

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2015  
GARDINER COUNTY PARK  
WEST BAY SHORE, NEW YORK**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Terence McSweeney	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton

**ABSENT**

Kathleen Gooding	Vice Chair, Town of Shelter Island
Arthur Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton
VACANT	Member at Large

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

**GUESTS**

Christina DeLisi	Legislative Aide to Dep. Presiding Off. Jay Schneiderman
Chris DeLuca	Legislative Aide to Legislator Tom Cilmi
Lauretta Fischer	S.C. Dept. of Planning & Environment

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Mr. Robert Ford was in attendance and did not have a topic for discussion.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2015**

**A motion to approve the minutes was made by Trustee Borden and seconded by Trustee Leis. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**

**PLANNING & REAL ESTATE**

Lauretta Fischer presented one proposed open space parcel for consideration in the Hamlet of Mastic, Town of Brookhaven. It is a Forge River Addition, Beta property, SCRPTM #0200-750.00-06.00-015.000 and 0.14 acre. The parcel is located south of Sunrise Highway and the river corridor runs along the right side of the property. Several surrounding properties were acquired by tax lien in an attempt to complete and consolidate County holdings in this area. This property was on a Master List, consists of pine and oak woodland habitat and is

surrounded by other County holdings. The County would be acquiring the parcel with funds from the 1986 Open Space Preservation Program, which was created to protect wetlands, woodlands and buffer areas.

**A motion to approve the Forge River Addition acquisition was made by Chair Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Cardillo. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Dawson asked Nick Gibbons to give an update on the piping plover season and outer beach access. Nick reported that Smith Point CP was re-opened officially last Friday, and the outer beach was closed for approximately one month. Cupsogue CP remains closed until the last plover fledges. The total number of fledges from Smith Point CP is four, out of 86 eggs that were laid. Eleven eggs survived long enough to hatch and 4 chicks survived to fledge. There were 23 nest attempts and 21 failed, which translates to 0.44 chicks/pair. The recovery goal set by the US Fish & Wildlife Service is 1.5 chicks/pair.

Trustee Cardillo inquired if anything can be done with the caging system to protect the birds. Nick explained enclosure limitations. Nick added that if the eggs survive long enough to hatch, the chicks don't stay in the cage for protection anyway. They leave the caged area to forage for food along the shore.

Nick reported that Smith Point CP and Cupsogue CP were the most unsuccessful sites this season. Cupsogue CP lost 2 of 3 chicks in the last week and if the last chick doesn't survive, the season tally would be 6 pairs, 34 eggs, 21 chicks and now down to 1 left. These negative results are due primarily to predation by crows, gulls, foxes and raccoons. Down by the inlet, there are also rats.

Trustee Sickles inquired if there were any more successful sites for the plovers. Nick reported that Shinnecock West had a great season. There were 6 pair and 12 fledged. Peconic Dunes had one pair that nested just west of the lifeguard protected swim area at the Peconic Dunes County Park summer camp. The nest was on private property but the owners were agreeable to allowing DEC monitoring. All 4 of the chicks from that brood fledged. Cedar Point CP had one pair this year which was unsuccessful. At Cedar Beach CP in Southold, four pair fledged 9 chicks. This is well above the recovery goal. At McAllister (east side) and Old Field (west side) in Port Jefferson Harbor, there were 3 and 4 pair, fledging 8 and 6 chicks, respectively.

Overall, there were 34 pair, 199 eggs laid, 101 eggs hatched, 43 fledges and one chick outstanding. The overall productivity rate for Parks sites is 1.26. The nest sites on the North Shore are very quiet and have very little disturbance. There is a lot of private property on the Long Island Sound, plenty of places for the birds to hide safely and very few predator issues there.

Chair Hopkins inquired about how much beach is closed at Cupsogue CP and Nick stated that approximately 1/3 mile is closed and it should be re-opening in about one week.

Commissioner Dawson asked Terry Maccarrone for any updates regarding capital. Terry reported that there are some projects to be starting soon. The irrigation system was completed at West Sayville Golf Course and the well is presently being worked on which should be completed by late September/early October. Terry reported that he spoke with Fred Gipp who had commented that the golf course is in phenomenal shape and that it's in the best condition he has ever seen it in. He is very happy with the results of the irrigation system.

Commissioner Dawson reported that it has been a very slow legislative session due to the summer season. The Parks Department has been quite busy and the Commissioner commended the staff for working very hard to keep the parks in excellent shape. He added that the playground at Smith Point campground had been closed for safety reasons and it was repaired and has re-opened. The Parks Department is currently working to replace the playground in the pavilion area as well.

Commissioner Dawson reported that there had been a complaint about the dump stations and the water service at Shinnecock East CP. A private carter empties the two stations twice weekly. The complaint was that an employee took a hose off of a spigot and campers were using the hose to flush out their tanks.

The Board of Health made an inspection of the site on August 14<sup>th</sup> and reported that the Parks Department is 100% in compliance with rules and regulations. It is not recommended to attach hoses to the hose bibs because campers will use them to clean their holding tanks, which is not its purpose. Doing this would just fill up the holding tanks all the faster.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Hopkins inquired about the Park Rangers. Commissioner Dawson reported that they are doing well and he has seen a good presence at the parks this season. Rangers have been stationed at Shinnecock CP and Cupsogue CP to assist staff with the increase in park patrons there during the Smith Point CP closure.

Trustee Sickles inquired if the Park Rangers are actual Police Officers or Peace Officers. Commissioner Dawson explained that the Rangers are hired as Peace Officers and they can be Police Officers as well, from another jurisdiction. According to law, for all intents and purposes, Peace Officers have about the same legal authority while they are pursuant to their special duties and in their geographical area of employment. They are armed and vested, and as long as they are within a park, they have the powers of a Police Officer, with the exception of issuing warrants which is not one of the Park Ranger's responsibilities. When they leave a park, a Peace Officer can make an arrest but under stricter guidelines.

Chair Hopkins inquired about the status of Cupsogue CP. Commissioner Dawson reported that it is doing very well. The temporary structure was completed in May and patrons have been enjoying all accommodations available to them. Christina DeLisi commented that she has received numerous complementary calls. A permanent facility will take approximately 2-3 years to complete, depending on the design and funding.

### **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee Cardillo commented about the near double drowning that occurred at Indian Island CP back in June and that the Park Ranger on duty at the time did an excellent job covering.

Commissioner Dawson welcomed Member of the Board Terrence Pearsall back after a short period of illness.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held either at Cedar Point County Park in East Hampton or Third House, Montauk County Park on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

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