

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2017
INDIAN ISLAND GOLF COURSE, RIVERHEAD, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding	Vice Chair, Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Arthur Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Terence McSweeney	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
Michael Rosato	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Philip Berdolt	Parks Commissioner
Emily Lauri	Community Relations Director
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist
Tony Trotta	Parks Superintendent

GUESTS

Legislator Kara Hahn	5 th District, Parks Committee Chair
----------------------	---

PUBLIC PORTION

John Betsch, president of the Kenny's/McCabe's Beach Civic Association of Southold and Aaron Virgin, of Group for the East End were present to speak about Great Pond. It is a self-contained 32 acre body of water replenished by the water shed surrounding it. Since the 1990's, Great Pond has been slowly collapsing due to phragmites. Several invasive species removal companies have been contacted and a few proposals were prepared. One of the preferred proposals is a non-herbicidal removal process.

Great Pond is located within the Peconic Dunes Camp property. Twice last summer the pond had to be closed due to bacteria in the water and could not be used by the children for swimming or canoeing. The objective of the clean-up is to control approximately 3.3 acres of common reeds and 6,600 linear feet around the pond. Elimination of the phragmites would be accomplished by hydro-raking to pull the reeds and rhizomes out and manual cutting along the shore.

Group for East End has applied to NYS DEC for a grant on Kenny's/McCabe's Civic Association's behalf and response is expected in mid-May. The group has the support of Legislator Krupski and the Southold Town Board and Trustees who regulate all of the water bodies in the Town of Southold. There are two parcels on Great Pond owned by Suffolk County and the group would also like the support of the Parks Commissioner and trustees for the project.

Trustee Sickles commented that it sounds like a very labor intensive project. John Betsch stated that all of the phragmites, including rhizomes will be pulled up and out of the pond and brought to a staging area to dry out. The material would then be taken away to a DEC approved site in Babylon for incineration and then Yaphank for burial. The surrounding homeowners and the DEC grant will help to pay for the project.

Once the phragmites have been removed, it will be an ongoing effort of maintenance to keep it from growing back again. John stated that there is a lot of support from community volunteers who have signed on to assist, as well as the surrounding homeowners and ROTC students. There is also a plan to replace the phragmites with native vegetation.

Commissioner Berdolt stated that he was in contact with Legislator Krupski's office regarding this issue last year and there is no possible way to procure it. The county can't enter into an agreement with a private entity and pay for this to be done without putting it out for bid. However, aside from monetarily, there are ways that the Parks Department and DPW could be of assistance.

A motion to support the Kenny's/McCabe's Beach Civic Association and Group for the East End in its efforts to clean up Great Pond in Southold was made by Trustee Leudesdorf and it was seconded by Trustee Cardillo. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

David Gatz was present to speak about the condition of the foot bridge at Cranberry Bog CP. Commissioner Berdolt stated that there is a lot of funding needed to replace the bridge. It was suggested that possibly the community could get involved with it. Commissioner Berdolt commented that plans must be submitted to obtain the necessary DEC permits for projects surrounding wetlands to make certain that repairs and/or rebuilding are done properly.

David Gatz reported that he has run several local running races in county and state parks and he had some questions regarding the new County Parks fee structure, specifically the in-season as opposed to the out-of-season fee. If you had an event with 200 people in-season, the fee would be \$180. Out-of-season, there is a \$4/person fee and it would be \$800, in addition to the cost of bringing in port-o-potties which is an additional few hundred dollars. Commissioner Berdolt stated that if there is no parking fee being charged it would be considered off-season regardless of what month of the year it is.

Trustee Cardillo stated that at a previous meeting that he commented that the fees had doubled since the new fee structure went into effect this year, but in actuality they doubled in the last two years. When a race is run, the results are posted so you know how many people participated in the event. He reported that there was recently a 70km (about 43.5 miles) race that started in DEC lands in Rocky Point and finished inside of Sears Bellows CP. During the race, a DEC volunteer caught two guys who have been tearing up Pine Barrens land with their ATVs for nearly twenty years. Thanks to all of the people who were on the course using the trails that day, these two were apprehended.

Trustee Cardillo added that there was a race at Indian Island CP back in December when there's nobody in the park. Porto-potties have to be trucked in and now the fee was raised to \$4/person. As a result of the increase in fees, the race that used to be held at Manorville Hills has now been moved to a Town of Brookhaven park off of

William Floyd Parkway. Legislator Hahn commented that the fee increase makes it very difficult to donate money to charities.

Trustee McKay inquired what the rationale was for raising the rates. Commissioner Berdolt stated that the Park Department did a complete re-structuring of all fees increasing them at 10%. The fees were compared to the fees of other agencies and the county brought theirs up more closely in line with the others.

Commissioner Berdolt added that the county has had a lot of issues with ATVs and Parks has a joint task force with the Pine Barrens Commission, the Park Rangers, the DEC and the Sheriff. They have been targeting various areas and have been very successful in issuing multiple summonses and confiscating vehicles. Unfortunately, the Parks Department doesn't have enough resources to be everywhere.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 23 2017

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Vice Chair and Trustee Kathleen Gooding and seconded by Member of the Board Debra Kolyer. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Berdolt asked Legislator Hahn to report on her legislation pertaining to dumping in parks. He reported that he is working with the Police Department on the possibility of having cameras installed at various County Parks in the very near future. Once the Parks Watch Program is up and running, more people will be on the lookout, there will be an increase in law enforcement keeping a closer watch and significant fines will be issued for dumping.

Legislator Hahn reported that she met with Assemblyman Steve Englebright and the County Attorney's office and some recommendations were made to make changes to environmental conservation laws at the state level so that in some instances dumping will be a felony. This will be another positive deterrent.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that the Parks Department is gearing up and getting ready for the upcoming season, and hoping for some great weather.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Hopkins inquired about the status of the Cedar Point Lighthouse RFP (Request for Proposals). Richard Martin reported that the RFP has been awarded to Lee Skolnick Architecture & Design Partnership. The project is to replace the roof and restore the entire exterior of the building. This company has done creative restoration work in stone and brick buildings on Roosevelt Island in New York City.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that he had been contacted by Mike Leahy of the Friends of Cedar Point Lighthouse to request that the entire lighthouse be illuminated by solar power. There is a dark skies law in Suffolk County so it is under question. Richard stated that the group can promote the restoration work that is planned around the town of Sag Harbor.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that the piping plover season has begun and there are two nests at Cedar Point so there is no vehicle access in that area.

Chair Hopkins inquired about the camp store at Cedar Point CP. Terry Maccarrone reported that several people contacted the Parks Department stating that they were very interested in it. A third RFP was put out but none of

the interested parties worked out. In the meantime, a mobile ice cream vendor will probably be approved on the premises.

Chair Hopkins inquired on the status of the Parks Protection Program. Commissioner Berdolt reported that he is gathering information on having cameras installed. Every park has the potential to be dumped on by neighbors or the public in general, so it was narrowed down and thirteen locations were identified that are very remote and have greater potential to be dumped on. There are solar-powered wireless devices, battery-operated ones that just take pictures or just trail cameras. The Commissioner hopes to have some installations completed by the end of May. Signs will be placed in all of the parks with Parks Watch contact information and phone number for the public to call if they witness any dumping going on.

Chair Hopkins inquired about funding for county parks and a plan by Governor Cuomo to consolidate departments at the state/town and county levels. Commissioner Berdolt stated that Governor Cuomo is asking that all of the county supervisors throughout the state look to see within their county ways in which they can share services to consolidate operations. Instead of every town and village putting out their own bids for purchasing items, plowing roads, mowing grass strips on a right of way, etc., the work can be shared in order to help everyone.

Legislator Hahn reported that there are discussions ongoing with state representatives for a hotel/motel tax increase with more money coming to parks. If you are in favor of that idea, Legislator Hahn urged those people to be in contact with their state representatives to let them know that if they are going to increase the hotel/motel tax, it is imperative that more money comes to parks, parks maintenance and parks capital.

ROUND TABLE

Commissioner Berdolt welcomed Trustee Sickles at the meeting after his recent surgery.

Legislator Hahn announced that she reached out to Suffolk County Community College and they found an art professor and some students who are very interested in working with her staff on murals and possibly some mosaics for the tunnels at Smith Point beach. Commissioner Berdolt reported that something similar was done at Gilgo beach and it was very successful in eliminating graffiti. The cost will be worked out through local donations.

Terry Maccarrone suggested the Splashes of Hope Organization as a possible donor to the project.

Legislator Hahn reported that she took a tour of some the county parks with Legislator Krupski in his district, including Orient Point CP, Cedar Beach CP, Peconic Dunes CP, Goldsmith's Inlet CP, North Fork Preserve CP and Indian Island CP. She added that she also took a tour of the Chandler Estate property with Legislator Anker. There are some issues with Native American archeological items being plundered at that site. As the new Parks Chairperson, Legislator Hahn would like to take a tour of every major county park. She also has a scheduled tour with Legislator Fleming.

Legislator Hahn met with Dave and Joe from Suffolk Committee for Camping regarding non-refundable fees and some possible ways of alerting campers. She also questioned why the public can't check in to our parks on Facebook from a phone. Commissioner Berdolt stated that the RecTrac system doesn't yet support that option. He will have Karri Marengo look into it.

Legislator Hahn reported that her passport program is due to be finalized today and new logo will be added.

Legislator Hahn issued legislation a few years back which would protect our lifeguards from the dangers of the sun. The legislation did not pass but she hopes that Parks can work on educating our lifeguards and staff who work outdoors. Commissioner Berdolt reported that the lifeguards all receive sunscreen, tents and hats to protect them from the sun.

Richard Martin reported that the design phase of the contract is now being worked on with DPW for the Cedar Point Lighthouse and it should take 2-3 months to complete.

Work is now beginning on the restoration of the Homan House in Yaphank and it is hoped that it will be completed by mid-July.

A meeting is scheduled at Third House to go over the design/idea process for the sprinkler system in that building.

Richard reported that the next meeting on May 25th will be held at the Society for Long Island Antiquities in Cold Spring Harbor. The meeting will be held in the old renovated church on the north side of Main Street. Parking is in the large municipal parking lot located across from the church on the south side of Main Street. The Society held a fundraiser at the Meadow Croft Estate last summer and the group supports historic preservation endeavors on Long Island.

Richard gave an update on work at the Wawapek property off of Shore Road in Cold Spring Harbor. It is a relatively new passive park acquisition between the town, county and a private group. A new entrance has already been installed on the property if anyone would like to visit it after the May meeting.

Terry Maccarrone reported that some of the requests made by the Parks Department in the proposed capital budget were reduced and some pushed back several years. If anyone would like to review it, the budget can be accessed online.

Terry reported that the Ockers Transportation Center (marine railway building to be constructed at the Long Island Maritime Museum) is slated to be started this summer, around July.

The Parks Department submitted a waiver request to grant Cornell Cooperative Extension a waiver to operate the day camp for the next three years and it was approved.

Tony Trotta reported that all Parks are preparing for the upcoming season.

Trustee White commended Legislator Hahn for being supportive of the hotel/motel tax increase and suggested that the distribution of funds be done by zip code. That way, the amount of funds collected in a particular zip code would be spent in that zip code. Legislator Hahn stated that neither land preservation nor farm land money is handled that way by government. She would not support that form of distribution of funds.

Trustee White was glad to see Commissioner Berdolt and Trustee Sickles back from their surgery.

Emily Lauri responded to Legislator Hahn's question regarding the ability to check in at different Suffolk County Parks. At present the ability is only available to check-in as Suffolk County Parks and IT will be meeting next month to work on separating the option into individual park check-ins.

Trustee Cardillo reported that he was present for the RFP for the North Fork Preserve CP. One person responded to it and the general consensus from the people on the committee was positive. The applicant is a retired managing director of Blackstone Group LP and his family lives in Amagansett. He has done extensive

research and wants to pasture cattle and sell it for food. He has done this before in upstate New York and will be re-claiming the farm land. The land the county bought is supposed to be used as farm land and will be used as such with this bidder who will also put up fencing. Re-negotiation will be forthcoming before an agreement is determined.

Commissioner Berdolt requested entering into Executive Session.

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Trustee Richard White and seconded by Trustee Alexander McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

A motion to exit from Executive Session was made by Trustee Richard White and seconded by Trustee Alexander McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that an Environmental Consulting Firm has been hired and the Parks Department is very close to obtaining a permit for remediation work at West Hills CP. The clean-up should be no longer than about three months. There will be no bidding necessary since Parks can use its requirements contract with Branch Services which is already in place. An RFP will go out as soon as possible and by 2018 there should be a new agreement in place for the stables. The dog park and a lot of the trails are open and have not been affected.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at the Society for Preservation of Long Island Antiquities in Cold Spring Harbor on Thursday, May 25, 2017.

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