

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF APRIL 26, 2018
INDIAN ISLAND GOLF COURSE
RIVERHEAD, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Peter Leis	Chairman, Trustee, Town of Islip
Arthur W. Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
William B. Sickles	Vice Chairman, Town of Southampton
Josh Slaughter	Member of the Board
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Kathleen Gooding	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Michael Rosato	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Member at Large
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Huntington

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Donald McKay	Parks Deputy Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Emily Lauri	Community Relations Director
Kerry Albee	Parks Operations, Customer Service
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Tony Trotta	Parks Superintendent
Barbara Rittman	Senior Office Assistant

GUESTS

Kara Hahn	Legislator, District 5
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PUBLIC PORTION

Harold Kench was present to speak about the reservation policy of Suffolk County Parks camping. He inquired if there will be a new reservation system for this season. Commissioner Berdolt explained that the Parks Department is using the same system and has been making improvements to it.

Mr. Kench commented that if a camper would like a weekend at the campground, you must log on and reserve Monday through Sunday to get the Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday weekend days. You must then go on Monday and leave your camper at the site, but most of the time those reserved campsites sit empty from Monday until Thursday. There is a way to go into the system and cancel out the reservation and change it to just take the three days that you want but then you run the risk of someone else going into the system at that

exact moment and getting your site. He inquired if there is a way in the system to guarantee that you can change it without incurring a penalty.

Commissioner Berdolt stated that Parks staff is working on that and that it will have to be passed through legislation first in order to change it. There will also be a small change in the fee schedule but you will be able to change a reservation.

Kerry Albee explained that at the present time, the only way to change a reservation is to cancel the reservation and receive a cancellation fee which is \$30 if it's after 48 hours of the reservation being made and \$50 if it's less than one week prior to the reservation start date. People who only want the weekend have to inch their reservation up but each time they do that and they cancel, it costs them \$40. The Parks staff is trying to work it so that people can make changes within the system. There will be a set fee every time you log into it, you won't have to cancel it and you won't lose it but there will be a charge for it. Kerry added that it isn't fair to campers who do want a whole week and they are excluded because people are inching their reservation up and then leaving that space that nobody can book because you can only book four days or more on the reservation system. Parks is also looking into Monday through Wednesday blocks that can't be reserved on the system within 30 days of the date of a reservation, and allowing people to make them online.

There is legislation already in now to change the cancellation policy to eliminate a set fee because it isn't fair to tent campers who pay the same price to cancel their reservation as somebody who has a full hookup. Parks is also considering making the fee a percentage of the reservation. Kerry added that some of the changes, such as being able to make a modification on your reservation and the cancellation fee change may go into effect this camping season. Having the ability to reserve just three days will probably not go into effect until next year as the system has to be tested to make sure it works.

Mr. Kench stated that he was reassured to know that these issues are being addressed. He reported also that his Long Island Glamping firm is a new preferred camper rental company for the Parks Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 29, 2018

Page 4, last paragraph, second to last sentence: Trustee Cardillo recognized Terry Maccarrone who reviewed all of the proposals and did a good job consolidating them down to a spread sheet which made it much easier to compare and contrast the proposals, since each one offered different **fixed rental fees and percentage of sales fees.**

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Trustee Richard White and seconded by Trustee Gil Cardillo. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Berdolt thanked all for handling the last Parks Trustee meeting while he was away. The contract with the new concessionaire for Smith Point CP, Cupsogue CP and Meschutt CP is currently being finalized and the Parks Department is hoping to have it in place within the next few days. The Parks Department is very happy with the selection, J & B Restaurant Partners who also operate all of the TGI Fridays and Friendly's Restaurants here on Long Island. The company is well qualified, has solid capital commitments and is very willing to work with Parks, especially regarding the point of sales system and installation of security cameras to monitor them.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that the beaches suffered from all of the nor'easter storms that occurred over the winter months. The Montauk, Smith Point, Cupsogue and Meschutt beaches were all devastated. Parks staff has been working very hard out at Montauk to get it back open on the reservation system with 80 sites for outer

beach camping. Work is ongoing at Shinnecock, bulldozing the beach to get the sites open by Memorial Day. Smith Point is presently closed for outer beach camping due to the erosion. The piping plovers have returned and the beaches are going to be managed on a day to day basis to keep them open.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that the U.S. Open will be held at Shinnecock this year and Suffolk County is working with organizers to assist in bringing the public out there. There are many openings for jobs that week, including bar tenders, tent people, tent managers, caterers, chefs, etc. There is a link on the county website and Parks has created a link in its reservation system to accommodate out of town campers who are specifically planning to attend the U.S. Open. There is also a link on the U.S. Open website to our camping website and Parks has received several inquiries and bookings through it. Discover Long Island is involved as well and the event will be very helpful in promoting the Parks Department.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Leis inquired if there have been any updates regarding West Hills CP. Commissioner Berdolt reported that Parks Department officials met with the people responsible for the illegal dumping and they have just submitted their work plan. Parks already had an approved work plan from the DEC. The perpetrators have to submit their part of the plan which explains how they are going to stage their vehicles for the asbestos abatement part of the cleanup. Parks is reviewing it and it will then go to the DEC for approval.

Commissioner Berdolt stated that he is hopeful that the work will be started by June and there is a three month period whereby the work must be completed. The bond for the cleanup was voted down and the Parks Department is looking at possibly revisiting it again. There is funding available but the plea deal isn't clear to everyone. There were four people responsible but only three of them have agreed to the cleanup of 450 truckloads of a thirty-five yard container. There is also a lot of work involved that they refuse to be responsible for, including electric, fencing and materials that will have to be brought in afterwards.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee White reported that he spoke with a member of the Third House Nature Group and they are raising approximately one thousand quail bobwhite to release in various parts of the park. The group would like to continue to do it annually since attrition is at about 80% due to predation (fox, seagulls, hawks). They would eventually like to also raise ruffed grouse which are native to the area. Co-Chairman Sickles inquired if permission for the release of the quail will need to come before the Parks Trustees for approval. Nick Gibbons reported that the Third House Nature Center works directly with him on different programs and receive approvals before moving forward. For the present time, they have an interim agreement until something more long-term is agreed upon. Trustee White added that the group has also been holding some lectures at Third House which have been very successful.

Terry Maccarrone reported that the County Executive issued a proposed capital budget which is similar to the one requested by the Parks Department.

Richard Martin reported that the tour season began early this year. He already gave a tour of the Homan House restoration with the Yaphank Historic Society and Preservation Long Island (formerly SPLIA) which went very well. This Saturday, April 28th at 11:30 a.m. there is a tour scheduled at the Meadow Croft Estate, sponsored by the Bayport Heritage Association along with the Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies. They will also visit both the Edwards Homestead and St. Ann's Church in Sayville.

Richard added that most of the sites will open up to the public in June with regularly scheduled public tours.

Deputy Commissioner McKay reported that the USGA is doing a trophy tour throughout the tristate area and next Tuesday, May 1st at 3:00 p.m. golfing fans can view the United States Open trophy at Timber Point Golf Course.

Co-Chairman Sickles inquired about the work that has been going on at Montauk and Shinnecock. He questioned that since the April 1st date for piping plovers to start reappearing has passed, if it requires US Fish and Wildlife input. He wondered if it's because the two areas haven't nested there in a long time that it's off the table or if it's because the birds just weren't there so they started moving sand. Nick reported that there hasn't been a piping plover at Shinnecock East in over ten years. He added that the bird area is already fenced and the work is well away from it so permission is not needed. Co-Chair Sickles inquired if Shinnecock was taken off of the list of bird nesting sites. Nick stated that the area doesn't need to be fenced so it isn't an issue.

Parks Committee Chair Kara Hahn inquired about the new concessionaire's plans regarding reduction of using plastic utensils. Terry Maccarrone reported that several, if not all of the respondents spoke about reducing or eliminating plastic food service materials. Commissioner Berdolt stated that it wasn't part of the scoring but he will inquire with the new concessionaire regarding plans to use biodegradable products. Legislator Hahn stated that she feels it is an important initiative.

Trustee Leudesdorf inquired about the Peconic Dunes dining hall plans. Commissioner Berdolt reported that the design plans were due back the week of April 16th. DPW is reviewing them and nothing has been awarded yet. Commissioner Berdolt stated that he would check into it and send Trustee Leudesdorf an email with a timeline for the project.

Trustee Cardillo inquired if there have been any new developments with the illegal tree removal in Shelter Island. Commissioner Berdolt reported that he was contacted the day earlier by two detectives working on the case. An affidavit was sent to the detectives that the Parks Department did not give any authorization for anyone to enter the property or removal of any trees. Officials have spoken with local home owners who claimed to have no knowledge of the activities that occurred. Parks is now working more closely with the limited Police force in Shelter Island who can now spend more time and resources on this case. The case is still open and ongoing.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that there is also property in Stony Brook where a similar situation occurred, although not as extensive. A neighbor's landscaper was hired by a resident to cut down some trees, remove some fencing and also encroached on Parks property. The landscaper admitted his guilt and reported the homeowner who hired him. The Parks Department is currently getting a lot of assistance from the District Attorney's office and detectives in charge of the Environmental Crimes Unit.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at the Scully Estate in Islip on Thursday, May 24, 2018.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Richard White and was seconded by Trustee Leudesdorf. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 6-0-0.