

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2013
SAGTIKOS MANOR
WEST BAY SHORE, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Christopher DiGregorio	Trustee, Town of Southold
Dawn Hopkins	Vice 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

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Colleen Hofmeister	Principal Contracts Examiner
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

Janet Longo	Land Management Specialist, S.C. Real Property Acquisitions & Management
Tom Young	County Attorney's Office
Christine Gottsch	President, Sagtikos Manor Historical Society

PUBLIC PORTION

There were no members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2013

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 9-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson asked Richard Martin to give a presentation about some of the history of Sagtikos Manor. Richard welcomed everyone to Sagtikos Manor, which is one of the County's most actively visited sites. He explained that volunteers of the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society provide various programs and

tours of the property throughout the year. Sagtikos Manor recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and the Historic Society has volunteered at Sagtikos since Robert Gardner owned it privately. Robert Gardner permitted public tours of his property back at the time since he spent much of his time at his home in East Hampton. The County purchased the property in 2002 and the Historical Society was already established there and knowledgeable about the history of Sagtikos Manor. The County installed heat and air conditioning in the building and has been partnering with the Historical Society to replace the roof on the carriage house and the garden shed nearby. The Historical Society received a grant for \$250,000 from New York State which took care of a lot of improvements on the exterior of the building and on the grounds. The County also received a grant from New York State to install an irrigation system which will be very helpful to the Garden Committee who plan to replant and maintain the wall garden that once existed on the property. The Department is now hoping to receive approval from the County Legislature for capital funds for the roofs. The roof on the west wing of the building needs replacement at this time.

The building was purchased in otherwise good condition and is fully furnished. The County has been working with the Historical Society to identify all of the items in the house. In the past two years, some interesting pieces have been discovered which led to an article which appeared in Newsday over the recent July 4th weekend. The article highlights the various activities held at Sagtikos Manor by volunteer members of the Historical Society, and gives a description and photos of some of the collections found there. Dean Failey, of the Christie's Auction House and Kathy Curran, executive director of the Suffolk County Historic Society have proposed organizing an exhibit at the Suffolk County Historic Society for next summer that will showcase some of the collections. Dean Failey has agreed to be the curator.

Richard introduced Christine Gottsch, president of the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society. She explained that there is a Garden Club that meets on Tuesday mornings to work on the gardens and a Collections Committee organizes items as they are found. There is Duncan Phyfe period furniture in the home and over 100 period costumes have been located, some dating back to the early 1800's. Many of them are custom handmade pieces and some are currently on display. There are 42 rooms in the house and memorabilia from different time periods are examined on an ongoing basis. The original deed of the house from 1692 was found and has been preserved. Some of the paintings and prints are identified and preserved when warranted.

Christine added that she is looking forward to the Suffolk County Historic Society exhibit next year and was also pleased to report that since the article in Newsday was published, there has been a dramatic boost in the amount of visitors to Sagtikos Manor.

Trustee Borden inquired regarding the resolution for repair of historic structures and how much funding would be used for Sagtikos Manor. Richard stated that there is \$250,000 available via that resolution and that just the west wing of Sagtikos Manor could potentially cost near \$200,000 to renovate. Parks would need to apply again for more funding next year. Christine added that the Historical Society provides approximately \$20,000 each year for repairs such as plaster which has almost been completed, painting, and carpets and runners to protect the wood floors from traffic throughout the house. They also get a \$5,000 grant from the Legislature to apply to the cost of repairs and other necessary purchases. The Historical Society holds fundraisers such as the Antiques & Collectibles Show in June, the Art Show in August, the Fall Festival in October and a Christmas Event in December.

Richard reported that the County takes care of most of the exterior repair work and upkeep of the building, the air conditioning and heating systems. The Historical Society concentrates on the interior and the various collections found at Sagtikos Manor. Commissioner Dawson thanked Christine, as well as the many volunteers who work at and contribute their time and talents to Sagtikos Manor.

Commissioner Dawson asked Colleen Hofmeister to give an update on the Request For Expressions of Interest for design, restoration, operation, management, occupancy and maintenance of residential or business facilities

at Elwood School House and Black Duck Lodge. Colleen reported that proposals had been received for each site. Trustee Sickles volunteered to serve on the evaluation committee for Black Duck Lodge and Trustee McKay will serve on the evaluation committee for the Elwood School House. In the event that Trustee McKay cannot attend a meeting, Trustee Borden will fill in for him. An evaluation committee will review the proposals received and determine if there are any viable concepts. If so, the Parks Department will draft and implement a formal Request For Proposals and possibly enter into a long term contract for the renovation and maintenance of one or both of these sites.

Commissioner Dawson continued with an update on the Request For Expressions of Interest to Design, Construct, Renovate, Operate and Maintain a Marina Facility, Ancillary Marina Services, and/or A Food Service Restaurant and Catering Facility at Smith Point County Marina. A traditional RFEI would go out to the public to see if there is any interest in the development of the Smith Point Marina. Presently, the site has a boat ramp, parking and lighting. The RFEI would be advertised in the Smithtown News, the South Shore Press and on the Parks Department website. In addition, the advertisement would be mailed to a variety of people and businesses.

A motion to approve implementation of the RFEI for Smith Point County Marina was made by Member Pearsall and seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Commissioner Dawson continued stating that the budget was approved at the last Trustees meeting and is moving forward for the year 2014. Revenues are improving now that the June rains have subsided and the month of July has picked up quite a bit, in spite of the excessive heat wave.

There is nothing new legislatively and no meetings were held since the last Trustee meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Trustee Borden inquired about this year's TWA Flight 800 Memorial ceremony at Smith Point County Park. It is the 17th anniversary of the crash and Commissioner Dawson reported that it was very well attended. The Beach Hut concessionaire agreed to stop music for the duration of the ceremony due to the close proximity to where the service is held.

Trustee Borden inquired if there have been any decisions made regarding the Bavarian Inn site. Commissioner Dawson reported that he met with representatives at the County Executive's Office and members of the community. Many members would like to see the site developed into parkland. There is currently a county resolution on the table for the parcel to be transferred over to the Parks Department since the County now owns the property.

ROUND TABLE

Colleen Hofmeister thanked Christine Gottsch for her presentation and outstanding volunteer efforts at Sagtikos Manor, as well as all of the volunteer members of the Historical Society.

Trustee White reported that the Montauk Tribe that had once been declared extinct is expected to be recognized as a legitimate tribe within weeks. The last Montauk Tribe residents lived on East Lake Drive at Oyster Pond, before being moved to East Hampton by Arthur Benson who owned the Montauk land back in the 1800s.

Trustee White expressed his disappointment with the conditions of Third House at Montauk County Park due to the lack of County funding.

Trustee White inquired if there has been any progress with the John Fritz bird observation pier at Smith Point. Terry Maccarrone reported that there is no news at present.

Trustee Borden reported that the next Trustee meeting would be held at Sears Bellows County Park.

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.