

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2013
BROOKSIDE COUNTY PARK
SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
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

ABSENT

Christopher DiGregorio	Trustee, Town of Southold
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Colleen Hofmeister	Principal Contracts Examiner
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
Lauretta Fischer	Chief Environmental Analyst, Environmental Analysis & Research Division
Janet Longo	Land Management Specialist, S.C. Real Property Acquisitions & Management
Judy Davis	President, Great South Bay Audubon Society, Steward of Brookside County Park

Introduction of Peter Leis, new Trustee, Town of Islip to Trustees, Board members, Guests and Parks Department attendees.

PUBLIC PORTION

There were no members of the public present.

Re-Election of Chairman of the Board, Miles Borden to a 2nd term in office.

A motion to nominate Miles Borden was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Sickles. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

Re-Election of Vice Chair of the Board, Dawn Hopkins to a 2nd term in office.

A motion to nominate Dawn Hopkins was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Cardillo. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

REQUESTS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

1. Historic Structures Restoration

Commissioner Dawson stated that The Request for Expressions of Interest for Historic Structures that was sponsored by Legislator Horsley asks individuals or companies to be responsible for renovating and maintaining some of our historic sites and in exchange for their services they will be granted a certain amount of time either to occupy the place as a residence or to use the site as their place of business.

Trustee Borden commented at how very impressed he was with how well written the document is and commended Colleen for her hard work in its compilation. Colleen stated that there would be a tour of the Elwood School House for all interested proposers on Friday, June 21st if anyone was interested in participating. Richard Martin would be giving background information on the site during the tour. Parks has had several interested people.

Colleen continued that since this is a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI), it will not result in a contract. It could result in the drafting and implementation of a formal Request for Proposal and--based upon what interest is received--the RFP may be structured toward an idea or concept that is received as a result of the RFEI process.

Trustee Cardillo inquired if there is a tenant currently at Black Duck Lodge. Colleen stated that there is a tenant, however, the housing agreement is on a month by month basis. If someone would like to come in and utilize Black Duck Lodge as a residence or office space, they may wish to keep the tenant or have the option to use the entire space themselves. The apartment consists of approximately 1/3 of the square footage of the entire main house.

Commissioner Dawson added that an important component to this document and the legislation is that there must be some public use of the historic structures. Colleen stated that they can't just renovate the structures. They must also pay attention to the historic significance and meet all of the stringent requirements of maintaining the sites' historic integrity.

Trustee Sickles commented that prior to the legislation's approval, Commissioner Dawson had inquired if there was any interest by the Trustees to serve on the evaluation committee that would review the RFP. He inquired if the RFEI requires that same review by an evaluation committee. Colleen stated that Parks traditionally does ask for a Parks Trustee to volunteer to serve on the review committee in the event we get a proposal or multiple proposals. Trustee Sickles stated that he had previously volunteered for the committee for Black Duck Lodge and he would like to volunteer once again. Trustee McKay volunteered to serve on the committee for the Elwood School House and Trustee Borden volunteered as his back-up if Trustee McKay was unable to be present for a meeting.

Colleen reported that the tour of Elwood School House would be Friday, June 21st at 10 a.m. and on Tuesday, June 25th at 11 a.m. there would be a tour of Black Duck Lodge. All Trustees were welcome to attend.

Commissioner Dawson reported that the original legislation called for five identified historic sites and Legislator Gregory added a sixth site, the Trihy House in the Village of Amityville. Parks has started the process with the two that it thought would initially get the best response. If the process is successful, Parks will move on to the others.

The Trustees were asked to pass a formal resolution moving forward with the implementation of the RFEI.

Trustee Sickles made a motion to approve the implementation of the RFEI for Historic Structures and Trustee McKay seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

Lauretta Fischer announced one proposed acquisition which is the Rizzi property in the Mastic/Shirley Conservation Area. It is .09 acres in the Village of Mastic Beach and Town of Brookhaven. It is in a very low lying area with pine marsh and fresh water tidal wetlands. The county already owns property adjacent to this parcel. We would like to acquire this parcel in order to create a wetlands protection area. It is being acquired under the 1986 Open Space Protection Program.

Trustee Gooding made a motion to accept the proposed acquisition and Trustee Cardillo seconded it. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson reported that he had copies of the 2014 operating budget which were distributed to the Trustees for review. The budget consists of a combination of five budgets; the operating, environmental, historic, organic and organic environmental protection. It is very similar to the budget of 2013 with the exception of the personnel lines. The contractually-mandated step increases have been included and Parks was asked to take a 5% reduction in everything but the personnel lines. The department's total budget is approximately \$16 million, with the bulk of expenses associated with staffing. It will be presented to the County Executive's office and go for Budget Hearings. The budget then goes to Budget Review for comments and on to the Legislature for their final approval.

Trustee McKay made a motion to accept the proposed 2014 operating budget and Trustee Hopkins seconded it. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

Commissioner Dawson was happy to report that the Town of Islip nominated Peter Leis and the Town of Southold nominated Christopher DiGregorio to serve on the Board of Trustees. Both nominations went through Parks Committee last week and were presented to the full Legislature. When the County Executive approves the nominations, they will become official. The Town of Babylon and Member at Large positions are still vacant.

Legislator Schneiderman drafted a resolution dedicating June 27th as "Discover Suffolk County Parks Day". The legislation reduces the fees on that one day for people who don't have Green Key cards. They will be admitted to parks for \$8.00, the same amount paid by people who have Green Key cards. Any losses in parking revenues incurred on that day will be offset by Legislator Schneiderman, however he anticipates that it will actually increase revenues. Both the County Executive's office and Legislator Schneiderman advertised the event with a press release.

Nick Gibbons gave an update on the outer beaches. Currently at Smith Point, piping plover activity and erosion require a daily review regarding opening. Of the five mile beach, we presently have a two mile day trip area that can accommodate about 600 vehicles. Smith Point was open for Memorial Day weekend but has been closed several times since then. There are currently five pair of piping plovers at Smith Point at varying stages of their life cycle.

At Cupsogue, the outer beach campground is fully operational and there is limited beach buggy access due to the beach conditions caused by Sandy.

There are two active plover sites in areas that typically are not active. At Clam Island in Southampton, we have the first pair of birds seen there in over ten years. At Ram Island on Shelter Island, we have a pair, which is the second year in a row but prior, we hadn't had a pair there in at least ten years. Overall, the numbers are down, which seems to be the case in other places as well. It is difficult to determine the cause of this. There has been poor activity over the past few seasons. One theory is there are plenty of new habitats south of Long Island and the population may be redistributing itself.

The Parks Department is providing access to the outer beach as much as possible. Commissioner Dawson reported that as far as obtaining outer beach permits is concerned, when residents come in to purchase an outer beach permit, they are asked to sign an acknowledgement that states that there may be limited access this year. This seems to be mitigating the number of calls to express discontent.

Commissioner Dawson reported that the Legislature recently approved giving senior rates at golf courses to veterans. The Legislature has amended that resolution to include those who are currently active military and family. This is a pilot program and will expire in March, 2014.

All campsites, beaches and golf courses opened on time this year. There has been a significant decrease in revenue at the golf courses due to the poor weather and the sales of outer beach permits because of limited beach access.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Trustee Borden inquired if there is any news on the Bavarian Inn property in Lake Ronkonkoma. Legislator Kennedy was expected to attend the May meeting but was unable to attend.

Trustee Borden inquired how much revenue is available for the purchase of parkland and conservation areas. Janet Longo reported that there is approximately \$2½ million in the fund. Trustee Borden stated that the amount of parkland that Suffolk County has purchased is huge and Trustee McKay added that Suffolk County is the leading agricultural county in the state. Terry Maccarrone stated that Suffolk County is the largest county owned park system in the country and Laurretta Fischer added that Suffolk County is on the top of the list of all counties nationwide in acquisitions.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee Cardillo reported that everything is clean and going well at Indian Island County Park and Golf Course.

Trustee Borden reported that a friend of his who enjoys camping highly praised one of our county parks and the special attention they received during their camping stay.

Richard Martin gave a description of Brookside County Park as being a 6 acre property originally owned by architect Isaac Green of Sayville. The entire park is dedicated as an historic trust area and the meeting was held in what had been the gate house to the estate. The county is not considering restoring it fully but in preserving

certain elements to retain as much of the historic character as possible. The Parks Department has a License Agreement with the Great South Bay Audubon Society to serve as stewards for the property. The Society has done a lot of work on the building, cleared the trails and currently provides public programs on the premises.

Richard introduced Judy Davis, President of the Great South Bay Audubon Society, who spoke about some of the activities that are held at Brookside. The Great South Bay Audubon Society holds their board meetings there, as does the Young Naturalists Club, which reaches out to the youth in the community. The June outdoor program will include the Sweetbriar Nature Center. They will provide a description and viewing of the wildlife of Long Island. This program will be open to the public. There is a Butterfly Garden Club that meets at Brookside, as well. Every Wednesday and Sunday from 1-3 pm volunteers give tours of the property and a description of some of the history connected to the park. Commissioner Dawson stated that the Parks Department appreciates the Society and their work as stewards of Brookside. They keep in touch with the Park Police, the Police Department and the local school district in an effort to keep vandalism on the grounds to a minimum. Without the support of local groups such as the Great South Bay Audubon Society, historic sites such as Brookside would fall prey to damage to the buildings and/or property due to vandalism.

Colleen reported that the county has numerous contracts with not-for-profit groups who serve as stewards and commended and thanked Judy Davis for her group's outstanding communication, sharing of information and responsiveness to the Parks Department.

Colleen Hofmeister reminded the Trustees that the location of next month's meeting has been changed from Deepwells in St. James to Sagtikos Manor in West Islip. The county is currently installing a sprinkler system at Deepwells and it will not be completed in time for the meeting.

Trustee Gooding inquired about the grant money allocated in the budget for historical societies. Commissioner Dawson reported that these are legislative grants that the Parks Department administers. The Legislators award the grants to specific groups and the Parks Department Contracts Unit is responsible for obtaining all of the information, drafting and administering the contracts, as well as overseeing the expenditures. Richard added that Parks gets involved with review of the projects if they are on county sites, but the majority of grants go to private historical societies or other groups not on county parkland. Colleen added that Parks has 46 contracts this year. A majority of them receive about \$5,000, but some, such as Long Island Maritime Museum receive larger amounts.

Peter Leis thanked all for the warm welcome.

Trustee McKay reported that the Town of Huntington is getting close to closing on the Williams property in Cold Spring Harbor. It is a joint town and county acquisition, has a very significant hillside on the eastern side of Cold Spring Harbor and it will make a very nice park. Janet Longo reported that the contract is in progress but has only just been signed and there are still many steps to go before closing.

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 8-0-0.