

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 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
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT**

VACANT	Member at Large
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**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Jim Barr	Parks Superintendent
Tony Trotta	Parks Superintendent
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

**GUESTS**

Christina DeLisi	Legislative Aide to Dep. Presiding Officer Jay Schneiderman
Marisa Schifano	County Attorney's Office

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Mr. Robert Ford spoke on the wide scope of responsibilities and issues that face the Parks Department and Parks Trustees, ranging from the excessive white-tailed deer population to sand rehabilitation at Smith Point County Park to help create an optimum nesting habitat for the piping plover population.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2014**

**A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0-0.**

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Dawson reported that the new 2015 Legislative Committees have been formed and will remain the same as last year.

The contract at Meschutt Beach has recently expired and a newly drafted one is currently at the County Attorney's Office. It is hoped that the document will be ready for approval by the next Trustee meeting.

The Southern Pine beetle has been found at a number of Suffolk County locations and the NYSDEC is holding a stakeholders meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Belmont State Park. Aerial surveys are being taken to identify problem areas and local towns and municipalities are being contacted to discuss corrective action.

Christina DeLisi reported that Legislators Schneiderman and Hahn are planning to make a presentation at the February Parks Committee meeting and give updates of all the latest information on the beetle infestation.

The Smith Point dredging project has moved forward.

The new Parks computer reservation system is now available for purchasing Green Key cards and will be available on January 20<sup>th</sup> for making camping reservations 90 days in advance rather than the normal 120 days. The 120 day in advance reservation limit will go back into effect on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Tentative sites for the 2015 Parks Board of Trustee meeting calendar were discussed. Trustee Gooding will look into some possibilities for a meeting at Shelter Island. Trustee Sickles suggested an outdoor meeting at Cedar Pt. County Park. The Red House (Audubon Society) in Greenport, the Deepwells Mansion at Deepwells Farm County Park in St. James, Gardiner Park in West Bay Shore and Suffolk Lodge at Southaven County Park are being considered.

Commissioner Dawson reported that the dock at Timber Point West Marina was updated last year. Jim Barr gave an overview on the project currently ongoing at the Timber Point East Marina this year. The marina has 76 boat slips, all having 30 amp electrical outlets available to each slip and one post serving four slips. The capacity of the electric service doesn't allow 50 amp outlets and most new boats have 50 amp panels. When Hurricane Sandy struck, flooding affected the electrical wiring so it was decided to upgrade the service. The project started last year during off-season to bring in new lines, 3 large transformers and large 800 amp panels to significantly increase the service coming in. Currently this off-season, work is being continued to increase the infrastructure all the way down the boardwalk and replace old wire with new wire. An outside contractor asked to be paid \$35,000 just to pull the wiring down the boardwalk, so it was decided to get the job done in-house with forty employees assisting. \$1 million of capital funds is being spent for this improvement and \$125,000 went to a contractor to get the primary work completed. \$2 million is being saved by spending \$800,000 on material and doing all the work in-house. There will be all new water lines and all new towers that will accommodate two boat slips rather than four which will eliminate wires from being stretched from slip to slip. New LED lighting will be installed on the towers, new water service provided and there will be 50 amp capability at every location. There will be 30 amp outlets at every slip and when a boat owner needs 50 amp service, it will be available. If all 76 slips need 50 amp service at some point in the future, the wiring will be sufficient to provide it. All weak and faulty beams will be replaced and all girders will be doubled up. Security cameras will also be installed on the docks to deter people from the docks after hours.

Terry Maccarrone reported that the capital budget program is currently in its mid stages. There are several DPW projects to be presented to the County Executive's Office for review and then submission to the Legislature who will vote on it in May. The irrigation system project at West Sayville is progressing very well. Expansion of the maintenance facility in West Sayville will break ground in the spring, as well as continued work on the Ockers Transportation Building at the Maritime Museum. Irrigation work is also planned at Saktikos Manor.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Hopkins inquired if Suffolk County benefits from any state grant funds acquired by the DEC for its wildlife preservation program. Commissioner Dawson stated that generally, there is usually overlapping in the programs.

Chair Hopkins inquired if there were any updates on the county program that the Health Department is currently working on with Information Technology to provide a Parks recreation database to share with physicians for their patients. Commissioner Dawson stated that the program idea was presented to the Health Committee and the next step is for the Health Department to form a task force advisory committee. The Parks Department's role would be mostly advisory.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee McKay inquired if there had been any contact with the DEC regarding the idea of culling deer at Blydenburgh County Park. Commissioner Dawson stated that culling of deer at Blydenburgh would probably not be feasible at this time. Suffolk County works very closely with the DEC on the hunting programs that are offered.

Member of the Board Pearsall inquired on the status of the Parks Foundation. Commissioner Dawson stated that there has been no Executive Director for about two years and no volunteers have offered to fill the position. The last Executive Director who held the position was transferred to DPW.

Trustee Leudesdorf inquired about the possibility of having additional Ranger coverage at the beaches this upcoming season. Commissioner Dawson reported that the Parks Department has a new Security Director, Dodd Amhrein. Seventeen Park Rangers have been hired and as of Memorial Day, the number of Rangers will be increased.

Trustee Borden inquired on any updates from the Island Running Club. Commissioner Dawson stated that Parks hasn't received any letters or communication from the organization as of yet.

Trustee Sickles inquired if all services will be operating out of temporary trailers for the next few years at Cupsogue County Park since the fire last fall. Commissioner Dawson confirmed that reconstruction funds have been allocated and planning meetings have been taking place for temporary arrangements.

Legislative Aide Christina DeLisi reported that the SILO organization has inquired whether there will be handicapped accessibility provisions made for those with disabilities at Cupsogue County Park. Commissioner Dawson stated that the Parks Department is working to make certain that all provisions are ADA compliant. Terry Maccarrone added that as improvements and updates are made to all Suffolk County Parks, it is a priority to provide handicapped accessibility at each one.

Christina added that Legislator Schneiderman appreciates all the assistance his office receives from the Parks Department throughout the year. 2015 will be the last year of his service as Legislator.

Trustee Gooding reported that she received the email regarding the new reservation system and it was very well done.

Trustee McKay commented that former Legislator Michael D'Andre passed away. He served on the Parks Committee for a period of time.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at Meadowedge, West Sayville Golf Course in West Sayville on Thursday, February 26, 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 12-0-0.**