

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2010  
BERGEN POINT COUNTRY CLUB, WEST BABYLON, NY**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Chairman, Town of Riverhead
Gregory Dawson	Vice Chairman, Town of Islip
Amy Engel	Member of the Board
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Richard Hollborn	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Dawn Hopkins	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT**

Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

John W. Pavacic	Commissioner
Joseph J. Montuori	Chief Deputy Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
Tony Trotta	Superintendent
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Tom Malanga	Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner
Karen Summers-Solinas	Principal Accountant

**GUESTS**

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Janet Longo	Acquisitions Supervisor, Division of Real Property, Acquisitions and Mgmt.
Tom Young	County Attorney's Office

Chairman Cardillo called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

There were members of the public present; they did not wish to speak.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2010**

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

## COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Pavacic reported on the following:

### 2011 Capital Budget Proposal

Copies of the 2011 Capital Budget Proposal were distributed to the Trustees for their review and consideration.

**A motion to approve the Capital Budget Proposal was made by Trustee Borden and seconded by Trustee White. The Capital Budget Proposal was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.**

### Tribute to Ray Corwin

On Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 PM, the Pine Barrens Commission and Long Island Greenbelt Trails Society will be having a meeting to determine how to honor our colleague and former Trustee, Ray Corwin. The meeting will be held at Southaven Lodge.

### Eroding Bluff at Indian Island

There is an eroding bluff at Indian Island that has been the subject of controversy for several years. We have had a DEC permit for a number of years which allows us to place up to 1000 yards of sand on the bluff to stem erosion.

A nearby marina owner had complained that our placement of fill had been blocking up some navigation channels nearby and impacting the routing of vessels. We recently had a meeting with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the County Health Department and there was concurrence that our operation was not causing that impact. The Commissioner will be writing a letter to the owner of the marina.

The Commissioner reported that the water needs dredging and he has contacted the Town of Riverhead Supervisor's office and recommended that they put in a formal recommendation to DPW to get this dredging project on their schedule.

### Smith Point Beach Nourishment

We have been fortunate that over the past month the winds have been out of the southwest and there has been some natural beach building. A beach nourishment project will not be happening there for some time due to the need to find a sand source, get through extensive environmental reviews and get all the funding in place. Fire Island National Seashore has indicated that we will also need an environmental impact statement.

### Suffolk County Environmental Center at the Scully Estate

There was a grand opening on Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a wonderful event with a terrific turnout.

### Ockers Boathouse at the Long Island Maritime Museum

We've had some meetings with the L IMM regarding the state grant for the Ockers Boathouse to replace the existing canvas building with a natural, full scale timber boathouse that will allow them to pull boats up from the marine railway and work on them under shelter. We have looked at existing boathouse facilities on the north end of the Patchogue River. One in particular is being explored as a possibility of having it moved and adaptively reused as the boathouse at the L IMM. The L IMM cannot use any grant funds in their investigations, including retaining the services of a structural engineer.

### Coindre Hall Boathouse

We will commence construction and renovation early this summer. The Sagamore Rowing Association is finishing up its season there and will be moving to a Town of Huntington facility before the end of the month.

### I.R. No. 1397-2010

Copies of I.R. 1397-2010 *which temporarily reduces beach fees at County parks* were passed around to the Trustees.

This initial resolution was to reduce beach entrance fees and golf fees by \$1.00 starting 30 days from the effective date of the resolution through the end of December. Both the Parks Department and the Legislative Budget Review Office provided testimony that this would result in a net loss of revenue of \$250,000 to \$300,000 in this calendar year. The Legislature did amend this resolution so there was a \$1.00 reduction in beach fees only for the months of July and August.

Trustee Borden thanked the Commissioner for giving his testimony at the Legislature. It was very well done.

Trustee Sickles wanted to go on record saying he thinks this resolution is a mistake and long range will have a negative impact on Parks.

Trustee White said he thought this resolution was fiscally irresponsible. Until last year, there hasn't been a fee increase in 7 years. This means that the average taxpayer, not the user, has to pick up the tab.

**A motion to disapprove I.R. 1397-2010 as amended was made by Trustee Sickles and seconded by Trustee White. Trustee Engel abstained. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0-1.**

### Marinas

The Parks Department has established a Boating Advisory Committee. About a month ago we had a meeting with the boaters at both Shinnecock and Timber Point. Some recommendations came out of that meeting and we are investigating some security measures at some of the marinas including the potential use of security cameras, improved lighting and some bar gates at night time that could only be opened and closed by boaters. The Marina RFEI Committee made a recommendation not to privatize marinas but to keep them under Parks Department management.

### Helen Keller House

Yesterday at CEQ (Council on Environmental Quality), which also serves as the County Historic Trust, they reaffirmed a prior vote not to grant historic designation to what remains of the Helen Keller House and to demolish that house. It is called the Helen Keller House only because in the summer of 1936 Helen Keller stayed there for 2 weeks. It was never owned by her or a member of her family. There is only a front façade but if you go around the back, there is nothing left. The house is completely collapsed. It has never received historic designation and has been deemed ineligible by the State Historic Preservation Office for listing on the State and National Register of Historic Structures. We have also received a number of complaints about the potential danger of this collapsed structure.

Legislator Romaine has introduced a resolution to transfer \$400,000 from another part of the capital budget into a new capital project towards the restoration of the Helen Keller House. It's our estimate that it would cost upwards of \$1,000,000 to fully reconstruct the house and it would still not get historic designation.

**A motion for a Trustees resolution to support the demolition of the Helen Keller House was made by Trustee Sickles and seconded by Trustee Borden. Trustees Hilary and Cardillo abstained. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-2.**

### Nissequogue River

Due to rainfall issues and flooding, nominal dredging will be done along the northeast branch to remove blockages.

### Millers Pond

Millers Pond has a spillway at one end. When water levels are up, we have a DEC permit to remove certain control boards in the spillway system to lower water levels in the pond until it returns to a normal level. We continue to work with County Departments, the Town and the State to address some additional areas.

### Woodhull Dam

A culvert pipe failed due to erosion and deterioration. DPW declared an emergency and repaired the pipe. We are working with DPW to get approval to replace the pipes. DEC has issued permits, but we are also investigating the installation of a fish passage.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Cardillo asked about the lack of sand at Meschutt Beach. The Commissioner responded we should be getting 1,000 cubic yards of sand delivered today.

Chairman Cardillo reported Earth Day was a wonderful event...a job well done!

## **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee Cardillo said he speaks for all the Trustees.....we will greatly miss Commissioner Pavacic.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone said she personally will miss the Commissioner and wishes him luck in his new position. It's been great working with him.

Lauretta Fischer wished the Commissioner the best of luck.

Janet Longo wished the Commissioner good luck. She also reported the County purchased the house on Charles Court in Lake Ronkonkoma that was under water. It was demolished. The County also purchased 40 acres of Core Pine Barrens property.

Tom Malanga thanked the Trustees for their support of the Earth Day Awards Dinner. It was a wonderful success. Perhaps we could explore an event benefiting Third House this summer.

Trustee Hollborn thanked the Commissioner and wished him well.

Trustee Sickles asked for an update on the fishing pier at Smith Point. Terry Maccarrone responded we are still waiting on the Ipe wood.

Trustee Sickles complimented Tom Malanga on the Earth Day Awards Dinner. It was a great event.

Trustee Sickles thanked the Commissioner for a job well done.

Trustee Borden joined the others in wishing the Commissioner well and thanked him for his superb service.

Trustee Hopkins thanked the Commissioner for his service and wished him well.

Trustee White thanked the Commissioner and wished him the best.

Trustee White asked about the bird watching pier at Cupsogue. Terry Maccarrone responded there has been no movement. It's not on top of DPW's priority list.

Trustee White reported he will be serving on the Parks Foundation Board.

The next Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported she will confirm the location and inform the Trustees of any change.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Hollborn. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0**