

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2014
WEST SAYVILLE GOLF COURSE
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Vice Chair, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Christopher DiGregorio	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

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

GUESTS

Honorable Thomas Muratore	4 th Legislative District
Honorable Kevin LaValle	Brookhaven Town Councilman
Robert L. Martinez	Legislative Aide to Legislator Thomas Muratore
Christina DeLisi	Legislative Aide to Deputy Presiding Officer Jay H. Schneiderman
Chris DeLuca	Legislative Aide to Legislator Thomas Cilmi
Lauretta Fischer	Suffolk County Planning
Janet Longo	Suffolk County Real Estate
Tom Young	County Attorney's Office

PUBLIC PORTION

Robert C. Ford (a member of the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society) expressed his thoughts on the importance of pedestrian and bike safety at the entrance and exits of Suffolk County Parks and the possibility of applying for federal funds.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2014

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee Richard White and seconded by Trustee Gilbert Cardillo. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & REAL ESTATE

Lauretta Fischer circulated aerial maps and site concept plans prepared by the Town of Brookhaven for the proposed acquisition. The County is proposing to purchase 15.8 of 21.3 acres of the Board of Education Middle Country Central School District #11 property on Boyle Road currently owned by the school district. This acquisition is through the New Drinking Water Protection Program for active recreation use. The County will purchase the property and the Town of Brookhaven will partner with the County by improving and maintaining the property for active recreation use. Adjacent to the subject property there are two adjoining parcels, one is currently owned by the County to the west and known as the Grace Presbyterian Church. This was acquired by the County about two years ago. The proposal for that property was also an active recreation acquisition in partnership with the Town of Brookhaven and it has agreed to provide 2 ball fields there. Brookhaven Town Councilman Kevin LaValle confirmed that the Town of Brookhaven has placed funds in its budget and plans to break ground this spring to start construction as soon as possible. The northern portion, currently owned by the Town of Brookhaven is an existing active recreation facility but a new multi-use field is planned for reconstruction in that area.

Councilman LaValle added that the Town of Brookhaven is very pleased to have plans for the facility to proceed since active use parks are very much needed in the Selden/Centereach area. When completed, it will be an approximately 24 acre facility. It will cost approximately \$8 million and be completed over a 5-10 year period. The project will start with 2 former Little League fields and the Veterans field to the north of the property which will be used as a multi-purpose field. There are also plans for new LED lighting to be installed there. Walking trails will be included throughout the facility, as well as a playground.

Legislator Muratore thanked the Parks Board of Trustees for giving this acquisition their consideration. He expressed the great need in this area and that the facility will be open to all county residents. He also thanked Councilman LaValle for all of his hard work, diligence and time invested in this project.

Chair Dawn Hopkins made a motion to accept the acquisition of this property and Member of the Board Terrence Pearsall seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson reported that the Parks Department's Capital Budget is ready to be presented to the County Executive's Office for approval and he requested the Parks Board of Trustees' approval as well. Terry Maccarrone circulated a summary of Parks Department requests, showing last year's adopted budget, the requested 5 year capital program showing its adopted budget for 2014 and what items Parks is requesting for 2015-2017, including a general outlook of subsequent years (2018 & 2019). He stated that the figure for 2015 is most important so that the Parks Department has funding available to move forward. Commissioner Dawson added that the figures are arrived at by Terry through numerous meetings with Department Heads from Historic Services, the Environmental Division and Maintenance & Operations. The current financial state of the county is a special consideration when creating the budget and requests are made only for what is absolutely needed. The Parks Department Maintenance Division does a lot of work in house so that funds are maximized by not having to hire outside contractors.

Trustee Richard White made a motion to approve the proposed Capital Budget and Trustee Miles Borden seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

Commissioner Dawson commented on the timely budget presentation to the Trustees this year. He continued with an update on a Resolution that Legislator D'Amaro put forth in 2009 directing the Parks Department to come up with a program promoting corporate sponsorship and sale of naming rights that would be suitable in County Parks. In 2009, the Department of Economic Development did a Request for Proposal (RFP) listing a

number of sites that it found suitable for corporate sponsorship, however no bids were made. In late spring of 2013, Legislator D'Amato communicated that this is an ongoing resolution calling for the Parks Department to keep and maintain a list and provide a promotional program to highlight it. The Commissioner stated that he has updated the list of suitable sites which he plans to distribute at the next Trustee meeting in March and is subject to the Parks Trustees' and the Legislative Naming Committee's approval. He requested a volunteer to work with him on this list over the next few weeks before it is presented to the Board for a vote in March. Trustee William Sickles volunteered to work on the list with Commissioner Dawson. Commissioner Dawson stated that he feels confident that the Parks Department will be able to raise some revenue with this program and that revenue raised through corporate sponsorship would stay within the county facility that earned it.

Commissioner Dawson reported that a few resolutions would be coming up at the next Parks Committee meeting. Last year, the Parks Department offered disabled veterans, veterans and active military the same discounts at golf courses as senior citizens receive. Legislator Schneiderman is recommending that the pilot project for veterans be extended.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Dawn Hopkins reported that she will be attending the next Parks Committee meeting on February 26th to represent the Parks Trustees and welcome the new representatives. On the agenda is the development of care and use of the Hilda Lindley House at Montauk County Park. Legislative Aide Christina DeRisi added that it is a priority of Legislator Schneiderman's to get his bill passed this year.

Chair Hopkins inquired regarding a vote on the 2014 list of Trustee meeting locations. It was decided that the April 17th meeting would be held at the Hawkins House in Yaphank and the May 15th meeting would be held at West Hills County Park.

Trustee Miles Borden made a motion to approve the meeting location schedule and Trustee Kathleen Gooding seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

Chair Hopkins inquired if there were any updates on the John Fritz observation boardwalk. Terry Maccarrone reported that the Parks Department Maintenance Division is currently reviewing the plans. He reported that there is presently a path where the boardwalk is designated to go and anyone who wished to observe wildlife could use that path in the interim. He added that there are currently other issues at Cupsogue County Park that are considered to be of higher priority. The main priority is the handicapped accessible ramp that goes from the parking lot to the main deck.

Chair Hopkins reported that the Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Board would be meeting on February 25th and the USGS would report on the results of studies on the contents of the lake.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee White reported that Trustee McKay was absent from the meeting due to knee surgery and that it is hoped he will return next month.

John Ford (Public Portion) commented that as a former member of the Babylon Town Youth Bureau, he wished to reiterate to the Trustees that they remain aware of the importance that our children have fun.

Trustee Cardillo announced that the maintenance crew has been doing a nice job clearing snow at Indian Island, Sears Bellows and Hubbard County Parks.

Trustee Sickles inquired if the Army Corps project west of Shinnecock Inlet has started yet. Terry Maccarrone hadn't heard yet from the DEC on it. Trustee Sickles also commented on a photo he saw in the newspaper showing children playing hockey on the ice at Lake Ronkonkoma. Commissioner Dawson stated that the County does not sanction this activity, however the County does not own the lake bottom nor the water. The County has put up signs on its property to read "Keep Off The Ice". (However, patrons may enter the ice from many other locations.)

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