

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2014
WEST SAYVILLE GOLF COURSE
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town Riverhead
Christopher DiGregorio	Trustee, Town of Southold
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
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

Honorable Kevin J. McCaffrey	14 th Legislative District
Christina DeLisi	Legislative Aide to Deputy Presiding Officer Jay H. Schneiderman
Chris DeLuca	Legislative Aide to Legislator Thomas Cilmi
Tom Young	County Attorney's Office

PUBLIC PORTION

There were no members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2013

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee Alexander McKay and seconded by Trustee Miles Borden. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson wished all a very Happy New Year and extended a gracious thank you for the Legislative representation at the meeting. He reported that we have a new Parks Legislative Committee for 2014 including Legislator Schneiderman as Chairman and Legislator Kara Hahn as Vice Chair. Legislator Kevin McCaffrey, Legislator Bill Lindsay, Jr. and Legislator Cilmi are serving on the Committee as well.

Commissioner Dawson looks forward to working with the Committee and reported that the next meeting would be held in the first week of February.

Commissioner Dawson announced that Suffolk County and the Town of Islip are very close to completing an Inter-Municipal maintenance agreement to develop and manage Lacrosse fields at the Rollstone Estate property. The county is also negotiating a contract with the Town of Brookhaven for two ball fields on the Grace Presbyterian Church property site. Construction is tentatively planned to start there in March with a completion date in May.

The Parks Department is presently in the process of getting its capital project requests together for the 2015 season. Within the next few months, the requests will be brought to the Parks Trustees for review and approval, and then proceed to the County Executive's office.

Nick Gibbons reported that the Parks Department is currently working on four dredging projects this season. At Indian Island, there is a county DPW dredging project at Meeting House Creek. 5,000 cubic yards of material were deposited at the point. The material initially starts out grey in color but bleaches out in time. It is 90% sand as per DEC requirements.

Work is about to begin at the west of Shinnecock Inlet project and is an Army Corps of Engineers project.

Two projects are currently going on at Cupsogue. 35,000 cubic yards for the intra-coastal waterway in the bay is being dredged and pumped out onto the oceanfront at a spot that Nick selected with the Army Corps to fortify the beach in the area opposite the outer beach campgrounds. It is needed very badly there as a result of Hurricane Sandy. The other project at Cupsogue is the Westhampton Dunes project which is approximately 950,000 cubic yards. The western end of this fill area extends into Cupsogue County Park, (past and) just west of the pavilion. Less than 100,000 yards is being used in the Park itself.

A beach grass planting was completed at Meschutt in November to supplement what little material is remaining from the last beach nourishment there. Nick stated that he has a request in with DPW to restart a sand bypass project previously initiated there and is very much needed. It runs from the west side of the canal over to the east side at Meschutt. In the meantime, we currently have a permit to bring in 5,000 cubic yards by truck and deposit it there this spring.

The 2013 piping plover season was below average. There were fourteen people hired for the season to monitor the plovers in the parks. Part of the increase in monitoring was necessary to keep outer beach driving available at Cupsogue and Smith Point because of the hurricane and additional bird habitat there. The pairs and the number of fledges (chicks that have survived long enough to fly on their own) count towards the overall productivity of each pair. The pair numbers vary from park to park and overall, the numbers were down. In a typical year, there is about fifty pair within the Parks Department and last year there were thirty-four. The overall productivity was 0.85 and the recovery goal as set by the federal government is 1.5 chicks per pair, per year. If that goal were met for an indefinite period of time, piping plovers would eventually come off of the endangered species list. That productivity goal is rarely met in this area and most other agencies rarely meet it at their sites.

Nick stated that at Smith Point and Cupsogue, a lot more birds are expected this coming year based on statistics dating back to the 1938 hurricane revealing that there is a lull of one year between a hurricane event and piping plover response. Based on this information, he is expecting that this year should show an increase. There is a direct correlation between birds colonizing the beach and outer beach access. Once the western most bird hatches at Smith Point (where there is five miles of beach), it cuts off vehicular access to points east of that bird. Last year, the western most pair nested within a half mile of parking for outer beach access. That temporarily

cuts off 4 ½ miles of outer beach for vehicle access. He is preparing to open and close as necessary this coming season, as dictated by the federal guidelines.

Commissioner Dawson reported that the Parks Department has been replacing decking, and water and electric lines at the Timber Point marinas. The west marina has been completed and the east marina will be ready by the start of the new season.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Hopkins reported on the trip that she and Trustee White took to Shelter Island. Trustee Gooding and her husband provided them with a very nice tour of both the Island and Sylvester Manor. Trustee Gooding stated that she spoke with the management at Sylvester Manor and they would be very happy to host a Parks Trustee meeting there this year. They suggested having a meeting there in the fall, if possible so that they could provide some of the harvest of vegetables that they produce on the premises. Trustee Gooding suggested carpooling to Shelter Island because of the cost of the ferry being close to \$20 round trip. She would also like to arrange a side trip visit nearby on that date to Taylor's Island, which is located in Coecles Harbor. New York State has just funded reconstruction of a small log cabin there that is over one hundred years old.

Chair Hopkins reported that the Lake Ronkonkoma Inter-Municipal Organization has designated Russ Barnett as the new representative from the Planning Department in the Town of Smithtown. The Towns of Islip and Brookhaven will also name representatives in the near future.

Chair Hopkins inquired if there were any updates on the Park Trustee vacancy for the Town of Babylon and the Member-at-Large. There were no updates.

ROUND TABLE

Commissioner Dawson reported that mileage reimbursement as set by the Internal Revenue Service was lowered from 56.5 cents/mile to 56 cents/mile and is effective as of January 1, 2014.

Trustee Sickles reported that he would update Commissioner Dawson on information he has received on the memorial bench for Joe Kaelin. Trustee Gooding stated that she knows some people from Shelter Island who would like to make a contribution. Trustee White requested that Trustee Sickles send out an email to inform all on how to go about making their contributions. He inquired as to who may be taking over the concession but it has not yet been determined.

Trustee Cardillo reported that the crew did a nice job cleaning up after the snow storm at both Indian Island and Hubbard County Parks. Karen Nicholson is the Supervisor at Indian Island and Kathy Pfeil is Supervisor at Sears Bellows/Hubbard County Park.

Legislative Aide Christina DeLisi reported that there will be a few resolutions that Legislator Schneiderman will introduce in the coming months. One of them will include active duty military discounts.

Legislator McCaffrey announced that he is looking forward to working with the Parks Committee.

Trustee Borden stated that the 2014 Parks Trustee meeting schedule needs to be finalized. Trustee Gooding stated that she would have a more definitive answer at the next meeting with regards to the best month for a meeting at Sylvester Manor.

Trustee Borden made a motion to table action on the meeting schedule until the February meeting and Trustee Leis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Trustee White inquired about the John Fritz memorial pier at Cupsogue. Commissioner Dawson will report back at the February meeting.

Trustee McKay inquired about an acquisition on Boyle Road in Brookhaven. Commissioner Dawson announced that once the 16 acre parcel is approved by the Legislature and the Parks Board of Trustees, the Parks Department will work out an Inter-Municipal agreement with the Town of Brookhaven to build two ball fields on the property.

Trustee McKay inquired regarding county vehicles he has seen recently in the area of Makamah and questioned if any projects are planned there. Nick Gibbons responded that there are a few conditions that the Parks Department inspected and have plans to rectify, including a new trail kiosk near the parking lot.

Trustee Gooding commented on the new email message she received for Green Key card holders. She stated that she found it to be both very helpful and informative. Commissioner Dawson stated that the Parks Department has received authorization from the County Executive's office and the Department of Information Technology to open a Facebook page and Twitter account. The Parks Department will go live and launch the reservation system on January 29th.

The next meeting will be held on February 20th at the West Sayville Golf Course.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.