

**Board of Trustees**  
**Suffolk County Department of Parks**  
**Recreation and Conservation**  
**Minutes of May 17, 2007 at Deepwells Farm, St. James**

**BOARD MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

Ray Corwin	Chairman, Member at Large
Aurelio Colina	Vice Chairman, Town of Southampton
Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Gregory Dawson	Trustee, Town of Islip
John Fritz	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Gary Olsen	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
Todd Stebbins	Member of the Board
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT:**

Vacant	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
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**PARKS DEPARTMENT:**

Ronald F. Foley	Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
William Sickles	Senior Parks Superintendent
Nick Gibbons	Senior Environmental Analyst
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

**GUESTS:**

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Janet Longo	Deputy Director, Department of Environment and Energy
Jennifer Kohn	Assistant County Attorney

Chairman Corwin called the meeting to order.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2007**

Page 5 – Change to read “the amount of work that went into Indian Island and it looks very nice.”

**A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Fritz. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0-0.**

#### **PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE**

Lauretta Fischer proposed four acquisitions:

##### Doxee's Creek County Wetlands- Drago Property

Acquisition of .66 acres in the Hamlet of Islip, Town of Islip. This will be acquired under the First Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program.

**A motion to approve the proposed acquisition was made by Trustee Dawson and seconded by Trustee Stebbins. Unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0-0.**

##### Mills Pond – Arthur H. Cotins Revocable Trust Property

Acquisition of 2.085 acres in St. James, Town of Smithtown. This will be acquired under the Suffolk County Save Open Space (SOS) Program, Farmland Preservation and Hamlet Parks Fund – Hamlet Parks Component.

**A motion to approve the proposed acquisition was made by Trustee Borden and seconded by Trustee Colina. Unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0-0.**

##### Emerald Estates County Park Addition – Coscia Property

Acquisition of 1.0 acres in Greenlawn, Town of Huntington. This will be acquired under the Multifaceted Land Preservation Program – Open Space Preservation. It's going to be used for passive recreation with trails. The Town of Huntington will be managing the property and creating the trails as a partner with us.

**A motion to approve the proposed acquisition was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Borden. Unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0-0.**

##### Airport County Nature Preserve Addition – Ross School Property

Acquisition of 71.1 acres in Wainscott, Town of East Hampton. This is a targeted area on our Master List 1 and will be acquired under the Suffolk County Multifaceted Land Preservation Program – Land Preservation Partnership. We are doing a 50/50 partnership with the Town to acquire this.

**A motion to approve the proposed acquisition was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Fritz. Unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0-0.**

#### **PUBLIC PORTION**

Gina Lewis: We were recently asked by Legislator Browning and Councilwoman Keper for our help in securing Dog Parks in the Town of Brookhaven. There is a desire for dog parks in their areas.

Ginny Munger-Kahn: We're here today to share with you our excitement at the passage of the bill that will create 5 new dog parks on Suffolk County parkland. We'd like to assure you that by working with the Parks Commissioner and the Parks Department staff we will make sure these dog parks are located in suitable areas so that we do not bother other park users and so that areas where endangered wildlife are found, or that are protected in other ways, will stay protected. We look forward to bringing this wonderful initiative to reality.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

### Irrigation Project for the Use of Effluent from the Riverhead Sewer District

Commissioner Foley: One of the reasons we came here was to be on the golf course and to get the Trustees out to the east end to look at some of the parks. One proposal for this park, in particular, is to adapt the irrigation system to the use of effluent from the Riverhead Sewer District Treatment Plant. This does a couple of things for the environment. It reduces the amount of effluent that goes into the Peconic River and also, for the most part, eliminates our reliance on ground water wells to irrigate the golf course. Michael Reichel has given me a tour of the sewage treatment plant. The end product there is very impressive. It's as clear as any drinking water you'll get out of a tap or even a bottle of water. He has also taken the employees from the golf course who had some concerns about working on an irrigation system that has sewer treatment plant effluent coming out of it and proven to them that they don't have any concerns about the safety of this water. I've asked him to come to you today to explain the process and answer any questions you may have.

Michael Reichel: I first met with the Trustees in 2002 and requested approval to start an irrigation pilot project. We first decided what type of equipment would be necessary to make it acceptable to all of the agencies that we would have to get approval from. We did a lot a lot of research on the different steps of filtration that we would need to put the water through before it could be reused. We introduced a cloth media filter. The water would go through the cloth media filter, then an ultra filtration unit and then high concentrations and doses of UV for disinfection purposes.

When we started research, we met with the Suffolk County Health Department, N.Y.S.D.E.C. and E.P.A. for find out what their criteria was. As far as the D.E.C. is concerned, we have already met their criteria. One of the main focuses and purposes that drove this were the findings of the Peconic Estuary Program (their comprehensive Management Plan). The Suffolk County Health Department required us to have a microbiologist on board who was knowledgeable in the area of waste water reuse. We set up a test golf hole at Indian Island which mimicked everything that was on a regular golf hole. After the season, we had Cornell Cooperative Extension take soil samples to make sure that there were no contaminants getting into the ground. We did testing during the entire pilot project on the water that was being produced and infiltrated and kept in the storage tanks. We tested it when it came out of the storage tanks. We did aerosol testing. We met all the criteria and have approval from the Suffolk County Health Department. Right now it is in the hands of the N.Y.S. Health Department (as a courtesy). Our project also exceeds the EPA guidelines for wastewater reuse. One third of all the golf courses in Florida, California and Arizona used reclaimed water. Our system is designed to meet the strictest standards of each of those states. This will be better than all of them. We do intend to hold a public hearing and notify as many people as we can to get people to come to the public hearing to answer any questions they may have to make them feel comfortable. I welcome anyone to tour the facility. Please contact me and we'll set up a tour. I ask that you please send me a letter requesting a public forum before we hold a public hearing so we can better inform the public of the project. We will make announcements about both of these meetings – first the public forum and then the public hearing. Would you be able to give us a resolution showing your support of this project?

Chairman Corwin: I have no problem with a resolution supporting the concepts and the investigative work they have done.

**A motion to approve a resolution supporting the concept was made by Trustee Borden and seconded by Trustee McKay. Unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0-0.**

Indian Island Golf Pro RFP

Deputy Commissioner Bellone: We finally finished the RFP for the Indian Island Golf Pro Concessionaire. It's available for pick up today.

Fishing Access – Peconic River

Commissioner Foley: We've talked about fishing access in the Peconic River. We've been looking at an area under the 105 bridge as a possible location to build a platform for fishing under the bridge. DPW has conceptually said it could work. It does look like it's viable.

This is my last meeting with the Board of Trustees. It has been a great honor to be with all of you and have your support, counsel and wise guidance all of the time.

Chairman Corwin: I'd like to offer a resolution of thanks to the Commissioner and wish him the best of luck.

**A motion to approve a resolution thanking the Commissioner was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Stebbins. Unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0-0.**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Corwin: I would like to thank the Trustees who continue to attend the Parks Committee meetings.

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee McKay suggested we not hold future meetings in places where we must compete with other events. He also asked for a copy of the latest dog legislation and is there a fee structure for people who use dog parks.

Commissioner Foley responded that they are subject to the same fees that anyone else is for vehicle entry into the park.

Trustee Fritz suggested a sign be placed in dog parks stating "Green Key Required." He also reported he has heard complaints about the reservation system for the outer beach – two minutes after midnight all reservations are filled.

Commissioner Foley responded the reservation system was a little different this year than it will be in future years in that all of Shinnecock East, Meshcutt and Cupsogue pretty much for the whole season became available at the same moment. People who knew about it in advance jumped in. Next year it will be done day by day and 6 months in advance of when you want to go instead of the whole thing going on at the same time. The prohibition of checking in on Saturdays and Sundays will be lifted and only apply during the busiest time of the season when we have the traffic problem.

Trustee White reported the Third House meeting which took place in Montauk with Commissioner Foley and Deputy Commissioner Bellone peaked much interest and will need to be resolved

sooner rather than later. There seems to be uniform desire to have a kitchen, however there is a concern that Third House will turn into a Gurney's Inn.

Trustee White asked if there was any timetable for additional camping at the outer beach.

Commissioner Foley responded "not yet – it's on a long list of environmental reviews to be completed".

**DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on June 21st, 2007 at 1:00 PM at Smith Point County Park in Shirley. A tour of the outer beach will take place at 11:00 AM. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon.

**The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Colina and seconded by Trustee McKay. Motion approved unanimously by a vote 12-0-0.**

Minutes submitted by Ann Rothenberg.