

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2014  
SYLVESTER MANOR  
SHELTER ISLAND, NEW YORK**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Vice Chair, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Arthur Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Terence McSweeney	Trustee, Town of Babylon
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT**

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
Marisa Schifano	County Attorney's Office
VACANT	Member at Large

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

**GUESTS**

Christina DeLisi	Legislative Aide, Dep. Presiding Officer Jay Schneiderman
Jim Dougherty	Shelter Island Town Board Supervisor
Cara Loriz	Executive Director, Sylvester Manor
Peter Vielbig	Chair, Two Percent Committee, Shelter Island

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Shelter Island Town Supervisor Jim Dougherty welcomed all and thanked them for making the trip to Shelter Island. Trustee Miles Borden was appreciative of Supervisor Dougherty attending the meeting.

Executive Director Cara Loriz welcomed all to Sylvester Manor. Cara was happy to report that after a four year process, a major portion of the Sylvester Manor property has now officially been transferred over to the non-profit organization. The Manor had been run by descendants of Nathaniel Sylvester since 1652. Master site planning is just beginning and 83 acres of the land is preserved as farmland through various county, town and federal farmland preservation funding. The northern peninsula has been set aside as a conservation easement that the family donated to the Peconic Land Trust in 2009. Over 100 acres are forever preserved, however there are still another 125 acres that have not been preserved and being used in various ways. A forest management plan has been developed with a grant from the USDA which is helping to assess and keep the forest healthy. The organization is also in the process of obtaining National Historic Registry status for the property which has

a beautiful park-like setting with pine forests, a 2 acre historic garden and house. There is great interest in both preservation of this land and creating ways to help make the property more publicly accessible.

Chairperson of the Two-Percent Committee which manages the town's Community Preservation Fund, Peter Vielbig spoke about various recommendations the group makes to the Town Board pertaining to land preservation. The Town Board reviews and then makes a final decision on their recommendations. The Two-Percent Committee has a targeted list of properties that they are interested in pursuing for open space. They look forward to County participation regarding funding whenever possible and cooperation regarding public use. Ninety-nine point eighty-five percent (99.85%) of the Two-Percent funding goes into land preservation and the remaining .15% goes toward administrative fees. Everyone who serves on the board is a volunteer and there are no paid salaries. Peter distributed a spreadsheet of properties that the county assisted with financing on Shelter Island and also a map showing properties for public use and enjoyment.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2014**

**A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee Richard White and seconded by Trustee William Sickles. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.**

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Dawson gave an update on the Park Police.

Funding for heavy equipment also passed at the last Legislative meeting.

Legislation to direct the Parks Department to mandate that lifeguards wear sun screen, hats and use umbrellas did not pass. There was much debate about it, however these types of sun protection have always been provided and encouraged by the Parks Department.

Legislation was passed appointing Arthur Leudesdorf as Parks Trustee representing the Town of Southold and Terence McSweeney as Parks Trustee representing the Town of Babylon.

Meetings with the Commissioner of DPW and various regulatory agencies were held regarding the recent fire at Cupsogue County Park and the permitting process that will be necessary to rebuild. The major priority is to have the beach open to the public for next season. Cleanup has begun around the remains of the building and the outer beach has been reopened to fishermen.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Dawn Hopkins inquired about recent talk of diverting funds from the Drinking Water Protection program to the County's general fund. Commissioner Dawson stated that any funds that may be diverted are strictly borrowed and the County would be obligated to return any amount borrowed back to the fund.

Chair Hopkins inquired about marina fees that are charged to transient dockers out at the Shinnecock Canal. A constituent had written to request that the Parks Department consider charging dockers by the hour rather than for an entire day when patrons dock to visit only for several hours. There was conversation about the possibility of a concessionaire contributing toward a few transient slips for the season to allow patrons to dock for short periods for a meal. Commissioner Dawson stated that he will look into it.

### **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee Miles Borden reported that he met with Commissioner Dawson, County Legislators Kennedy and Trotta and a representative of a local civic group regarding the use of canoes and kayaks at Blydenburgh County Park. Trustee Borden stated that he feels certain that a fair solution to the issue will be worked out. Commissioner Dawson thanked Trustee Borden for his support and attending the meeting.

Trustee Richard White reported that he visited Shinnecock East and was impressed with how large the beach had become on the east side of the inlet. He found everyone visiting there to be enjoying the park. Trustee Sickles commented that when jetty work was done there, the badly eroded section on the bayside was back-filled in with dredge material which expanded the area tremendously and enabled a number of bayside camp sites to be added. Commissioner Dawson added that closures at Smith Point and Cupsogue this past summer drew more day trippers out to Shinnecock.

Commissioner Dawson reported that DPW inspected the Third House and Lindley House. Work may begin once the report has been completed. Trustee Richard White suggested renovation to one or two of the motel units so that security employees can live on premises during the busy summer months.

Trustee Terence McSweeney inquired about bow hunting. Commissioner Dawson stated that there are currently 23 sites and 90 parking spots. Nick Gibbons reported that Suffolk County has an October through December 31<sup>st</sup> bow hunting season. There is a special shot gun/firearms season in Suffolk County on weekdays only in the first 3 weeks of January, by reservation only. There are 500 applicants for a lottery which is held in December for shot gun season and all those chosen are given assigned spots. There is a seasonal permit for archery which is run on a first-come first-serve basis. The County website lists all available sites and offers maps for hunting enthusiasts.

Trustee Bill Sickles announced that on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a Grand Opening of the Long Island Duck Farming Exhibit at the Big Duck at 11 a.m. and a dedication ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned. The interpretive exhibit on duck ranches and business in Suffolk County is sponsored by the Town of Southampton and the Friends of the Big Duck, and the event is partially funded by a Hotel/Motel Tax Grant. The Town has restored an old barn on the property, converted another small building into restrooms and has also replaced the roof on the brooder house.

Nick Gibbons gave an update on the temporary court order which has delayed commencement of the dredging project at Smith Point County Park. He reported that unfortunately the order has been extended until mid-December so that the earliest the project could begin would be September, 2015. This will cause another summer season with long stretches of beach the same size as right after Hurricane Sandy and more extended closures due to challenged access.

Trustee Kathleen Gooding thanked all for making the trip out to Shelter Island.

Trustee Arthur Leudesdorf reported that in addition to being the newly appointed Parks Trustee for the Town of Southold, he also chairs Parks & Recreation for the Town of Southold. He noted that there has been an increase in the local Bed & Breakfast business and listings for them on the internet. It has become an issue tracking those who hold deeds for renting property in the area and those who are in violation of the town ordinance. Christine DeLisi reported that the Treasurer's Office sent out letters to residents advertising rentals on websites requiring certain taxes be paid.

Trustee Leudesdorf reported that there has also been a notable increase in helicopter activity going over the beach starting on Memorial Day and continuing right through the summer season which has become a huge nuisance. Christine DeLisi stated that there is a hotline that can be called to report any identification that can be taken from the helicopters. Trustee Gooding added that there was a the big demonstration held in East

Hampton and the Supervisor in the airport called for the FAA to limit the number of flights and to change and enforce the rules.

Richard Martin stated that he and Cara Loriz agree that they both see some similarities in relationships between the families who lived both at Sagtikos Manor and Sylvester Manor. He promoted all four Suffolk County manors that are open to the public. The other two are the Henry Lloyd Manor, restored and maintained by the Lloyd Harbor Historical Society and the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, and St. George's Manor, located on the south shore in Shirley-Mastic. The Sagtikos Manor Exhibit at the Suffolk County Historical Society in Riverhead is ongoing until Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Historian and curator Dean Failey is scheduled to give a presentation at the Exhibit on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at Peconic Dunes in Southold on Thursday, November 20, 2014.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Richard White and was seconded by Trustee Arthur Leudesdorf. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.**