

Board of Trustees
Suffolk County Department of Parks
Recreation and Conservation

Minutes of October 20, 2005 at Cathedral Pines, Middle Island

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Alexander McKay	Chairman, Town of Huntington
	Ray Corwin	Vice Chairman, Member at Large
	Charlie Bender	Member of the Board
	Jeanine Dillon	Member of the Board
	John Fritz	Trustee, Town of Babylon
	Joseph Miller	Trustee, Town of Islip
	Aurelio Colina	Trustee, Town of Southampton
	Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton
	Gary Olsen	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
	Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
	Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
ABSENT:	Vacant	Trustee, Town of Southold
	Vacant	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
PARKS DEPARTMENT:		
	Ronald F. Foley	Commissioner
	Tracey Belone	Deputy Commissioner
	Colleen Hofmeister	Contracts Manager
	Tom Hroncich	Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator
	Bill Sickles	Sr. Superintendent of Parks
	Nick Gibbons	Senior Environmental Analyst
	Mary Simonsen	Secretary to the Commissioner
GUESTS:		
	Jennifer Kohn	Assistant County Attorney
	Bill Johnson	Suffolk County Committee for Camping
	Susan Brinkman	Legislator Foley's Office
	Janet Longo	Assistant to the Director of Planning
	Pat Zielenski	Director of Real Estate

Chairman McKay opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. He began the meeting by introducing Jeanine Dillon, who has been designated as County Executive Levy's permanent representative to the Board, replacing Todd Stebbins. All attendees then introduced themselves.

Chairman McKay then welcomed Susan Brinkman from Legislator Foley's office and invited her to make her presentation.

Ms. Brinkman gave her regards on behalf of Legislator Foley and gave background on a **Blue Point property project**. The parcel had been an overflow parking lot for the Blue Point laundry property, which is across the street on the south side from the actual former laundromat site. The parcel in question has been transferred to the Parks Department and now a local community group wants to create a park there. She said they wanted to name the park after a resident,

Brian Andersen, who was very involved in community service and lived across the street. And he, with the help of others, looked after the old laundry buildings, chased vandals away, replaced the boards on the windows or called the local police and the Legislator's office to have the proper County officials respond to vandalism and loitering. Ms. Brinkman said Brian Andersen passed away in 2003 and he never got to see his hard work come to fruition. His wife is now Chairperson of the Committee to have this park named in her late husband's honor.

Ms. Brinkman handed out a photo in which a landscape architect shows what they envision the park to look like. It includes a gazebo which has already been purchased, they have an application into the Department of Public Works (DPW) for approval of its installation, and the Blue Point Civic Group has raised funds for the park and is working to secure the necessary insurance. Local Boy Scouts have offered their time to maintain the park in order to earn merit badges. She said the Legislator has submitted a Resolution which was laid on the table in October and that it will hopefully pass on November 22nd.

Ms. Brinkman said the proposed park is in a residential community and had become a dumping zone and an eyesore before the Parks department went in and started working on it. The community would like the area to take on a whole new look and it would be kept passive. There will be no playground equipment or anything of that nature. She also said there is a pond to the east of the parcel which, along with the strip of land connecting it, would not be disturbed and there will be no access from this park directly to the pond. And there will be no storm water run off into the lake. She opened the floor to questions.

Trustee Miller asked if the park would be on the actual laundry site. Ms. Brinkman said it would be across the street, adjacent to the actual laundry site because that would allow it to be transferred to the Parks Department instead of the Health Department in remediation. They did a soil sample and said there were not any problems.

Vice Chairman Corwin asked the Commissioner whether a building permit was needed for a gazebo and who the applicant was. The Commissioner confirmed a permit was needed and Ms. Brinkman said applicant is the community group. Ms. Brinkman said the Civic group wanted the gazebo installed by October 30th, but they had to tell them that wouldn't be possible because there are certain procedures that must be followed.

Chairman McKay asked if the funding would come from the community and Ms. Brinkman replied that all of it would and that she is also encouraged by the cooperation of other County agencies. The Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) for example installed a spicket to water the grass and they (the SCWA) would also use it for a sample distribution site rather than one at the Blue Point Elementary School. And a community resident who is a landscaper donated a sprinkler system.

Chairman McKay asked what action she was requesting of the Trustees. Deputy Commissioner Bellone said that the Trustees have to approve any alteration to parkland and would request a resolution from the Trustees supporting the concept and recommending its approval to the Legislature. Deputy Commissioner Bellone said they would also need an additional resolution authorizing the department to enter into an Adopt-a-Park agreement with the group. The motion to recommend approval of the Resolution was made by Trustee Colina and seconded by Trustee Olsen. It was approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

PUBLIC SPEAKING PORTION:

Chairman McKay introduced Bill Johnson who was in attendance and is **President of the Suffolk County Committee for Camping** (SCCC) to speak about the topic of soccer fields at

Cathedral Pines as discussed at last month's meeting. Mr. Johnson said the SCCC is an organization that is somewhat of a go-between for campers and the Parks Department. They are non-political and not affiliated with any organization, their main concern is the campers of Suffolk County. He wanted to clarify from last month's minutes where it stated that the Deputy Commissioner had said the SCCC were OK with the Longwood proposal as long as the space would be available for their events. He said while they were not against soccer or any youth organizations, they found the thought of a soccer field put in the middle of a camping area they use extensively to be unsettling. He said they would like to go on record saying the park is a natural wonder of Suffolk County and a wildlife sanctuary in the middle of the Pine Barrens and the noise and traffic produced by two large parking lots and a soccer field would be a blight to the landscape. Mr. Johnson said the Suffolk County Committee for Camping is not in favor of the soccer field proposal and would like to work closely with the Trustees on this matter if it does come to fruition.

Trustee Cardillo asked if the SCCC has a suggestion for another suitable space for the fields. Mr. Johnson replied that they should not be in a park of this nature, but they could ask the towns or schools the same question. Commissioner Foley said he would like to make a clarification that the statement in the minutes gave the impression that it was the Deputy Commissioner's fault that the statement appeared. He said it was his. He said that the conversation with SCC was more of a casual, impromptu nature, that we bounced the idea off them, but the response was not an official stance and that perception should not have been reflected in the meeting. He asked to let the minutes reflect this was his error, no one else's. Trustee Miller said in a way it was good because it got the SCCC to respond and attend the meeting to express their true opinion.

Trustee White asked if soccer would displace the campers. The Commissioner said that as the proposal stands now, the campers would not lose any space and could still have their large campouts in the spring and fall. It would be a mixed use area, both activities can be accommodated, just not at the same time. Chairman McKay pointed out that they were holding this meeting at Cathedral Pines in order to visit the site to get a sense of what it looks like now and get an idea of what it would look like with this proposal or if some other modification took place.

Mr. Johnson stated that, based on the drawing of the proposed area, it would impact heavily on their camping kickoff. He said 50-60 or more sites would be eliminated to accommodate parking. And, he said when there are heavy rains they park in the back field and it gets pretty torn up. If you put in an irrigation system, a soccer field with manicured lawns, goal posts etc, they can't coexist with campers, there would definitely be damage. He said he feels that the two just aren't going to coexist, there would definitely be displacement.

Trustee Colina said he was glad Mr. Johnson came today so they could know their opinion and asked if the Trustees should also hear from the school district and the Town of Brookhaven to hear input from all sides, to exhaust all other options before alienating parkland. Chairman McKay said as they proceed to discuss the policy issue, they should get the involvement of local governments and schools in these applications to use County park property. He said it becomes a policy issue: should these recreational activity needs be met in County Parks, which have historically had a mission of providing regional and large scale activities such as camping. These will become policy issues as we proceed forward.

Trustee Fritz asked if Mr. Johnson would be kept informed by the County or should he pass on information. The Commissioner replied that it should be done by both and Mr. Johnson said he will have a representative at future Trustee meetings. He also wanted to mention his organizations' website, www.suffolkcommitteeforcamping.com which has links to County campgrounds and keeps campers involved and informed.

CORRECTION OF SEPTEMBER 22 MINUTES:

Page 3 – First paragraph: change “Purchase and Development” to read Purchase of Development.

Page 5 – Under #2: change last word of the paragraph from “review” to “approve”.

Page 7 – First paragraph: create a new sentence after “... Police Jail in Yaphank for soccer fields.”

Page 8 – Last paragraph: first sentence, change “Shadmoor” to Shagwong”.

Page 10 – Delete third full paragraph.

Page 12 – Last paragraph, last sentence: Change it to read “Chairman McKay said perhaps the Trustees...”

Page 14 – Last paragraph, last sentence: Change to read “Ed Mooney of Highlander Corporation.”

Page 16 – Fourth paragraph, last sentence: Change it to read ...”County Executive Steve Levy for Mr. Kruger’s dedication and service and presented it to him.”

The motion to accept the minutes as corrected and amended was made by Trustee Colina and seconded by Trustee Corwin and voted in favor by a vote of 11-0-0.

PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE:

There were **no acquisitions** to be presented today. Chairman McKay asked the Board if they had any questions for Planning and Real Estate they wished to have addressed.

Trustee Miller asked if there were any new **Greenway’s acquisitions or Hamlet parks**. Ms. Longo said they are in negotiation for a few, one is in Huntington for a soccer field that would be managed by a soccer club. Trustee Miller asked how Parks were involved in these. Deputy Commissioner Bellone said that after acquisition, the department begins contract negotiations with the group that will maintain the property and/or receive funding for the renovations.

Trustee Miller asked if Parks had enough staff to work on acquisitions, he said he felt a lot was being dumped on them without much help from the County as far as staffing. Commissioner Foley replied that the County Executive and Legislature are doing a good job of giving us what we ask for. So then the question becomes; are we asking for the right things. The additional land acquisitions initially dumped more work on Planning and Real Estate; Parks is at the tail end of that process. He said the challenge is finding imaginative ways to handle those properties once we get them, like in the Scully property; we’re trying to find a tenant to manage it. That ends up being a burden on the Contracts Department to develop the contracts and agreements etc.

The Commissioner said you could look at any area of the department on a particular day and say “You don’t have enough staff to get done what you’re supposed to do”, but we ask for what we believe we need and the County has been good at providing it. He added, you can question whether or not I’m asking for the right thing or at the right time, but in his experience, you can’t question the response of the Legislature or the County Executive.

Trustee Miller commented that it is easier to hire outside of the public sector, through the County it takes several months. Commissioner Foley replied that in the private sector you better make sure your bottom line will support the additional staff before you hire them. The same thing is somewhat true in the public sector, there’s only so much tax burden the public will bear. It’s a constant trade-off and management process. Chairman McKay said it’s been a problem the last 20 years.

Trustee Colina said he read in Newsday that the County was involved in a possible purchase of

property in Sagaponac, and asked if the Trustees would be involved in that. Ms. Longo said it was the Lingo parcel, which is on the town border across the street from the East Hampton Airport and has a parks component, farmland and open space components. She believed it fell under the Save Open Space funding source and the Trustees involvement is not required. Chairman McKay said the only funding the Trustees are involved in is the Hamlet Park funding to review and recommend, but the Trustees have nothing to do with Open Space and Farmlands unless it was brought to the Trustees on an advisement basis as a courtesy.

Chairman McKay brought up the issue regarding the Huntington property, the **Mohlenhoff Nursery** mentioned in the last few meetings, in which the school board was attempting to put in a bus depot next to the Froehlich Farm Nature Preserve. He said the School Board pulled out of that arrangement which would open it up for the possibility of acquiring it for soccer fields.

Trustee Olsen asked about the status of **Smoke Run Farm**. Ms. Longo said it was going before the Environmental Trust Review Board (ETRB) tomorrow for approval so we can make an offer. Vice Chairman Corwin asked who made up the ETRBEssentially it is an internal County government group. Trustee Miller asked, if it were to be acquired, would it be a Parks Department responsibility. Ms. Longo replied probably not because it would be a potential 50/50 split with the Town of Brookhaven, and the funding depends on what funds are available at the time of acquisition and what program this project would fit into. Vice Chairman Corwin then asked who would be able to use it, just County residents, or town residents as well. Ms. Zielenski said it would be an undivided interest, open to all residents and the Town would manage the park.

Ms. Longo said they are still in negotiations and are looking at it under a few different scenarios; full-fee for some acreage or development rights and at this point they don't know what the owners are willing to sell, if anything, and at what price. It is under appraisal review and then it will be under negotiation.

Chairman McKay asked if the **ETRB** was set up by a resolution or administratively. Ms. Zielenski and Ms. Longo said it was a resolution. The Chairman asked who made up the Board itself. Ms. Longo said it consisted of the Commissioner of Parks, the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Planning, a representative of the Presiding Officer of the Legislature, a representative of the County Executive, a representative of the minority Legislator and the majority Legislator, a representative from the County Attorney on an advisory basis, Legislator Losquadro is there as the Chairman of the EPA, and a representative from the Parks Committee. The Chairman asked for a copy of the resolution.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Foley first wanted to again make it clear that the discussions at previous meetings regarding use of **Cathedral Pines** for soccer fields were not meant to bring that particular item to the table for consideration, but that it was one of many examples of pressures being put on County parkland. He also pointed out that Parks has not yet responded to Longwood Soccer, and they should also have a chance to make a presentation to the Trustees when the time is right. The Commissioner also said that the Suffolk County Committee for Camping is very important in the parks family, like a partner of the Parks Department, and their work is appreciated. For example, the building in which this meeting is taking place right now wouldn't be as well maintained as it is without the SCCC and most of the investment here belongs to them, and they do a great job as a partner of ours.

The Commissioner went on to say there are two draft **RFPs** (Requests for Proposals) to discuss today, one for **Cupsogue Beach** which is a food service contract and one for the **Cedar Point**

camp store. He said the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) dictate that the Trustees review the RFPs and pass a resolution before we go any further in the process. Colleen Hofmeister added that there needs to be a Trustee representative from the Board for the Evaluation Committees for each RFP. (Trustee White volunteered for the Cedar Point Evaluation Committee when it comes time for that decision to be made.) Trustee White asked if both the concessionaires were asking to renew their contracts. Ms. Hofmeister said yes they are. Trustee Cardillo asked who the concessionaire for Cupsogue is. Ms. Hofmeister said that Fred Marsillio was the concessionaire for Cupsogue, as well as Meschutt and Smith Point. She distributed copies of the RFP and said that this is only the RFP portion; it does not include the sample license agreement or any other attachments. She also said that until the RFP is advertised publicly, the content of information that she distributed to the Trustees was extremely confidential.

Ms. Hofmeister said the department in the past had gotten away from following this particular SOP to the letter, which is why if there was an RFP for which we needed the Trustees input, it may have been brought to the Trustees, but there have been RFPs over the past years where everything was going fine and they went through. Chairman McKay noted that the Trustees did have a representative on the Trap and Skeet committee and said while they were on that subject, since Trustee White volunteered for the Cedar Point RFP committee, he asked if anyone would volunteer for the Cupsogue RFP, Trustee Colina said he would represent the Trustees on that RFP.

Vice Chairman Corwin asked if there was a difference in the two contracts/RFPs. Ms. Hofmeister said Cupsogue had changed drastically. Fred Marsillio had come into an operation that had never had the oversight nor the access to grow a business. He was able to turn it around in approximately seven years from a business making below \$100,000 a season to one that made over \$250,000 a season. So we're looking for a lot more capital improvements, expansion and repair of the existing building. She said the Cedar Point operation was much smaller, it's mostly a small convenience store for campers. The facility itself is not in need of major repair, the concessionaire has done a great job in putting together a very nice place for campers to shop. Cedar Point will also be a shorter contract of five years, one reason being we are still working on a master plan. For Cupsogue, the last contract was a shorter one as well due to Dune Road washing out cutting off access to the facility. This time we are going out for a five year contract with two additional 5 year option periods.

Trustee White asked if current concessionaires have proven themselves worthy, is it possible to renew the same contract. Commissioner Foley replied that the contracts have a term limit just like any contract, some of them have extensions but once you reach the end of those and it expires, you have to start over. The only advantage is that the existing concessionaire is already well-known and established.

Ms. Hofmeister said that both contracts expire at the end of 2005. Chairman McKay asked if there was a motion to approve and recommend moving forward with the RFPs. Vice Chairman Corwin made the first motion and it was seconded by Trustee Bender. It was approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

Commissioner Foley then went on to talk about the effect the **severe weather in October** had on the beaches, most significantly, the amount of erosion. He said Smith Point has lost up to a half million cubic yards of sand, primarily in the dune line. He said there was a stand of Pine trees which is now gone. If the sand was there long enough to grow mature trees, it hasn't been disturbed in a very long time. That kind of erosion is very troubling. That area is about two-thirds of the way to the Moriches inlet. It did not breach or wash over. He said Cupsogue lost an estimated 60,000 cubic yards. There was not much dune damage but the beach elevation dropped. At Montauk towards Shagwong Point and east of the Point there was severe bluff

erosion there, and the beach width is reduced by half. At Indian Island, at the eastern end of the park where the picnic grounds are, lost about 40 feet of the bluff and some early kind of seawall is exposed. It looks as if it was set up at one time to protect the point. Mr. Sickles said it was first exposed in hurricane Gloria in 1985 and was subsequently covered up, but it has been partially exposed for quite a number of years now.

As for the golf courses, the Commissioner said all golf courses were flooded to some extent and closed for several days, and are now slowly beginning to reopen. The problem is that when you're as low and close to the south shore as many of these golf courses are, it's tough to get good drainage. There were literally lakes on some of the fairways.

At Smith Point, the park has effectively been closed since late last week due to a power outage. The campground has been closed since Monday as a result of the power outage. Hopefully LIPA will have service repaired today. Mr. Sickles said that partial power is back on in the Pavilion and LIPA was to finish their work there today.

Trustee Miller asked the Commissioner how the **Audit Committee** was working out and weren't there some kind of indictments. Commissioner Foley replied that people who suffered criminal charges go back a couple of years. Charges have been settled and restitution is being paid in one case, and is completely paid in another. He also said that it was not a committee but four new employees who are auditors. The new reservation system will help solve some of these problems. The auditors have gone out and done field audits, corrected procedures where necessary, have responded to suspicions that something might be going on, and have not found anything dramatic. We still don't have written procedures at all the field locations and their priority over this winter is to get proper written procedures at every cash handling point we have. Once they have those procedures in place, they will start auditing against those procedures and make sure everyone is doing the right thing.

Trustee Miller asked, based on the scathing report Parks inherited, are Parks personnel finding things on their own or are they just reacting to what has already been found. Commissioner Foley said the findings and recommendations in that report are guiding the actions being taken to tighten up the way we handle cash. On top of that, we're always looking for things that are new or different, problems or violations and they are correcting them as they find them. The County Comptroller's office has various teams of auditors that are looking into a number of things as well. To the best of our knowledge, everything has worked out well with the seasonal employees in regards to the collection of money.

Trustee Miller asked for an update on the **Parks housing rental evaluation**. Commissioner Foley said we have all of the appraisals completed, we have gone through them all and compared them with existing rents and developed a plan to figure out what the correct rent for each housing unit should be based on the appraised market values. Then, every time we want to fill a vacancy, we will have to go to the Legislature with a resolution stating we want to rent a particular house to a particular person, based on the priorities the Legislature set, but if it's different from those priorities, we have to justify that. This will probably start taking place some time after the first of the year. The Commissioner said that the Park Police are one of the first priorities on a lengthy list of those interested in renting these units.

Trustee Fritz asked the Commissioner for the status on the **observatory in Montauk**. Commissioner Foley said it is in a state of flux and last he heard, there was a resolution making its way through the Legislature granting us the right to accept it as a gift, but it still has to go through environmental evaluations and historic preservation. Commissioner Foley said Legislator Schneiderman had a proposal for the County to purchase it which was vetoed but not over-ridden. So Legislator Schneiderman created a not-for-profit group to buy it and donate it to the

county and the Commissioner said, as he understands it, the current piece of legislation would allow us to accept it as a gift.

Trustee Fritz asked for an update on the **Smith Point fishing pier**. The Commissioner said that it's a long road and is still being reviewed and that he hoped it would be open by spring of 2006. He said they still haven't finished the final step in the Fire Island National Seashore review process and the last he heard they still need one person to sign off on it. Once that is complete they have to have a Corps of Engineers permit. Nick Gibbons said some of the other federal agencies had comments on it regarding things they are obligated to respond to, once FINS is satisfied that the inquiry by U.S. Fish and Wildlife is dealt with, FINS can approve the permit.

Trustee Fritz said he heard there is a problem with the sporting clay and the pick up of the lead, as well as the shooting direction with **Trap and Skeet**. The Commissioner said they are in negotiations with the bidder to settle on the terms of the contract and is working with the County Attorney's office to iron things out. Without getting to the successful end of negotiation for the contract, the Commissioner said he doesn't think the prospective concessionaire is going to spend money developing plans for the things Trustee Fritz mentioned, except for maybe the lead. We have to work those out in his operational plan for the site, and how we are going to minimize noise to be the best neighbor we can. Some of the sporting clay sites may have to be changed to accomplish that goal because there were ones where the shot was directly towards a residential area, although the shot would never make it there, the noise did. And if we can't quiet the place down without changing the orientation, then we will have to change it. Trustee Fritz asked if we can look into the possibility of using non toxic shots. The Commissioner said his understanding of the regulations as they stand right now, an active shooting range is not subject to any regulations relative to lead. The facilities are supposed to have a range management plan that should have a lead-reclamation portion that addresses that. Trustee Bender said that has been done, so lead is not really a problem, unless it were to be used for anything else. The Commissioner added as long as it will continue to be a shooting range, it does not need a complete clean up, as it would if it were being turned into a public park.

Trustee Fritz said he attended a Sportsman Advisory Board meeting and the program regarding the **fish hatchery at Southaven** came up. Mr. Sickles said there was a young man who was a former Eagle Scout who built the information center next to the hatchery who is spearheading the effort for renovating that and bringing it up to speed. Commissioner Foley said the problem with that is we have a Capital item of \$15,000 on the books, but that doesn't go very far, which has been the stumbling block; no one really knows exactly what you can do for \$15,000 to provide anything useful there. He added that if someone has ideas we will certainly listen to them.

Trustee Fritz asked if the Commissioner had thought more about his idea for a **birding trail system**. Commissioner Foley expressed his interest in Suffolk County being part of nationwide birding trails program. It would map out a tourism birding trail that one could follow from site to site that shows the different birds you can see in different places. He said it's seen as a tourist attractor, but that he sees it as more than that, he would like to increase peoples' understanding and knowledge of birds and their importance. At this point it's in the idea stage. Trustee Fritz asked if it would be advantageous to send it to the Tourist Board. Commissioner Foley replied that we will mention it to the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau at an appropriate time.

Trustee Fritz asked about the number of **outer beach passes** this season. Mr. Sickles replied that there have been about 10,000 purchased this season, which is down by a few thousand at the beginning of August due to closings at Smith Point.

Trustee Olsen asked if there were any considerations made in preparing the budget for the

rising cost of heat and electricity. The Commissioner said we adjusted our estimates for all utilities for the coming year and the County Executive's review of the budget had a standard multiplier they are adding to it by the time it gets to the Legislature. He said we can only hope that we've elevated it enough and have been transferring money around within this year's budget to try and cover it

Chairman McKay asked what had happened to the **Memorial Committee** and that there really should be guidelines to follow. The Commissioner replied that what we have is an internal policy for smaller-size memorials such as benches and trees that Parks manages themselves. The Memorial Committee concept was set up to review larger memorials such as naming a park or a road in honor of someone and said that he thinks that everyone knows that even if you have a committee, that makes it subject to that kind of review process, the Legislature can do whatever they can get a majority to vote for.

At this time **Trustee Bender** announced he had to excuse himself from the meeting and that he will be retiring from his permanent position. Chairman McKay and the Trustees wished him all the best and thanked him for his continued efforts over the years. Commissioner Foley added that it's a pleasure and a benefit to have someone as experienced as Charlie serving the Presiding Officer on the Board of Trustees.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman McKay said he didn't have anything to add except that the previous discussions regarding park policy and local usage in regional parks, and considering how the Trustees will proceed with that in the future will be ongoing.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Miller asked about the status of the **Scully Estate** and commented that Seatuck went to the Legislature and got them to buy it a year ago and it is still unoccupied. Commissioner Foley said that it most likely will be the Seatuck environmental group there but that it is not formalized. There are contracts being worked on towards that end, and everybody is working towards the same end, but it's very complex. Everybody, including the Legislature, has agreed to let this process work through, touch all the bases and make sure it's done right, as slow as that process may be. Besides, the Commissioner added, we couldn't have had anyone in there yet because lingering remnants of asbestos were found. It was cleaned up once, but we had to go back. That whole asbestos aspect has not been resolved yet.

Chairman McKay added that the National Audubon Society put the squeeze on too because as he recalled, they had to sell the property by the end of the year, and they gave the County first dibs on it before they put it on the open market, so the County took it.

Trustee Miller asked about the **Southaven Stables RFP**. Commissioner Foley said all proposals were rejected. Trustee Miller said he saw a newspaper article stating County Executive Levy awarded \$500,000 towards it. The Commissioner replied that is one of the big questions now: how much are we going to spend on it? He said the County Executive's office has created an Equestrian Advisory Committee who will advise what size and scale it should be to accommodate certain kinds of shows. And for a number of reasons, we have to go back and ask them to reconsider what their advice is, because this is in the core of the Pine Barrens. We can't grow this limitlessly without running into some kind of review problems. Part of the \$500,00 has been used to hire an architect consultant to look at the size of the existing facility and compare it to what the advisory committee has come up with and see what the right fit is and how much it's going to cost. At first blush we're finding it much bigger and more expensive than he thinks the County

would go for, even for a combination of the County and a private operator. So we have to rein this in so to speak and make sure we're addressing properly the needs of the equestrian community as well as a broad population of people interested. Trustee Miller commented that it would cost \$600,000 just for repairs. The Commissioner said he didn't think the County thought that \$500,000 was going to be enough for the whole project. It was just to get the ball rolling. We recognize that if we wanted to get something there that we would have to put some money in as well.

Trustee Cardillo asked for a clearer understanding of the **request for a boathouse at Indian Island**. The Commissioner said it was another of several examples mentioned at the last Trustees meeting of park use requests and that East End Rowing had submitted a rough drawing of their plans to which he has not yet responded. He said Indian Island is another quiet, passive place and many local citizens think it should never be anything but that. We have to analyze it and to see what the place will bear. He added that their first idea was rejected because there were some things in their first layout that we just didn't like.

Chairman McKay said recently there has been **a proposal by National Park Service to revise traditional guidelines for park management**. Since 1916, it has been that the parks would remain unimpaired for future generations and there is an effort now to redefine "unimpaired". Impairment would mean anything that is not reversible, for example, ATV use would be permitted because the damage is reversible, not permanent and thus wouldn't be an impairment. The Chairman said he thinks we are going to see a movement of County parks in that direction, we're going to see some impairment. Commissioner Foley said he felt they should be concerned to some extent but not suggesting they go that far nor that temporary impairments to parks shouldn't be duly considered.

DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING:

It was decided that the November meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held November 17th at Meadowedge in West Sayville at noon.

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee White, seconded by Trustee Fritz. Chairman McKay closed the formal meeting at 2:30 p.m., stating that those wishing to stay and view the area of the proposed soccer fields may do so with himself and Commissioner Foley.

*Please note that the November 17th meeting was subsequently changed to 10:00 a.m. due to a Legislative scheduling conflict.