

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
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
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Christopher DiGregorio	Trustee, Town of Southold
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Jim Barr	Superintendent
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

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

Robert C. Ford attended to listen to topics on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2014

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson reported on the bill Legislator D'Amato sponsored and the Legislature passed in 2009 on sites suitable for naming rights/advertising in Suffolk County Parks. An RFP (Request for Proposals) went out by DPW at that time and there was no interest shown. Legislator D'Amato inquired about the resolution about six months ago and requested that the Parks Department renew its efforts. Trustee Sickles agreed to work with Commissioner Dawson to review the list and the guidelines were handed out at the meeting. Once approved, another RFP will be drafted to find an advertising firm to manage the contracts.

Trustee White inquired if Parks has received information or suggestions from any New York State golf courses, such as Bethpage or other counties that may already be doing this. Commissioner Dawson stated that Parks has a copy of the RFP that went out for Nassau County which was more for naming rights than advertising. Trustee White also inquired if charitable organizations use our County golf courses for fundraisers because when they do that they usually sell holes and may even have flags printed for the holes. He questioned how that would coincide with this program. Commissioner Dawson stated that if we entered into any agreements to sponsor a hole, there would need to be specific stipulations made stating exceptions for golf outings.

Legislative Aide Chris DeLuca inquired about the fees received at County golf courses that are managed by others. Commissioner Dawson explained that Parks has four County golf courses and explained how the contracts worked with each of the Pros.

Trustee William Sickles made a motion to approve the proposed list of parks appropriate for naming rights and/or corporate sponsorship and Trustee Peter Leis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

Commissioner Dawson reported that at the last Legislative meeting, a motion was approved by a vote of 18-0 to pass the “Home Rule Message” to allow New York State to vote on whether or not they will allow the Park Police to move from the Parks Division into the Suffolk County Police Department.

Trustee Gooding inquired about how the Parks Department will acquire the part-time coverage that will be needed. Commissioner Dawson stated that Parks will advertise, interview and hire Park Rangers and Park Security Officers on a seasonal basis. It is hoped that retired law enforcement officers will be interested in taking a position of this type.

Golf courses opened last Friday and it was a pretty good weekend. It is hoped that this season will provide more seasonable weather.

Commissioner Dawson congratulated Trustee Richard White for his reappointment at the last Legislative meeting which extends his term another five years to November, 2018.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Chair Dawn Hopkins inquired about an article in Newsday about the revitalization project on Fire Island and the building of new dunes. Commissioner Dawson stated that Parks Department issues are primarily related to the Army Corps, Fish & Wildlife, environmental issues such as the piping plovers and the Fire Island National Seashore, as opposed to the moving of houses and eminent domain. It is hoped that the Smith Point project will begin in September as planned.

Chair Hopkins reported that she attended the Parks Committee meeting on February 26th. She indicated that some of the members as well as Legislators showed interest in attending some of the Parks Trustee meetings.

The Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Board held a meeting with a presentation by the USGS. The USGS did a pilot ground water quality study of the lake in the summer of 2013 and the winter of 2014. Chair Hopkins brought and circulated the results of the study. The lake was not tested directly but observational wells were used on the north and northwest sides of the lake. Off of Victory Drive (north side of the lake), anti-seizure drugs and anti-anxiety drugs were found. On the northwest side, anti-fungal material, deicers, industrial solvents and drug precursors were found. Humans don’t process these materials 100% in their bodies so it is excreted. The septic systems can’t absorb them so they are found in the observational wells. The implications are prolonged nutrient loading resulting in a condition where it allows algae to form and a decrease of oxygen in

the lake. Bacteria found from human and wildlife waste continues to prevent the lake from being used for recreation. Hormones also found can have an effect on fish gender. Detailed ground water flow modeling, real time lake level modeling, lake water chemistry and additional ground water sampling at more locations around the lake will need to be done. The USGS will be advising the Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Board what the cost of doing this will be.

Brookhaven Councilman Kevin LaValle was present at the meeting to facilitate getting a Brookhaven appointment into the Lake Ronkonkoma Watershed Intermunicipal Organization. The Board has already acquired a Smithtown representative and an Islip representative is to be decided upon in the near future. Once that occurs, the Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Board will then be joined together to become the Intermunicipal Organization. They will then prioritize and decide which issues are to be addressed first. The results of the USGS report can be found online at Legislator John Kennedy's 12th District website.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee Borden commented that it was good to see the golfers back out on the course. There is still snow on some of the golf courses on the north shore so they aren't quite ready yet for golf.

Trustee McKay reported that he attended a meeting in Huntington on the Crabmeadow Watershed Study being done. A grant of nearly \$60,000 from the Long Island Sound Study Program is covering the cost for this study. He stated that some of the information from the Lake Ronkonkoma water quality study may be helpful because that study covers an area that goes over to Huntington and includes where Crabmeadow Beach is located. Chair Hopkins commented that he can review the actual report either on a pdf file or via audio on Legislator John Kennedy's website.

Trustee White reported that he was approached by a member of the Town Board of East Hampton to request that Parks remove the fencing that borders Cedar Point County Park and goes down Northwest Landing Road to the water and then makes a turn for about 15 feet. The closer you get to the water, the more the fencing is rusting and deteriorating. There are some other preserved lands in the area that have no fences but have a single post with a sign that may be from the Nature Conservancy or East Hampton Group for Wildlife. Legislative Aide Christina DeLisi added that Councilman Peter Van Scoyoc had complained about the condition of the fencing and Nick Gibbons had a section of the fencing removed. Trustee White stated that most of the fencing is in good repair but it does present a barrier into the park which may or may not be an issue. Trustee Sickles commented that the 6' chain link fencing was put up in the early 1970s and there were 2 sections where there were gates that could be opened. The Parks Department had been called by the East Hampton Town Trails Preservation Society requesting access to the trails for their hikers into the county park when they crossed the road. The Parks Department installed a pedestrian access gate at that time which was open/close with no lock on it. The other two gates used to be locked years ago. Commissioner Dawson stated that he would look into why the fencing was installed before committing to removing it. Trustee Sickles added that there is fencing all along Bellows Pond Road at Sears Bellows County Park which goes all the way up to the entrance to Cedar Point where the main entrance to the campground is. Southaven County Park has fencing also and the reasoning back at the time of installation was so that the public would enter the parks through the proper entrances.

Trustee White continued that the other request made by the East Hampton Town Board member was that the northwest bulkhead is supposed to be repaired or replaced and he asked for a copy of the specifications. Commissioner Dawson stated that he will see if DPW could send that out.

Trustee White congratulated Trustee McKay on his reappointment to another term as a Parks Trustee.

Trustee Sickles inquired about an RFP (Request for Proposal) that was issued and a walk-through scheduled for next week at Hubbard County Park. Commissioner Dawson stated that he believed it was for the Master Plan from 2008.

The next meeting will be held at the Hawkins House in Yaphank on Thursday, April 17, 2014.

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