

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2018
WEST SAYVILLE GOLF COURSE, MEADOWEDGE
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Dawn Hopkins	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Peter Leis	Chairman, Trustee, Town of Islip
Arthur Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Michael Rosato	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
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
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Member at Large
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Huntington

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Philip Berdolt	Parks Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Emily Lauri	Community Relations Director
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

Legislator Kara Hahn	District 5 Parks Committee Chair
Legislator Steven Flotteron	District 11

Chairman Peter Leis thanked former Chair Dawn Hopkins and Vice Chair Kathleen Gooding for their service on the Board of Trustees for Suffolk County Parks. He added that both he and Vice Chairman William Sickles look forward to serving as Chairman and Vice Chairman.

PUBLIC PORTION

There were no members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 30, 2017

Page 5, 1st paragraph, 1st sentence: Nick Gibbons shared that former Southold Trustee Richard **Hilary** passed away.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Trustee Richard White and seconded by Trustee Arthur Leudesdorf. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Berdolt congratulated Chairman Leis and Vice Chairman Sickles in their new titles on the Board. He added that there are two additional appointees on the Board who will be installed shortly. Representing the Town of Huntington will be Margo Myles who was nominated by the new Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci. Huntington Parks Director Donald McKay had been nominated to succeed his late father by former Town Supervisor Frank Petrone but that was stalled by the new incoming Supervisor. The new appointee representing the Town of Babylon is Daniel Truchan III. Once the two nominees have been approved, they will be the newly seated members on the Parks Board of Trustees. Appointed to replace Terrence Pearsall on the Parks Board of Trustees and represent Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory of the Suffolk County Legislature is Josh Slaughter and he was welcomed to the meeting.

There are several new Legislators this year and appointees to the Parks Committee. Commissioner Berdolt welcomed Legislator Kara Hahn back as the Chairperson for another year and Vice Chairman Bill Lindsay. A new member to the Parks Committee is Legislator Susan Berland, and she joins Legislator McCaffrey and Legislator Trotta.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that the District Attorney reached a plea deal with three of the four perpetrators (trucking companies) responsible for the illegal dumping at West Hills County Park. The Parks Department had an environmental assessment done on the property and Parks has attained an approved DEC plan for remediation which is hoped to begin about March 1st. The Parks Department will save over \$4 million by holding the perpetrators responsible for the remediation. An environmental firm will be hired and DPW staff will both oversee the project to make certain that the remediation is done correctly and soil samples are done properly. The DEC will be involved with the process as well. The plea deal gave the perpetrators 60-90 days to remediate. Parks will document the removal of fencing, doors to the stables, lighting, underground electric etc. while the remediation is being done, as well as the cost of replacing everything afterward. Any deficits to the soil will have to be brought back up to grade. Any additional costs that are incurred could be recouped civilly.

An RFP (Request for Proposals) for a new lessee at West Hills CP is planned for the end of February and it will be posted on both the Parks and DPW websites. There has already been interest shown.

Josh Slaughter inquired about some complaints received having to do with some clearing that occurred and bonfires at West Hills CP, and possibly smaller dumping activity on the outskirts of the grounds. Commissioner Berdolt stated that there haven't been any reports to the Parks Department about bonfires. There is encroachment by one of the residents, and another new resident in the area has cut back some Parks fencing and made track marks with a bobcat to possibly make a snow mountain for snowboarding. These reports are currently being investigated by the Parks Department.

Legislator Steven Flotteron was present at the meeting and introduced himself representing the 11th District (replaced former Legislator Thomas Barraga).

Commissioner Berdolt reported that the contract with the concessionaire at the three locations for the Beach Huts (Smith Point CP, Cupsogue CP and Meschutt CP) has been terminated. The RFPs for each of the locations went out today. There has been a lot of interest shown due to the large amount of revenue they generate. The deadline for the applications is March 1st at 11 am. Any new contract will require security cameras and a Point of Sale (POS) System that the Parks Department approves and has access to at all times. An internal auditing plan is currently being worked on for all concessions, golf courses and toll booths for the upcoming summer. Parks would like to award new concessionaires by April 1st for the new upcoming season.

Legislator Hahn inquired if the RFP for Cupsogue CP includes any capital improvements and Commissioner Berdolt reported that all three locations do. Capital improvements could include new ovens, decking, new awnings or anything that would improve the site itself.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that there was an incident in Shelter Island where two residents cut down approximately one hundred trees on Ram Island County Park property in order to attain a better view of the water. The County is currently working with the District Attorney and the DEC. The Environmental Crimes Unit is taking the lead from the District Attorney's office.

Commissioner Berdolt distributed before and after photos of the Cranberry Bog Bridge at the County Preserve in Riverhead. The decking is made from recycled plastic lumber from an old job site so it won't break down and rot. The roping used for the handrail was also from existing stock. The only cost was for use of stainless steel tie rods for strength, and cordless power tools for the construction due to the location of the project.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Leis inquired about the status of plans for the Peconic Dunes Dining Hall. Commissioner Berdolt stated that it is ready to go out but that it hasn't gone to any firms yet. He will check with DPW to find out if the RFP for the design has gone out.

Chairman Leis inquired if any new equipment has been received from FEMA. Commissioner Berdolt reported that so far, a tractor backhoe, pick-up trucks, Park Ranger vehicles, three Explorers, five Ranger cars (interceptors), and 15-20 new gators have been received. Four 450 dump trucks and the balance of the orders are expected shortly.

Chairman Leis inquired if the Naming Committee legislation was passed. Commissioner Berdolt reported that it was passed but a meeting hasn't been held yet.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee Leudesdorf reported that he is glad to hear that the Peconic Dunes Dining Hall was approved. Legislator Hahn added that twelve votes would be needed for the bond. Commissioner Berdolt reported that that the funds for the design are available. There are three different plans for construction that will be provided to choose from. Legislator Hahn stated that the Legislators understand the need for the dining hall to be built, but expect a reasonable expenditure for it. Cornell Cooperative Extension holds the concession for the sleep away camp and currently an outdoor tent on a hill must be used for dining purposes. The food is wheeled up and down the hill to serve three meals each day. Cornell is willing to provide \$20,000 in additional funds/year on the lease to be used specifically to help pay down the bond.

Trustee Sickles added that the first request for a new dining hall for the Peconic Dunes Camp dining hall was under the John V.N. Klein administration back in the 1970s. Trustee Rosato suggested each of the Trustees lobby their individual Legislators to get it passed. Commissioner Berdolt agreed to send the Trustees detailed information when it comes up because it's a good project, revenue continues to come in from the camp and there are kids from every Suffolk County Legislative District who attend the camp. The dining hall and restrooms were condemned and it is only a matter of time before the kitchen collapses. Then everything would have to be contracted out.

Trustee Leudesdorf reported that he has received a request from Chart Guthrie with the DEC to speak at a Parks Trustee meeting. The DEC currently stocks Laurel Preserve with brown and rainbow trout. Chart had inquired about the pond located within the Peconic Dunes property and would like to stock that pond as well. The

general public, Scouts and other groups could visit that pond to fish at times of the year when it doesn't conflict with the day camp activities. Commissioner Berdolt stated that he is aware of the request and that Chart is welcome to speak at a meeting regarding the topic. There are some concerns regarding the day camp schedule and Parks does not want to create parking for it.

Trustee White inquired if any progress is being made with Third House. Commissioner Berdolt stated that structural issues need to be addressed first. In doing the survey for the sprinkler system, it was found that the main building is not supported properly for public occupancy. On the first floor, below the bar area needs to be shored up. Trustee White suggested the possibility of a campaign being formed to raise funds for the necessary work led by the Third House Nature Group and the community of Montauk since they are very interested in using the Third House. Commissioner Berdolt stated that he would arrange to meet out at Third House to explain where the issues are within the building and discuss some of the possibilities for getting it rectified.

Trustee Cardillo reported that everything looks good at Indian Island CP and Sears Bellows CP. County staff always keep the parks plowed and the trails cleared.

Legislator Kara Hahn reported that Legislator Fleming requested that she make an inquiry on the Lindley House. She inquired if there is any sort of an agreement in place that allows for the family to live there. Trustee White reported that the house is uninhabitable. The building was built during WW II as a submarine spotting house and it is constructed from part concrete and part wood. When the County purchased the property, the owner, Hilda Lindley stated that if the County would allow her to live in the house until she passed away she would give the house to the County rather than sell it. She passed away and the family stayed in the house for quite a few years after, until it was finally discovered. The Boy Scouts were asked if they would like to rehabilitate the building and they declined. Nobody else in Montauk has an interest in it either. There is no water, no power, it has a dilapidated generator from the 1940-50s which may not be safe, the windows are boarded up and access is minimal. Commissioner Berdolt added that the building is a bunker that was built by the Army and made to look like a house. It originally had well water and the generator powered it. The County owns the building and family members have been squatting there during the summer months. It is in a very remote location, and the overgrown road doesn't allow for a vehicle to pass. The Parks Department has removed all furniture that was left there. A cost analysis was done to estimate getting the house functional with electric running from the street to the house and it came to approximately \$400,000. To make it functional as a rental within the Parks system would cost approximately \$1 million.

Legislator Hahn inquired about the tickets issued for the illegal tree cutting that occurred at McAllister County Park. Commissioner Berdolt stated that summonses were issued to the people responsible for cutting the trees and they were dismissed by the judge. He added that it is possible that the DEC also issued tickets and there is another case on it. Legislator Hahn reported that the new Village of Belle Terre Attorney contacted her and he would like to speak with the Park Rangers and the District Attorney regarding the action because he feels that the dismissal could have been a misunderstanding.

Legislator Hahn reported that the posts are down again and there has been new dumping activity at the St. Germaine of Alaska property on Van Buren Street in Port Jefferson Station.

Legislator Hahn reported that she is looking forward to begin the planning for the walking path at Old Field Farm. She feels strongly that it will help increase access.

Member of the Board Josh Slaughter reported that he is happy to be a new member. He stated that he worked as Legislator Browning's Chief of Staff for twelve years so he is not new to County government and is familiar with County Parks.

Trustee Rosato inquired if there has been any further discussion on trying to establish a dedicated revenue source for Parks that cannot be used for any other purpose. He suggested possibly the funds collected from the public for the purchase of plastic bags. Legislator Hahn commented that the State has to give the authority to allow that and Senator Flanagan will not agree to it. It was originally requested to go into an environmental fund but the State refused to allow that as well.

Trustee Bill Sickles commented that the closest Parks has ever gotten to a dedicated revenue source was under Commissioner Ron Foley. A Park District would have been created and a Suffolk County Park District line reported on everyone's tax bill. Legislator Hahn stated that the current movement is to consolidate taxes, not add to them since there are so many taxing districts already on Long Island. Commissioner Berdolt suggested the possibility of taking any revenue that is generated from summonses and putting it into a special Park Ranger fund for ATV patrol and equipment.

Trustee Sickles inquired if there are any updates on the Cedar Point CP concession store. Commissioner Berdolt reported that Parks is going to reissue the RFP (Request for Proposals) very shortly with added options to it, such as upgrading the electric to 200 amp service (done in-house), incorporating the ability to put a camper on site with electric and septic hook-up, enabling use of the old check-in station as a substitute if the concessionaire wishes to sell additional products at that location, and allowing expansion of the building to make it a mini-restaurant with a bar. To enlarge the building, Parks would partner with the concessionaire to install a septic system to allow for indoor food service accommodations.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at West Sayville Golf Course, Meadowedge in West Sayville on Thursday, February 22, 2018.

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