

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2008  
BERGEN POINT COUNTRY CLUB, WEST BABYLON, N.Y.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Vice Chairman, Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Ray Corwin	Member at Large
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board
Amy Engel	Member of the Board
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton
Gregory Dawson	Trustee, Town of Islip

**ABSENT**

Gary Olsen	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Edward Walters Jr.	Trustee, Town of Southampton

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

John W. Pavacic	Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Tom Hroncich	Parks Foundation Director
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Karen Nicholson	Superintendent of Parks
Colleen Logan Hofmeister	Contracts Manager
Colleen Wahrer	Sr. Clerk Typist

**GUESTS**

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

Vice Chairman Cardillo called the meeting to order. The meeting was held at an earlier time to enable all present to attend the wake of John Fritz, Chairman of the Parks Trustees. Vice Chairman Cardillo expressed that we were all saddened by Chairman Fritz's passing. We were to welcome a new Trustee for the Town of Southampton, Ed Walters. Unfortunately, Mr. Walters had had car trouble on his way to the meeting and could not attend. Amy Engel was introduced as the new representative for the County Executive's Office replacing Todd Stebbins.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

William B. Sickles – Former Superintendent of Parks

Mr. Sickles wanted to pay tribute to John Fritz. Mr. Sickles feels very saddened by the passing of Mr. Fritz. While Mr. Sickles worked for the Parks Department he felt fortunate to have had worked alongside Mr. Fritz and loved him for what he has done for Parks and feels the Department was fortunate to have a man of his caliber on the Board. Mr. Sickles would like to make a request to the Parks Department and the Trustees to give some consideration to doing something in honor of John Fritz at perhaps the yet to be built Smith Point Fishing Pier or the Cupsogue Boardwalk.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2008**

**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 one acquisition. She stated we were continuing to acquire property in this area, the Carlls River Watershed in Babylon. The parcel is on the Master List. A colored site map was distributed describing the Property.

Carlls River Addition – Keredian property – (0100-083.00- 01.00-154.000)

The acquisition of 23 acres in Babylon. This will be acquired under the Old Suffolk Drinking Water Protection Program (C12-5(E)(1)(b))

**A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.**

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Pavacic reported tropical storm Hanna did not cause any significant damage to our Parks. We did evacuate the campgrounds and ultimately had to close some parks as a precaution. Thankfully the storm was not as bad as predicted and we were able to get through this unharmed.

Commissioner Pavacic would like to ask the Trustees to review a proposal from the Long Island Dog group to have a natural borders dog park established at Coindre Hall. They have submitted a proposal and a plan. The Commissioner would like to have an opportunity for the group to make their presentation before the Trustees at either the October or November meeting. He would like them to appear before the Trustees before going to CEQ.

Trustee McKay asked if it would be possible to meet at Coindre Hall when the group makes its presentation.

Commissioner replied "yes". We should look at the November meeting as one possibility. We need some time to prepare for that type of meeting at Coindre Hall.

Commissioner Pavacic asked Colleen Hofmeister to provide an update on Contracts.

#### Bergen Point Golf Course RFP

Colleen Hofmeister reported that the Bergen Point Golf Course and Restaurant RFPs have been completed. Colleen thanked Trustee Dawson and Amy Engel, representative of the County Executive's Office, for serving on the Evaluation Committee. One proposal was submitted for the Golf Course Professional License and one proposal was submitted for the Restaurant/Bar Facility License. Both proposals were from the individuals who are currently operating the Bergen Point Country Club and Restaurant facility. They stepped up when that site was in crisis and have done remarkably well over this past year. The Evaluation Committee has reviewed the proposals and listened to their oral presentations on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. As a result, the Evaluation Committee has recommended that we award the contracts to them. With the Commissioner's agreement we will move forward and a Resolution will be put before the Legislature advising that we are looking to award these contracts to these individuals.

#### Coindre Hall RFP

We have been diligently working on an RFP for the caterer at Coindre Hall in Huntington. We have been operating for years with three Caterers at the facility and it has not worked well at for the County. We are looking to consolidate and work with one person who can provide some much needed improvements there. Trustee McKay has indicated interest in serving on that Evaluation Committee. We would welcome him if he is still interested.

Trustee McKay indicated that he was still interested.

#### Seatuck/Scully Agreement

Last month the Commissioner had announced that we finally executed the Scully Agreement. We met with Seatuck this week and it appears we are all on the same page and are moving forward with making plans for that facility. We are hoping to be able to start offering some programs and to open it up as the Interpretative Center for Suffolk County next year.

Commissioner Pavacic would like Terry Maccarrone to give an update on some of the capital projects.

#### Smith Point Fishing Pier

Steve Astuto from DPW is hoping to go out for bid by the end of the month for the fishing pier construction. That should take two to three months, with a contract awarded in January, and then an additional nine months for construction. The project had been awarded previously but had to be re-bid.

#### Cupsogue Boardwalk

Nick Gibbons reported that the design for the Cupsogue Observation Boardwalk has gone to CEQ and has been approved. The money has been appropriated but we still need plans to go to DEC and possible other agencies including federal agencies.

Commissioner reports that at yesterday's CEQ meeting the Historic Trust designated the Smithers portion of Hubbard County Park as Historic Trust Property. This will give the much needed additional protection to insure that that site can never be developed into something that it was never meant to be. It will also serve to keep it in its very low key passive state.

Trustee Corwin asked if that included the land or the buildings.

Commissioner replied "both" It is the entire property and the buildings.

Nick Gibbons reports that a lot of what occurred on this property was of historical significance. The Historical Trust recognized that and dedicated the entire property.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Vice Chairman Cardillo is very saddened by the loss of Chairman John Fritz. He knew Mr. Fritz would ask about the Smith Point Fishing Pier and its progress. Trustee Fritz had only missed one meeting in the three years Vice Chairman Cardillo had been involved.

### **GATR Site**

Trustee White reports that when referring to the GATR Site there are two different uses. One is the facility for the parks maintenance building and the other is the communication tower. It is the same park property, two different uses. Trustee White refers to the communication tower and reports that they are trying to proceed. The problem now is really between the Montauk Fire District and Mooney and getting a contract together. The County has an agreement with the Montauk Fire District. The Montauk Fire District will need an agreement with Mooney. That agreement will need the Commissioner's approval and then will be forwarded to the County Attorney's office for their approval. If approved, the Montauk Fire District can execute the contract. We are working on a "meeting of the minds".

### **Smith Point Fishing Pier**

Trustee White is glad that Legislator Fisher is here and knew John Fritz. No Trustee has had as much of an impact on the County as John. Thousands of people will appreciate the fruits of his efforts. We all remember him as the "Mayor of Cordwood Landing". John was an avid outdoor person and spoke up continually for the campers, the hunters, the birders and the fishermen. Trustee White would be honored to offer a Resolution to suggest that we name the Fishing Pier at Smith Point in John's honor.

Legislator Fisher expressed that John Fritz attended the Legislative Parks Committee Meeting the day before he passed away. Legislator Fisher has learned a great deal from him and would be proud to present a Resolution to the Legislature.

**A motion was made by Trustee White to request a Resolution to name the Smith Point Fishing Pier in honor of John Fritz and seconded by Trustee McKay. Unanimously approve by a vote of 9-0-0.**

Trustee White inquired about Ann Rothenberg, Secretary to the Commissioner.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone explained that Ann had a medical procedure done and will need to recover about 4-6 weeks but is doing well.

Vice Chairman Cardillo reports that today a small group of Trustees visited the South Bay Street Property located in the Town of Babylon. This was tabled at the last Board of Trustee's Meeting. Village of Lindenhurst Administrator Sean Cullinane requested that we take a 2<sup>nd</sup> look at the property.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone explained that Legislator Horsley had wanted Village of Lindenhurst Mayor Tom Brennan to address the board at the public portion of the meeting. In light of John's passing, the Mayor has chosen to skip the September meeting and will attend the October meeting. In addition, Legislator Horsley has requested that this item remain tabled until a new Babylon representative to the Trustees is appointed. Deputy Commissioner explained that it could take months and most likely, take us into 2009.

**A motion to disapprove the acquisition was made by Trustee Hilary.**

Deputy Commissioner Bellone requested that the Trustees give the Mayor the opportunity to speak before it is voted on. Trustee White agrees that would be fair.

Trustee Dawson asks if the property was designated as parkland at time of purchase. Deputy Commissioner Bellone indicates it was not. The acquisition will be tabled until the next meeting.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee Corwin announced that the Charter Revision Commission's Secretary had requested the Trustees to provide any requested language changes. The last meeting of the Commission was being held that evening in Riverhead and they wanted someone from the Trustees to provide testimony as a professional courtesy. Trustee Corwin and Trustee Cardillo agreed to attend the meeting.

Legislator Fisher asked how we are doing with the Rental Properties.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone explained that the properties were being re-appraised. We are still waiting for some to be completed. We are also in the process of sending letters to the tenants requesting their input. We anticipate we will be ready for a Committee Meeting by mid-October.

The trustees and park staff expressed their sadness over the passing of Chairman John Fritz. Nick Gibbons took a few moments to say a few words about Chairman Fritz. He expressed that John had a tremendous commitment to public service. He was a tireless advocate of access for recreational purposes, and continued to challenge both the county and state to do more to allow appropriate uses for the public's enjoyment of the outdoors. He cared deeply about recreation and environmental issues. John volunteered countless hours of his time to promote environmental protection and recreational access. He had a keen awareness of the challenge parks faces in balancing access for the public with environmental protection. John was an accomplished birder, having accumulated over 800 species on his life-list, and had traveled extensively throughout North America in pursuit of additional species. His advocacy of land preservation across Long Island was responsible for countless acres of protected lands that will be enjoyed by generations of Suffolk's residents.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting at this time was made by Vice Chairman Cardillo and seconded by Trustee McKay. Unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.**

**The Next Meeting will be held October 16, 2008 at Meadowedge, West Sayville**