

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2013  
MEADOW EDGE GOLF COURSE  
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miles Borden	Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
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
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT**

Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Islip
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Southold
VACANT	Member at Large

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Tony Trotta	Superintendent

**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 FEBRUARY 28, 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 8-0-0.**

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Dawson reported that the contracts were let for the staircases and concrete patio that were damaged at Smith Point Beach. Repair work will begin next week and will be completed by Memorial Day.

There was a lot of damage to the parking lot and the patio for the concessionaire at Meschutt. Nick Gibbons is working on the permit process with DEC and we expect to get approvals shortly.

There is legislation on the table (1172) to adopt a law to ensure a fully functioning Board of Parks trustees. Thanks to the Presiding Officer, a resolution was instituted whereby if there is a vacancy for more than 120 days and a Town Supervisor fails to act, the Legislature can make a recommendation. Currently, someone who

sits in an appointed position for any governmental agency (local, state, town, county) and does not hold a civil service position is technically not permitted to sit on the Board of Trustees. This resolution amends that rule. It already went for a public hearing, the issue will go before the Parks Committee on April 17<sup>th</sup> and will then go back before the Legislature for a vote. Tom Young stated that it addresses the fact that if a Town Supervisor does not provide an individual to fill the position within a specified amount of time that the Presiding Officer of the Legislature can make a recommendation to fill the vacancy with someone from that township.

**Trustee White made a motion in favor of this resolution being approved and it was seconded by Trustee Gooding. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**

Commissioner Dawson announced the passing of a resolution to ban the sale of stimulant drinks in all Suffolk County Parks. This legislation is specific to Parks and is only for minors. It currently exempts the present concessionaires but any new concessionaires or extensions of current contracts will include this language. At present, individuals can still carry these stimulant drinks into the parks.

Acquisition of the 14 acre Rollstone Estates property in West Sayville was passed by the Legislature and will be used for active recreation. The county is currently working on an agreement with the Town of Islip and a local lacrosse, football and soccer group to build a facility.

Suffolk County golf courses opened on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, as scheduled. Timber Point has a fully functioning modified 18 hole course. Commissioner Dawson reported that we are cautiously optimistic that Timber Point will be operating all 27 holes by the end of June.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Trustee Borden inquired if there were any updates on ice fishing. Commissioner Dawson stated that the information Peter Malaty brought to the last trustee meeting was sent to the County Attorney's office for review and we are waiting for a response. There are a number of lease and license agreements that the County Attorney's office is working to get resolved for Parks and it will then be addressed. The Commissioner stated that we will be inviting Peter to the next quarterly meeting of the Sportsman's Advisory Committee to discuss the issue.

Trustee Borden inquired if there were any updates on the Camp Alvernia property in Centerport. Trustee McKay stated that there hasn't been any news either from the local fire department or Legislator Spencer. 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. Trustee McKay added that creating a substation was a recommendation made at the hearing.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee Sickles inquired if the Request for Expression of Interest that was estimated to go out by the end of March for the Elwood Schoolhouse/Black Duck Lodge was still on schedule. Commissioner Dawson reported that we anticipate getting it out within the next few weeks. We have spoken with Legislator Horsley regarding some minor changes to the document and it is currently in the County Attorney's office for review. It was discussed that the Elwood Schoolhouse might be more conducive to office use and the Black Duck Lodge could be used for residential use or maybe as a Bed and Breakfast. We plan to send information out to anyone who calls to express interest.

Trustee Sickles reported receiving a call from Brad Gettinger, owner of the Country Gardens Nursery in Eastport. Country Gardens Nursery borders on Suffolk County Parkland and several years back there was a question of his property possibly encroaching on the parkland property. A survey was to be done to verify this.

Mr. Gettinger informed Trustee Sickles that he hadn't heard anything since that time and was recently notified to appear in court to address the issue of his property encroaching on county parkland. Mr. Gettinger expressed that he would prefer to work with and possibly donate to the county some of the stock that is on the encroached land. Trustee Sickles advised Mr. Gettinger to contact Commissioner Dawson or Nick Gibbons about the matter. Commissioner Dawson stated that he would forward any inquiries to the County Attorney's Office.

Trustee McKay reported that the issue with the 12 acre Carpenter Farm property in Greenlawn that the Town of Huntington had planned to purchase was resolved by making a lot line adjustment. The closing should proceed soon.

Trustee White reported on the meeting held at Third House with the concessionaire of the stables in Montauk. The concessionaire, Patrick Keogh expressed that he would like to make a lot of improvements. Unfortunately, because of budget cuts, Third House presently has very little county oversight and Mr. Keogh would like to discuss the rehabilitation of Third House and complete the work that was started. It would then be opened up to a limited occupancy geared toward environmental and possibly equestrian uses. He would also like to open some pastures and provide some historic interpretation of Camp Wyckoff and the Montaukett Indian Tribe.

Board Member Terrence Pearsall reported that the newly renovated Vanderbilt Planetarium reopened on March 15th with a great new projector, sound and lighting system. The building has been beautifully refurbished and an individual has generously pledged one million dollars toward the maintenance of the planetarium. A brand new show was created by Sesame Street for pre-school age children and it introduces a new Chinese character. The Commissioner suggested that everyone go to see the rest of the Museum also which displays historic collections from all over the world.

Tony Trotta reported that the crew is working hard preparing for the upcoming season. Repair of the stairs at Smith Point was started on Wednesday and completion is planned for opening on Memorial Day.

The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2013 at the Scully Estate, Islip, New York.

**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 8-0-0.**