

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF MARCH 28, 2019
INDIAN ISLAND GOLF COURSE
RIVERHEAD, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Dawn Hopkins	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Joseph Kukral	Member at Large
Peter Leis	Chairman, Trustee, Town of Islip
Daniel Lloyd	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Michael Rosato	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
William B. Sickles	Vice Chairman, Trustee, Town of Southampton
James W. Wright	Trustee, Town of Huntington

ABSENT

Christopher Bodkin	Member of the Board
Kathleen Gooding	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Arthur W. Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Philip Berdolt	Commissioner
Don McKay	Deputy Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Emily Lauri	Community Relations Director
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Tony Trotta	Senior Superintendent
Barbara Rittman	Senior Office Assistant

GUESTS

Hon. Kara Hahn	S.C. Legislator, District 5, Parks Committee Chair
Hon. Al Krupski	S.C. Legislator, District 1

PUBLIC PORTION

Clyde McGhee was present to report that he has lived on East Bartlett Rd. in Middle Island, adjacent to Cathedral Pines County Park for thirty-three years. He reported about trash along the south side of East Bartlett Road and that he called the Parks Environmental Office and it was cleaned up the next day. He stated that the trash has been collecting there for a very long time and that a lot of it came from a town contractor who throws it into the woods and blows refuse into the water. He stated that he wrote to the Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine, his Legislator, Town Councilman Mike Loguercio, the highway and fire departments and nothing was done about cleaning it up. Mr. McGhee stated that he has seen the contractor doing it and has pictures of it. He added that when people pass and see all of debris, it sets the tone that they can litter in that area as well. It is all strewn between County Road 21 and the parkland and it is sending the wrong message. Chain link fencing is also dumped there and instead of being picked up it gets pushed into the woods, within fifty feet of the river.

Another issue was the eight acre field of brush across the road from Cathedral Pines that was recently mowed and there were turtles living in the field that were harmed in the process.

Mr. McGhee stated that he has cleaned the roadway as a scout leader, a civic leader, a resident and an adopt-a-highway individual and feels that more needs to be done to maintain and keep the area between the park and the road clear of trash.

Legislator Krupski inquired if East Bartlett Road is a County road and Mr. McGhee stated that it's a town road and Yaphank/Middle Island Road (County Road 21) is a County road and it is covered with trash as well. The contractors are obligated to take away their debris and the town is allowing them to get away with dumping it.

Commissioner Berdolt inquired if Mr. McGhee would get the name of the contractor and Mr. McGhee stated that he has many photos. Commissioner Berdolt stated that Parks has been unaware of the issue and that he will take action on it. He added that the District Attorney's Office now has its own Environmental Unit and Parks has been going after those who are dumping in County parklands. Mr. McGhee agreed to email all of the information to Commissioner Berdolt. Legislator Hahn thanked Mr. McGhee for his persistence in trying to get the dumping stopped and requested that he makes sure he sends the photos so that the Parks Department can take action.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Page 5, paragraph 2 and sentence 3: If a group doesn't pay their bills and/or **treats** the horses badly, the news spreads very quickly.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Trustee William Sickles and it was seconded by Member at Large Joseph Kukral. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Berdolt congratulated and welcomed new Parks Trustees Jim Wright, representing the Town of Huntington and Member at Large Joe Kukral. All vacancies on the Board of Trustees are now filled for the first time in many years.

Commissioner Berdolt announced that he may be returning to the Department of Public Works, depending on Legislative vote. He stated that he loves working at the Parks Department however it would be a good career move for him. April could be his last Parks Trustee meeting and a May decision to reappoint him to return back to Public Works.

Commissioner Berdolt updated that the resolution passed this week and the contract is being finalized for the Warrior Ranch Foundation to begin programs for people suffering from PTSD at the Long Island Beagle Club in Calverton. By next week, the contract should be signed and the Warrior Ranch staff can begin to make some repairs to the building on site.

Legislator Krupski was pleased that the meeting was held on site with community members at the Beagle Club to clarify what the program will entail. The location is along a very busy road and he emphasized that any of the operations cannot include parking on the shoulder of the road. He added that there is a lot of community support for opening up some of the trails on the property. Commissioner Berdolt stated that he believes there will be a lot of assistance from the Warrior Ranch staff in doing that.

The Boy Scouts will be holding their Benjamin Tallmadge District Spring Camporee May 3-5 at Southaven County Park in Yaphank this year. Approximately 4,000 scouts will be participating. The Boy Scouts are also planning to hold an event in October to assist with opening up some park trails where needed.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that an RFP award was made for glamping at Cedar Point County Park in East Hampton. There was only one successful bidder so it will have to be approved by the Legislature and it should be voted on at the next cycle. It is hoped that glamping will draw interest and increase camping at Cedar Point CP, bringing in more revenue as well.

The cleanup efforts at West Hills Stables were halted this past month due to debate with the defendant over the finalization of the restoration plan. An agreement was just made and they are guaranteeing that they will be finished with it by the end of April. Commissioner Berdolt reported that he is meeting on site tomorrow with the awardee who will be taking over the West Hills Stables to review some details and help clean up some of the items that were left by the last vendor. It is hoped that they will be ready to begin business and start maintaining the trails on May 1st.

Member of the Board Joe Kukral commented that he read an article and was surprised that the glamping at Cedar Point would be up and running by Memorial Day. Commissioner Berdolt stated that the vendor has everything ready to go. They are planning to build some small decking on site to adjoin with the tents to create a front porch with seating. Besides two different size tents and some fencing in a few areas, the vendor will provide and maintain a trailer for showers and restrooms. A tented community area for continental breakfast and a fire pit for making smores will also be provided. There have been no plans proposed for electric yet.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that Parks is in the process of creating a walking path around the property at Old Field Farm. DEC permits are pending and the path should be completed quickly. DPW will assist and use a small milling machine to carve out the path. Nick added that the DEC has already given the approval to switch out the fill to be used and the permit is expected very shortly.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that Parks has a small remote piece of property located on the bay in Amityville and Presiding Officer Duwayne Gregory has requested that some work be done there. It is located across from the yacht club, is approximately 150' long by 50-80' wide and is designated as Maxine Postal Memorial Park. Plans for the parcel were completed in-house and

Commissioner Berdolt reported that the County is financially strapped and all departments had their budgets cut by 10 percent. He stated that he makes every effort to find ways to bring in new revenue. The FAA has approved the design for a new cell tower to be installed shortly in Montauk at the GATR site for safety purposes. Other locations are being considered and it is a great opportunity. Legislation is already in place that there won't need to be alienation of a park. NYS has a handbook of the alienation of parkland process and there is a specific exception that states that cell towers can be leased instead. Each tower has the potential, depending on the height, to bring in more than \$100,000 a year in annual rent to a park which would stay within the Parks system, and not go into the general fund. A new budget code will be created for those funds that will go towards repairs throughout the entire park system. Backup generators are put into place so that there is no break in service. Towers are being considered at Smith Point CP, Timber Point CP, Blydenburgh CP and others.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Leis inquired about the passport program. Legislator Hahn reported that she met with the County Executive's staff and they are currently working on drafts for the design of the book for the County-wide program, as well as individual logo designs for each park.

Chairman Leis inquired about progress with the Blueways Trail Plan and **Legislator Hahn** reported that she attended the second meeting held with the project advisory committee. She was pleased to report that an application called an inventory tool is being created to collect and organize data about existing water entrances and launch points for kayaks and paddle boards along our County waterways. The application should be ready within the next two weeks and will be used on the Smart phone to inventory locations and everything surrounding the launch points. Legislator Hahn stated that she agreed to inventory the coastline within her district. She added that the two forks of Long Island will need the most assistance because of the vast amount of coastline miles. Legislator Krupski commented that Greenport Village is pretty far along with its Blue Green Trail in the Town of Southold. Legislator Hahn stated that a large County map was provided at the meeting and attendees were able to make notations on it. She noted that collecting the data for the inventory is still in the very early stages.

Legislator Hahn reported that the first stage will be inventorying what public access points already exist and whether they are located within a town, village, county, etc. A wish list for improvements at these sites will be created, as well as identifying potential new access sites, launch locations, prioritizing them and also identifying what else is nearby. For example, restaurants or restrooms within walking distance, or historic sites that may be of interest will be noted.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that he was able to get a boat from New York State Parks for the Park Rangers at no cost. It's a twenty-four foot Stratos which the Park Rangers will use for law enforcement, but could also use it to assist in locating water entrances and accessing launch points for the Blueways project. The boat will be docked in Shinnecock.

ROUND TABLE

Co-Chairman Sickles commented about an article in the Riverhead News Review stating that the Town of Riverhead is exploring using one of its beaches in Jamesport to make it similar to activities offered at Meschutt Beach CP. They are considering providing a venue with music, car shows, entertainment, etc.

Co-Chairman also cut out an article from Newsday about wild horses. It discusses the topic on a national level, having them go out to private enterprise, the amount of space they need and how wild horses have little to no interaction with humans.

Co-Chairman Sickles inquired about a DPW proposal to initiate rebuilding the boat ramp at Northwest Harbor CP. Commissioner Berdolt stated that it was completed several years back and it includes a floating dock. Co-Chair Sickles inquired if Suffolk County residents need a trailer permit or if it's simply open for use. Nick Gibbons stated that it is currently open for public use. Co-Chairman Sickles commented that it's not only a great location to launch a small boat, but kayaks and canoes as well.

Member at Large Kukral commented that last year there was discussion of bringing electric to Cedar Point CP for the glamping and also to continue it to the group areas. Commissioner Berdolt stated that the electric wouldn't be taken to the both areas from the same location. There's a transformer closer to the group area than the maintenance building where the glamping would probably tap in. The glamping would only be looking to electrify a small area, not the entire site. Member of the Board Kukral inquired if they would be using generators to light restrooms, etc. Co-Chairman Sickles was on the RFP committee for the glamping and he commented that the vendor would like to electrify, but it depends on how successful the glamping is initially because it's an added expense. He added that they do want to have lighting for the tents, restrooms, etc. Each individual camp site would have battery powered lighting. Commissioner Berdolt added that they were also looking into solar lighting for the paths.

Member at Large Kukral commented that the start of the camp season is April 1 and inquired if water is set to be turned on. Commissioner Berdolt stated that everything is on schedule. The contractor is also at Cathedral Pines to re-grade and hydro-seed.

Member at Large Kukral inquired about the west camp sites on the beach at Cupsogue CP. Commissioner Berdolt stated that there is a very bad erosion problem in that area and the current runs through there very strongly. Parks moved everything to the south and lost five sites but reservations are back on again. The reservation system was re-vamped to change some of the sites around in that one area.

Richard Martin reported that the Third House project has been moving forward. Once the County contractor and architect started removing ceilings and flooring, they found that the framing, support posts and beams needed much more work than anticipated. They are replacing all of the framing in the bar room. A lot more work and upgrading is needed to bring it to code for public assembly. The contractor is there on a regular basis, DPW has staff there every other day and the architect is there once a week.

Richard stated that the main block of the building dates back to about 1820 and he believes some of the early framing that dates back to the original construction in 1749 may have been found as well. Commissioner Berdolt commented that mortise and tenon joints was used in the construction. Trustee Cardillo also commented that back at that time, lumber was used from old ships and could have been included in the construction of Third House as well. Richard stated that additions to the house from the original block during the 1940-60's were later found to not be attached properly to the main building. Richard expects that it will be a nice job once the project has been completed.

Trustee Lloyd reported that Presiding Officer Duwayne Gregory and Deputy Supervisor Tony Martinez are very happy about plans for the Maxine Postal Park and anxious to get it started as soon as possible. He added that he also has photos of the parcel, located within the jurisdiction of the Village of Amityville. Commissioner Berdolt stated that once it is completed, he believes that the Village would like to maintain the grounds.

Trustee Cardillo reported that everything looks good at Indian Island CP and Sears Bellows CP. Both parks were kept in nice shape during the winter months. A number of southern pine beetle infested pine trees were also felled and split.

Legislator Krupski reported that he was contacted by a constituent in Southold about a vacant parcel on County Road 48. Commissioner Berdolt stated that the parcel is located between two homes on Sound Avenue. Legislator Krupski added that the two homeowners on either side may be interested in purchasing the parcel.

Legislator Krupski reported that he was contacted by a constituent looking for a location with some terrain, not flat level to do dog training and he inquired if anyone would know of some property that would be about ten open acres. Commissioner Berdolt suggested Mud Creek County Dog Park, off of Roe Avenue in East Patchogue. It goes to the water, has trees and low ground shrubs. Commissioner Berdolt added that Parks is building a dog park with an obstacle course and drainage pipe at Gardiners CP in Bay Shore, using grant money received from Senator Boyle. It will be the first one in the County.

Legislator Krupski reported that he was contacted about concerns with the active erosion happening at Goldsmith's Inlet, on the east side of the jetty. He inquired if there were any suggestions and added that he was surprised that the town didn't do any dredging to open it up this past winter, which would have helped to temporarily restore the area.

Legislator Krupski inquired if Parks might be interested in adding some property to the North Fork Preserve because there are adjacent open space parcels that may be going up for sale.

Deputy Commissioner McKay reported that the Port Jefferson Rotary Club is going to volunteer a project to cut back and maintain the trails at the Chandler Estate in Mount Sinai.

Deputy Commissioner McKay reported that thanks to Mother Nature, March golf numbers are above projections compared with last year. Good weather is also expected this coming weekend.

The Islip Horseman's Association has agreed to a formal agreement and also replace some gates to enhance security at the Bohemia Equestrian Center.

Nick Gibbons reported that using the southern pine beetle grants Parks received from the NYSDEC totaling \$225,000, 800 trees were just cut down at Lakeland CP in Islandia and work at Southaven CP is about to begin. The first phase of work will include 2,400 trees that will be cut down over the next 6-8 weeks. Trustee Cardillo commented that a few very nice benches were made from some of the wood. Commissioner Berdolt stated that the benches were made by Parks staff.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee James Wright and it was seconded by Parks Committee Chair/Legislator Kara Hahn. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at Inlet Pond County Park, Red House in Greenport on Thursday, April 25, 2019.