

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2016
SCULLY ESTATE
ISLIP, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terence McSweeney	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Arthur Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Michael Rosato	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

Ellen Hanzl	Manager of Operations & Events, Scully Estate
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PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Robert Ford attended the meeting and did not have a topic for discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2016

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Member of the Board Debra Kolyer. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson thanked Ellen Hanzl from the Seatuck Environmental Association for hosting the Trustee meeting at the Scully Estate.

Commissioner Dawson asked Richard Martin and Ellen Hanzl to give a brief overview of the Seatuck organization and historic description of the Scully Estate. Richard reported that the county acquired the 70 acre parcel of land from the Audubon Society in 2004. The Audubon Society placed the property up for sale and the

community rallied behind the county to purchase the land. The Seatuck Environmental Association was part of the group interested in moving in if the acquisition came about. Once the county completed the purchase, it already had capital funds available in the budget for restoration of the building. A referendum was passed for environmental purchases and the legislature turned over \$2M of funding for renovation of this acquisition. The county went into contract with Seatuck to maintain it for the county and run its environmental center. The house and property were listed on the National Historic Registry in 2007. The house was designed by a very well-known architect, Grosvenor Atterbury. He created Forest Hills Gardens and did a lot of work in Southampton, such as the Parish Art Museum. He also designed and built the Havemeyer Bayberry Point complex. The Havemeyer and Peters families purchased the entire peninsula at Scully and planned it out between the two families. The Havemeyer part of the property was used for suburban development and the Peters family was very interested in environmental preservation. Years later, the property across the street was given to the federal government and the property with the Scully Estate was given to the Audubon Society.

Ellen Hanzl reported that she started out on the board for Seatuck about seven years ago. As the building has been renovated over the past few years, it has been used for environmental and health programs mostly for children. These programs have been a good way to introduce Seatuck to the public. The historic building is also used for various events such as weddings and business conferences. There is currently an exhibit on display in the building that explains the history of the Fire Island Seashore. Ongoing exhibits displaying art and nature photography demonstrate Seatuck's mission of conserving Long Island wildlife as an environmental and cultural center. Commissioner Dawson added that the annual Eco-Carnival was recently held in celebration of Earth Day which was a big success. Ellen reported that 1300 people attended the Eco-Carnival. Each year, more and more organizations are becoming interested in participating in the event. This year an oyster farming company, as well as the Sierra Club, US Fish and Wildlife and Suffolk County Parks participated showcasing the many different types of programs that are offered.

Ellen reported that Enrico Nardone is the executive director of the Seatuck Environmental Center, and five other employees are on staff, including a bookkeeper and a staff member who handles all of the educational programs all over Long Island. Everything else is handled by volunteers, including landscaping of the grounds. Brochures were distributed.

Terry Maccarrone reported that the irrigation system and pump house at West Sayville have been completed. Improvements to the maintenance facility at West Sayville should be going out for bid by the end of the year.

DPW is preparing to submit documents for bid for a fire suppression system at Third House. Trustee White inquired as to when it might be completed and if the building would then be opened to the public. Terry stated that Lou Johnson from DPW is in charge of overseeing the sprinkler system design and estimated a fall time frame. Commissioner Dawson added that some floor work still needs to be completed as well.

Terry added that the construction project for the Homan-Gerard House in Yaphank was awarded to WGP Contractors. This is the same company that was awarded the contract for the new mill at Blydenburgh CP.

Commissioner Dawson reported that the contractors are just about finished at Smith Point CP. There is an extension on the project until the end of the month.

At the last meeting of the Legislature, the \$250,000.00 that was appropriated last year for capital improvements to parks (\$200,000.00 for construction and \$50,000.00 for planning) received the required 12 votes for bonding. \$200,000.00 in capital funds for improvements to golf courses was also approved. Irrigation work at Timber Point GC and Indian Island GC, as well as bunker repairs and grades to some tee boxes is planned work to be completed by Parks staff.

About 2 1/2 years ago, Legislator Horsley submitted a resolution directing Parks to do an RFEI (Request for Expressions of Interest) to seek public/private partnership for some historic structures. The Elwood Schoolhouse was one of the structures and the Elwood Library responded, seeking to turn the Schoolhouse into a library. In order to accomplish that, they were looking for a long-term lease which Parks couldn't do without submitting an alienation bill which would allow it go from park use to library use. The bill stalled in the senate and assembly last year and it never went through. Legislator Stern recently brought it back to the table at the last legislative meeting and it was passed. With this bill, they are looking to convey (purchase) the property which will take a public referendum. The bill went forward to the state and once it passes, it will need to come back to referendum, be approved by the Parks Trustees, CEQ and a list of other regulatory agencies. The county has owned the two acre lot since 1987 and nothing has been done with it. If the bill goes through, all rules and guidelines for an historic landmark structure will have to be followed.

Five fundraisers on park land were also approved by the Legislature.

Commissioner Dawson reported on the successful Eco-Carnival that took place at the Scully Estate over the weekend, as well as the Boy Scout Jamboree at Southaven CP. Over 2,500 scouts attended the Jamboree and they were a very well organized group.

Commissioner Dawson reported on a few policy changes related to the Parks Department outer beach permits and camping reservations. Parks sells approximately 12-13,000 outer beach permits each year. There were issues last year so it was determined that whoever purchases a permit will have to bring the car they will use on the beach when they purchase the sticker and a staff employee will affix the permit to the car bumper.

The other change is regarding the non-resident Green Key that the Parks Department sells. Up until now, non-residents could not make reservations on holiday weekends at any of the parks. Now, non-resident Green Key holders will be able to make reservations 45 days in advance and resident Green Key holders will be able to reserve 90 days in advance. Suffolk County taxpaying residents will have the opportunity to reserve prime sites first and non-residents will be able to choose from the remaining sites.

I.R.1204, calling for \$50,000.00 to use for sand at Meschutt CP on an ongoing basis was passed by the Legislature. Another project at Meschutt CP that is scheduled to be finished by Memorial Day weekend is the alternative septic system. The contractor is scheduled to start construction on site April 25th.

Former Legislator Lynne Nowick, who currently sits on the Town Board of Smithtown contacted Commissioner Dawson just before today's meeting regarding a grant application from the Gardiner Foundation. She sent her best regards to the Parks Trustees.

Trustee Cardillo inquired about the John Fritz viewing platform. Commissioner Dawson reported that the project will not be moving forward at this time. Trustee Cardillo commented that the fishing pier itself was accomplished.

Member Pearsall commented that there were a lot of complaints at the Parks Committee meeting from some of the Legislators regarding the condition of the restrooms at Smith Point CP. Commissioner Dawson stated that he believed those comments were in support of his argument that he needs capital funds. The Parks Department had wanted to appropriate funds for improvements to parklands and there was a contentious debate to get those funds bonded. Legislator Browning brought up her concerns from last year about the condition of the restrooms at Smith Point CP (showers not working, tiles broken, etc.). Commissioner Dawson stated that he inspected the restrooms and while the structure itself could use some work, the restrooms were as clean as they could be, considering the intense usage they get. Legislator Browning was bolstering the fact that the Parks Department needs county funding to make these improvements in county parks. There are funds set aside for Smith Point CP in particular and it will be determined as to what repairs are needed the most.

Commissioner Dawson reported on a bill recently passed on the use of drones in county parks. He was asked to come up with a list of rules and regulations for usage of drones in the parks, noting where it would be appropriate to fly them. He drafted the list and sent it to the County Attorney's office for review.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Hopkins requested an update on the water quality issue at Goldsmith Inlet CP, which was brought up by Legislator Krupski at the March Trustee meeting. Commissioner Dawson reported that there was a meeting held about two weeks ago at DPW. DPW staff, Nick Gibbons from Parks, Legislator Krupski and representatives from the town attended the meeting. Commissioner Dawson will ask Nick Gibbons to report on it at the next meeting.

Chair Hopkins asked for an update on the Cedar Point CP RFP. Commissioner Dawson reported that it was just returned from the County Attorney's office and it should go out in the next week. He is hoping for some serious bidders for a license agreement to come forward. The Parks Department would like to have a replacement concessionaire in place for the upcoming summer season since it is an integral part of the campground at Cedar Point CP. The Kaelin Family was the prior concessionaire for thirty years.

ROUND TABLE

Richard Martin reported that the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA) will be holding its annual summer fundraiser on June 24th at the Meadow Croft Estate in Sayville. SPLIA is a private organization based in Cold Spring Harbor and it was established in the mid-1940s. It provides preservation education to local non-profit groups. They own a number of historic sites on Long Island, one of them being the Customs House in Sag Harbor. This is the first event SPLIA is holding at a county site. The Bayport Heritage Association will open the Meadow Croft house to provide tours and a cocktail event will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Meadow Croft was designed by Long Island architect Isaac Green and it was the summer home of John Roosevelt, first cousin of Theodore Roosevelt.

Trustee Cardillo requested an update on the restrooms at Indian Island CP. Commissioner Dawson stated that the parts are still on order. He will check into it and report at the next meeting.

Commissioner Dawson reported to Trustee McSweeney that at one of the last legislative meetings, a resolution was adopted to renew the terms of the agreement between the Town of Babylon and Suffolk County to continue to maintain Van Bourgondien CP. Trustee McSweeney requested to review the renewed agreement when completed.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at Bergen Point GC in W. Babylon on Thursday, May 19, 2016.

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