

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2009  
SCULLY ESTATE, ISLIP, NY**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Chairman, Town of Riverhead
Ray Corwin	Member at Large
Gregory Dawson	Vice Chairman, Town of Islip
Amy Engel	Member of the Board
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board
Edward Walters	Trustee, Southampton

**ABSENT**

Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

John W. Pavacic	Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Colleen Hofmeister	Principal Contracts Examiner
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Tom Malanga	Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

**GUESTS**

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Janet Longo	Acquisitions Supervisor, Division of Real Property Acquisitions and Management
Roger Podd	County Attorney's Office
Tom Ryan	Office of Legislator Viloría-Fisher
Legislator Vivian Viloría-Fisher	Suffolk County Legislature

Chairman Cardillo called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17th, 2009**

On page 5 - under Smith Point change "eminent" to read "imminent".

**A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Cardillo. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**

**PUBLIC PORTION**

No members of the public present.

## COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

### Cupsogue County Park

The Commissioner reported the Trustees had received a letter from Kathryn Larsen regarding Cupsogue County Park. Commissioner Pavacic reported Cupsogue County Park is one of the busiest county parks we have. The parking is maxed out which is one of the primary causes of traffic jams. Usually by 11:00 AM the park will fill up. Our staff puts up a sign by the bridge closet to the park to notify people the park is filled, but people continue to come. This causes consternation for the residents of Westhampton Dunes. It's difficult for them to get in and out of their driveways and also severely hinders access by emergency vehicles as well hindering Parks staff.

A number of years ago a County proposal was introduced for improvements to the entrance to help alleviate the traffic congestion. This entailed adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> lane to allow for stacking vehicles and creating a new turnaround. The Village of Westhampton Dunes created the plans, hired an engineering firm who drafted the plans and applied directly to DEC for a tidal wetlands permit. That permit was obtained. The Village would provide the property and then give the County easements to allow the County to do the construction work. Capital funds were appropriated for this project several years ago.

Ms. Larsen has been the only person to raise any issues about this project. The Commissioner said he understands Ms. Larsen does not own any property on Dune Road. We have responded to a number of her letters. There is a need for improvements to the entrance at Cupsogue and the Village is very much behind doing traffic improvements.

Amy Engle reported the County is waiting for the Village to take the first step before the County moves forward to do the work. Our position is that right now this is a Village issue and any complaints about the process should be with the Village.

### Coindre Hall Boat House

The Commissioner reported that we are moving forward with the construction project on the Boat House. At their last board meeting, the Town of Huntington bonded the \$600,000 that they offered to the County. We will be talking with the Town about seeking alternate locations for the Sagamore Rowing Association, which occupies the Boat House, before construction begins.

### Smith Point Fishing Pier

Terry Maccarrone reported the pilings were supposed to go in today, but due to the poor weather it should happen in the next few days.

### Novak Property

It was brought to our attention that there has been some ATV damage occurring at this site which runs along the Carmans River. There is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow with the Carmans River Partnership. We will be discussing ways to address the ATV's impact on the property. It will be a collective effort with a number of other agencies including the Town of Brookhaven, Central Pine Barrens Commission, DEC, plus others.

### Recommended Budget

Legislator Vioria Fisher reported the members of the Legislature are all looking at the County Executive's recommended budget. She is concerned about two (2) specific items in that recommended budget.

Item #1: Historic Structures – The Legislature passed a Hotel Motel tax to help provide support for many capital projects in historic structures. In the recommended budget, Historic Services has all been shifted out of the General Fund into the Hotel Motel tax. She is very concerned by this because we want to be

certain our historic services and the personnel lines remain in the General Fund and not be attached to sales tax.

Item #2: Marina RFEI – There was a letter sent to constituents from the County Executive’s office saying that this is an exploratory effort and we are just looking at our options. Legislator Vioria-Fisher reported in the recommended budget, the marinas are out (they are not funded in the budget). The Legislature is fighting to fund the very necessary uses of our parks by the people of Suffolk County. Now is not the time for privatization of our marinas.

Amy Engel reported the reason for the RFEI is to get ideas and input. It’s not about privatization. There are two things on the table. We may look at raising fees or we may look at some options of privatization (or perhaps something in the middle).

Legislator Vioria Fisher said the word from the County Executive is that the marina RFEI is exploratory; however the narrative of the budget says the County expects to have it done by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and that the position of Supervisor of the Marinas and the \$300,000 anticipated from the privatization is in the budget. If it’s exploratory, this should not be reflected in the budget.

Colleen Hofmeister reported she has received many phone calls asking why we are saying this is exploratory when they can read that marinas are out of the budget. As far as our department if concerned, there is no way we could privatize the marinas by the end of this year. It would be difficult to get done by the end of next year. What we have done with our exploratory meetings with representatives from various boating associations is open up an excellent dialogue. These people are doing their homework and providing a vast array of analysis and excellent suggestions. What a lot of voters don’t understand is the concept of the General Fund. They think that money that comes in from the marinas as revenue goes back into the marinas. This is not the case – the money goes into the General Fund.

Ms. Hofmeister reported we have received three proposals on the RFEI. We are putting together a very well rounded committee to review these proposals and we will speak with the boat owners and then decide on how best to proceed.

Commissioner Pavacic said privatization is just one consideration. We will also be receiving a considerable amount of input from boaters. If privatization was to be considered, it’s not necessarily an “all or nothing” proposal. It could be looked at for just one particular marina. Going forward we will have regular meetings with the boating associations. Any marina proposal will probably involve a fee increase.

### Scully Estate

Richard Martin gave an overview of the Scully Estate. From the late 1880’s until the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the 70 acre Scully Sanctuary was part of Windholme Farm, a nearly 300 acre farm that also included the 200 acre Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge on the east side of South Bay Avenue. Windholme was owned by Samuel and Natalie Peters. The Peters gave their property (which was eventually divided by South Bay Avenue) to their two children, Harry and Lousine. Harry took title to the 200 acres to the east of South Bay Avenue; Lousine the 70 acres to the west. The house at Scully was built for Lousine Peters and her husband Harold Weekes, in 1917. Lousine Peters passed her property to her daughter, Hathaway (nickname “Happy”), who was married several times, finally taking the surname Scully. In the late 1960’s Mrs. Scully, having no heirs of her own, committed to donating her property to the National Audubon Society.

Meanwhile, “Happy’s” first cousin, who inherited her father’s 200 acre property across the street, also having no heirs, decided to gift her property to the federal government for the creation of the Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge.

The County purchased this the 70 acre property from the Audubon Society in 2004 under the Old Drinking Water Protection Program. Later that year, the County designated the site as the future home of its Greenways Educational and Interpretative Center. With the Seatuck background, it was felt that the Scully Estate would be a perfect match for this interpretative center. We entered into a contract with Seatuck and their offices are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Scully Estate. The grand opening for the Interpretative Center will be around Earth Day in 2010. All work for this center has been under green building guidelines and we should be getting the P.O. for public assembly soon.

Nick Gibbons reported that there will be a day to day presence at the site and the Parks Department will have oversight. He has also assisted with the approval process for trails within the property. The concept will be that anyone can pull into the parking lot and take a walk around without necessarily having to visit the Interpretative Center.

Colleen Hofmeister reported a resolution was passed in 2003 to acquire the property. We began negotiations with Seatuck and when it was determined this site was going to be the home of the Interpretative Environmental Center, we tried to determine what role Seatuck would take. The contract took 5 years to negotiate. The contract is a standard 10 year plus two 5 year option agreement. This contract was negotiated shortly after the Friends contract dissolved so that there are a lot of very intricate and detailed clauses.

#### GATR Site

The Commissioner reported a meeting was held at the site last Friday regarding the communications equipment. We are working with the County Attorney, the Town of East Hampton and the Montauk Fire Department to try to hammer out an agreement that will allow for the towers to be constructed. Work has started on the maintenance building.

Terry Maccarrone reported the maintenance facility is progressing rapidly. The plan is to have the facility completed by Thanksgiving.

#### **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee McKay reported he made a couple of trips to Coindre Hall. He saw a maximum number of 8 dogs running off leash dogs.

The Commissioner reported he has seen at least 12, perhaps 15 dogs running off leash. Commissioner Pavacic said we continuously send Park Police to the site to vigorously enforce the law. The people that continue to walk their dogs off leash feel empowered that it's a right and not a privilege to have their dogs there. The Commissioner told L.I. Dog that if they can find another piece of vacant property somewhere in the Town of Huntington that is privately owned, they can bring that forth for review and consideration by the County. Trustee Engle and the Commissioner met with L.I. Dog and told them the same thing back in April and we have not heard anything. There is no easy solution to this problem.

Tom Malanga reported that things have calmed down considerably at the Long Island Maritime Museum. They had a very successful summer with the Seafood Festival.

Tom Malanga reported he, along with the Commissioner and Colleen Hofmeister, met with Chris Kent and the County Attorney regarding the Parks Foundation agreement. There is one remaining issue and we hope to have that resolved in the near future.

Tom Malanga reported that going forward we will be having an Earth Day Awards Dinner in April. We will consider three or four honorees for this first year's dinner. The State Parks Foundation had a most

successful event when they honored Bette Midler for her work on the roadside cleanup. We would like a cross section of three or four honorees.

Trustee Borden reported his appearance at the meeting of the County Legislature last month was very relaxed and comfortable. He read the Trustees Resolution regarding revised I.R. 1273 and made a few comments. Legislature Browning made it very clear that there would not be a 2/3 majority requirement in I.R. 1273 as requested by the Trustees.

Trustee Borden also reported that last month the Commissioner met with two Smithtown Town Board members. Trustee Borden said his long range goal is to try to improve the working relationship with the Town Board and the Trustees regarding land acquisitions in the Town of Smithtown.

Trustee McKay reported that the minutes of the September 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative meeting states that I.R. 1273 was tabled. I.R. 1273 was tabled again on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Pavacic suggested the Trustees visit the Coram Dog Park site prior to the next Trustees meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

The next Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at Meadowedge in West Sayville, New York.

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