to re-nourish the beach in several years.

Legislator Schneiderman inquired about the possibility of introducing legislation to hold another Suffolk County Parks Day this year to encourage the public to spend leisure time at Suffolk County Parks. Commissioner Dawson and Legislator Schneiderman agreed to work together on a good date to hold the event again this year and publicize as much as possible.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee Cardillo reported that he was asked by Legislator Krupski's office to serve on the Board of Trustees for the committee to study the development of the North Fork Preserve. The preserve was originally a very large, privately owned tract of land. It had a hunting lodge for a period of time and a section of it was also used to grow Christmas trees. The owners sold the property to the County and the first meeting was already held. Representatives from the hunting community, camping community, equestrian community and local civic

associations are all involved and Nick Gibbons is serving as the Commissioner's representative on the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12th at 1:00 p.m. at the North Fork Preserve. Commissioner Dawson added that the size of the property is 300 acres, offering 175 acres of active recreation and the balance is used for passive recreation. There was an additional 50 acres purchased for equestrian use.

Trustee Cardillo reported that the crew at Indian Island and Hubbard are doing a great job with the plowing of snow.

Trustee McKay inquired about some wood duck boxes he saw at Fuchs Pond Preserve to make sure that permission was granted to put them up. Commissioner Dawson stated that it may have been a scouting project and he will look into it.

Trustee McKay also inquired if the great number of ticks is attributed to the considerable number of deer in Suffolk County. Legislator Schneiderman stated that there is no question that there is a direct correlation between the two. Certain types of ticks are more dependent on deer than others and if the deer population could be reduced by some acceptable means, it would definitely help with the tick problem.

Trustee Leudesdorf inquired regarding an update on Peconic Dunes. Commissioner Dawson reported that there was difficulty with the Legislature in acquiring approximately \$150,000 in planning funding. Parks is still working with Cornell Cooperative Extension and DPW to get the cost down.

Trustee White stated that he is pleased that Third House will finally be getting some long awaited attention this year and thanked Legislator Schneiderman for his efforts. Legislator Schneiderman reported that there is \$500,000 left in the original authorization and the plan for this year is to install a sprinkler system (approximately \$300,000) and make repairs to the main floor. This will make it functional for events and public assembly. There won't be a kitchen initially, but separate capital will be used for that in the future. Eventually, the upstairs will be renovated and the entire building will then be functional for use. There has already been \$3 million invested on historic restoration of this facility. There is another plan in the works for the bunk house.

Trustee Borden expressed his appreciation to Legislator Schneiderman for his support of Suffolk County Parks. Legislator Schneiderman was appreciative and likewise thanked all of the Board members for their service and commitment on behalf of the Suffolk County Parks Department.

Trustee Sickles made note that while issues and delays between the Legislature and the County regarding the pending kitchen facility project are ongoing, Cornell Cooperative Extension continues to do an outstanding job in maintaining the Peconic Dunes Camp and work very diligently to prepare daily meals and follow health guidelines under less than convenient conditions and at times, inclement weather as well.

Trustee Sickles reported that in addition to the deer, there is an increasing tick problem among wild turkeys in the area.

Trustee Cardillo noted that there is no hunting season for turkeys and it could be considered now since there has been an increase in population.

Commissioner Dawson noted that Saturday, June 20th would be a good date to hold "Suffolk County Parks Day" this year.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at Meadowedge, West Sayville Golf Course in West Sayville on Thursday, March 19, 2015.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and was seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.