

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2013
MEADOW EDGE GOLF COURSE
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Dawn Hopkins	Vice Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton

ABSENT

Kathleen Gooding, PhD.	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Islip
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Southold
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Tony Trotta	Superintendent
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

Tom Young	County Attorney's Office
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PUBLIC PORTION

There were no members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2013

Page 2–Chairman’s Report–2nd paragraph–Board Member Pearsall reported that the fire department is interested in leasing a portion of the property/parking lot at the Vanderbilt Museum for a substation.

A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Trustee Sickles and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mary Lou Varney, Park Supervisor II at Smith Point County Park was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her outstanding effort to promote safe boating. John Blevins, Division Human Resources Officer for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in the East Moriches Flotilla 1806 made the presentation.

One of Officer Blevins' duties is to distribute boating safety information brochures at Smith Point County Park and he awarded Mary Lou with the Coast Guard Auxiliary's Recreational Boating Safety Certificate of Appreciation award for her outstanding service. For more than three consecutive years, Mary Lou has generously provided the Auxiliary with a platform for the distribution of maritime safety, security and environmental literature. Officer Blevins stated that, "Mary Lou's actions and spirit with regard to public safety has been far beyond the Auxiliary's expectations and she is a credit to the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Suffolk County Parks Department and the public." The award was signed by Richard King, Vice-Flotilla Commander, Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Education and Assistant District Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations. He was in attendance for the presentation as well.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson reported that the resolution to fully staff a functional Parks Trustee Board was passed at Parks Committee so it will now go before the next legislative meeting on Tuesday. At the Parks Committee meeting, Legislator D'Amato inquired about a resolution that was passed in 2009 regarding naming rights in county parks. Commissioner Dawson will be in contact with prior Parks Commissioners regarding the resolution.

Commissioner Dawson reported that county golf courses opened on March 15th. Timber Point is still operating on a modified 18 holes but the Parks Department is optimistic that it will be fully functional by the end of June.

Repair of the collapsed sidewalk at Smith Point Park was completed and the four staircases are being worked on now with completion estimated by May 1st. Outer Beach access has not been opened up yet but plans are for May 1st. All other beaches will open on Memorial Day as scheduled and Meschutt will open the end of June.

The Eco-Carnival is scheduled at the Scully Estate for Saturday, April 20th. Seatuck organizes the event and the county co-sponsors it.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Trustee Borden inquired about the Ethics Commission. Commissioner Dawson reported that last month he received notice from the Ethics Commission that their brochure was out, Parks must keep a copy of it on file and it is to be maintained by the Parks Department and the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board of Trustees.

Trustee Borden inquired about the regulations for energy drinks with regards to county parks. Commissioner Dawson stated that energy drinks cannot be sold to anyone under the age of eighteen. Precluded from that are contracts that are currently in place. Any new contracts must state that they are banned from selling energy drinks to minors, and any amendments that are made for current licensees must have that language added to the contract. Trustee Cardillo inquired about what constitutes the label of "energy drink." Commissioner Dawson stated that the law is specific, ruling that a certain amount of caffeine in combination with taurine determines which products are banned.

Trustee Borden asked for an update on the Elwood Schoolhouse. Commissioner Dawson reported that they have been working with the County Attorney's office on the RFEI. The Parks Department has received some inquiries from interested groups and public use is planned.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee Cardillo reported that Indian Island is looking great and a nice job was done with the clean-up from Sandy.

Trustee McKay spoke with Legislator Spencer's office and the fire department has abandoned its ideas for Camp Alvernia. They are looking at the possibility of a substation at the Vanderbilt Museum. He stated that the Water Authority is still interested in running a water main up through the park property. The Commissioner reported that he received a call from Herman Miller to find out what the county's position is and that he advised him that it is still considered an alienation of property. The drop-off in land grade and the need to bring heavy equipment in would disrupt the natural vegetative state.

Trustee McKay attended a meeting of the Crabmeadow Citizens Advisory Committee. A lot of dead timber from Hurricane Sandy came down behind the weir at the Fuch's Pond Preserve which created a backup. The Committee has concerns that there may be damage. The Commissioner stated that he would have Nick Gibbons contact Trustee McKay regarding the weir.

Trustee Sickles inquired about staffing at Shinnecock East County Park and whether there will be fulltime staff there for the upcoming season. Commissioner Dawson stated that we have part-time staff covering the park while our fulltime employee recuperates from surgery. He also inquired if there will be camping at Cupsogue on the bay side. The Commissioner reported that there would be camping and some additional parking has been provided at the end of Burma Road.

Richard Martin reported that the sprinkler system installation throughout the house at Deepwells in St. James is almost completed. There is plaster work that needs replacement and completion is expected by the end of June.

Work at the Homan House is being completed using the last construction funds that were in place and then work on the plans to complete the restoration will proceed.

Re-start of work at the Coindre Hall boathouse is planned. DPW recommended WJE Associates to give direction on the boathouse architecture as a result of past issues with drainage and the seawall. There is some funding available to stabilize the building first, such as patching the roof and other work around the foundation.

Work is continuing on the Sagtikos landscape restoration grant, especially on the wall garden.

With regards to the housing program, Richard stated that there is always concern with keeping the historic buildings occupied. There are 3 vacant houses presently; the Isaac Mills House in St. James, the Gate House on Montauk Highway in West Sayville and the Gamper House at Robinson Duck Farm (the house closest to Montauk Highway). Letters will be sent out to all county employees within a month.

Terry Maccarrone reported that most of his work over the course of the past six months has been centered on FEMA and the damages incurred by Hurricane Sandy. Projects being written by FEMA are coming to a conclusion. We will probably have close to forty different projects of varying sizes related to all of the damages. There are several grant projects planned for this summer, such as restoration of the greenhouse at West Sayville.

The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2013 at the Blydenburgh County Park, Smithtown, New York.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Sickles. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.