

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2008
DEEPWELLS FARM, ST. JAMES, N.Y.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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| Miles Borden | Trustee, Town of Smithtown |
| Gil Cardillo | Vice Chairman, Trustee, Town of Riverhead |
| Ray Corwin | Member at Large |
| Gregory Dawson | Trustee, Town of Islip |
| John Fritz | Chairman, Trustee, Town of Babylon |
| Scott Hilary | Trustee, Town of Southold |
| Alexander McKay | Trustee, Town of Huntington |
| Gary Olsen | Trustee, Town of Brookhaven |
| Richard F. White, Jr. | Trustee, Town of East Hampton |

ABSENT

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| Bill Shilling | Member of the Board |
| Todd Stebbins | Member of the Board |

PARKS DEPARTMENT

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|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| John W. Pavacic | Commissioner |
| Tracey Bellone | Deputy Commissioner |
| William B. Sickles | Senior Superintendent of Parks |
| Nick Gibbons | Principal Environmental Analyst |
| Colleen Hofmeister | Principal Contracts Examiner |
| Ann Rothenberg | Assistant to the Commissioner |

GUESTS

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|------------------|---|
| Lauretta Fischer | Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department |
| Janet Longo | Deputy Director, Real Property Acquisitions and Management |
| Roger Podd | County Attorney's Office |
| Thomas Ryan | Office of Legislator Vilorio-Fisher |

Chairman Fritz called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC PORTION

Bill Akin, President - Concerned Citizens of Montauk

Last week Mr. Akin circulated a letter to the Trustees and discussed three points related to the Proposed Auxiliary Campground at Theodore Roosevelt County Park:

1. Campsites on the inland side of the dunes were never considered in the Master Plan and therefore the proposed 40 inland campsites represent a fundamental change to the Plan. This change should be brought to the attention of the Legislature and be subject to SEQRA as well as the county's environmental review.
2. The description of the campsite area as a "disturbed site" is inaccurate and misleading.

3. There is an inherent contradiction in the proposal to use the new campsites as both a stop gap evacuation location and at the same time use them to make up for spaces.

Mr. Akin also expressed his concerns that a decision at this time to open the inland side of the dunes to camping could lead to problems down the road (20 – 30 years from now).

William A. Young, President - Montauk Surfcasters' Association

Mr. Young stated the Montauk Surfcasters are very much in favor of the Proposed Auxiliary Camping Area. He said when the Master Plan was created, the Legislature voted 15 – 1 against having a SEQRA review at that park. Mr. Young feels this is long overdue and would add to the use of the park.

Steve Jendricks

Mr. Jendricks asked if there has been any progress on access to Burma Road.

Commissioner Pavacic responded that this subject is on the agenda and will be discussed shortly.

Ludwig Farr – LIBBA

Mr. Farr stated the reason for the auxiliary campground was to assist campers in case there was a storm or high tides. The way the system is now structured, when there is storm and campers have to evacuate, you lose the fee you paid. This was never designed as an evacuation spot. Last year there were three times we were asked to leave the beach. Mr. Farr stated he has no interest in an in-land campsite and would like to be able to park behind the dune and still be able to utilize the beach for surfcasting.

Tom Jones - Suffolk Committee for Camping

Mr. Jones stated they are very much in favor of the auxiliary camping area. When you are on the outer beach and asked to leave, it's a long way home. He believes this would be a very positive thing for everyone.

Commissioner Pavacic suggested that the next Trustees meeting scheduled for June 19th be changed from Sweet Hollow Hall to Third House at Theodore Roosevelt County Park in Montauk. Prior to the meeting, the Commissioner invited the Trustees and interested parties to tour the proposed auxiliary camping area. Everyone can meet at 11:00 AM by the booth at the outer beach camping area. Notices will be also sent to those who spoke today.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 17th, 2008

Under the heading, correct the spelling of “Great River”

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE

Lauretta Fischer proposed four acquisitions. Colored site maps were distributed describing each property.

Mastic/Shirley Conservation Area – Schnaars Property

The acquisition of 0.139 acres in the Hamlet of Mastic Beach, Town of Brookhaven. This will be acquired under the Suffolk County Multifaceted Land Preservation Program – Open Space Preservation

A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Olsen and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Tuthill Creek County Park Addition – Emery Property

The acquisition of 0.10 acres in the Village of Patchogue. This will be acquired under the Suffolk County Multifaceted Land Preservation Program – Open Space Preservation

A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Olsen and seconded by Trustee Cardillo. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Manorville Pine Barrens County Park – McDonnell Property

The acquisition of 1.37 acres in Manorville, Town of Brookhaven. This will be acquired under The Old Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program 12-5(E)(1)(b).

A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Olsen and seconded by Trustee Cardillo. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

South Bay Street Property

The acquisition of 0.22 acres in the Incorporated Village of Lindenhurst. This will be acquired under The Old Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program 12-5E(1)(a).

A motion to table this acquisition was made by Chairman Fritz and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Chairman Fritz suggested we invite Legislator Wayne Horsley to a future Trustees meeting, perhaps, the July 17th meeting, to explain why this property should be acquired by the County.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Pavacic reported on the following:

Smith Point Outer Beach Auxiliary Access Point

The Commissioner said at a prior Trustees meeting some people questioned whether or not auxiliary access could be established to allow access to the outer beach at times when the area between cuts 1 and 1A were inaccessible. Parks staff visited the site over the last several months and met with Legislator Vilorio-Fisher at the site. Parks has also met with various user groups. The Commissioner passed around a draft proposal for allowing access during a specific and constrained time period. This would be a pilot project that would start later this year. This proposal would not allow access through the campground during the active part of the camping season. To ensure the highest degree of public safety, the proposed time period will commence after Veterans’ Day (around mid November) and end on March 1st. There will be a number of other caveats and restraints. This area would only be considered for opening when access through cut 1 and 1A is inaccessible. Parks would determine whether or not to open that auxiliary access. The Commissioner asked that the Trustees, as well as the user groups, review this proposal and provide us with their comments at a future meeting.

Update on Smith Point Pier (off the bay side)

The Commissioner reported that DPW is waiting for a determination from the County Attorney’s office to determine whether or not they can select the highest bidder. When that happens, DPW can select from one of the two bidders.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Earth Day

Chairman Fritz commented that Earth Day at Indian Island was very nice and extended his appreciation to Parks staff.

Canoe Access Sites

Chairman Fritz asked if car top boats will be permissible when canoe access sites are established.

Bill Sickles responded "yes".

ATV Incident at Carmens River

Commissioner Pavacic received a letter from Chuck Hamilton, NYSDEC regarding an ATV incident at Southaven. The Commissioner asked Chief Dave Brewer to investigate the incident. There was an ATV law enforcement detail operating at Southaven and two of the law enforcement officers were from Brookhaven Town Code Enforcement. They were not very familiar with Southaven, went the wrong way and ended up in the middle of the river. The Commissioner sent a letter to Mr. Hamilton and copied the Sheriff and DEC, as well as other enforcement agencies, advising them of what happened in the investigation. The involved officers have been counseled and their supervisors have been advised. Chief Brewer has implemented additional steps to make sure that any law enforcement officers are correctly apprised and trained in terms of the proper operation of ATVs. This was an innocent mistake, an isolated incident that has been properly addressed.

ROUND TABLE

Suffolk County Charter Revision Committee

Trustee Corwin reported most Trustees are receiving email notices from Terry Pearsall (Presiding Officer Lindsay's office) regarding Legislative meetings. One of particular interest was a notice of the "Suffolk County Charter Revision Commission" which meets every ten years. Trustee Corwin stated there have been a number of times when the Trustees have consulted the charter about their specific duties and responsibilities. There are two minor administrative points that have arisen in the past which should now be considered. One is that the Board has 13 members, one appointed by the County Executive and one appointed by the Presiding Officer. The Charter does not specifically allow them the opportunity to appoint a member. Also, there is no distinction in the charter addressing whether the County Executive Trustee and Presiding Officer Trustee are full fledged voting members. Trustee Corwin feels those two items should be clarified in the Charter. The Revision Commission is accepting comments. If agreeable to the Trustees, Trustee Corwin will work with Trustee McKay to come up with some minor strikeouts and inserts to forward to the Charter Revision Commission.

Bergen Point RFP

Commissioner Pavacic asked the Trustees to take a vote and pass a resolution authorizing the issuance of the Bergen Point RFP. The Commissioner also asked for a representative to serve on the Bergen Point RFP Committee. Parks is proposing to split the operation of the golf course and the catering facility. The same entity can bid on both, but Parks would have two separate agreements.

A motion to authorize the Parks Department to send out the Bergen Point RFPs was made by Chairman Fritz and seconded by Trustee White. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Trustee Gregory Dawson volunteered to serve on the Bergen Point RFP Committee.

Trustee White reintroduced Bill Akin who is now a board member of the Parks Foundation. Trustee White also thanked Deputy Commissioner Bellone for all her help on the GATR site.

Trustee Hilary thanked Commissioner Pavacic and Bill Sickles for coming to Southold last month.

Trustee Cardillo commented that Earth Day was a very nice event. He reported Bill Sickles gave him a tour of the new bathroom facilities at Indian Island. Trustee Cardillo commented that the location is very close to the trees and the solar panel that operate the fans do not always work.

Commissioner Pavacic reported that Parks will investigate the trees blocking the solar panels, however the bathroom facilities will not be moved to their former location which is an archaeologically sensitive area.

Roger Podd complimented Parks staff at Indian Island for adhering to the rules when he applied for a Green Key. He was denied a renewal because he only had one form of I.D. (and two forms of I.D. are required).

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Hilary and seconded by Trustee White. Unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.