

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2014
MEADOWEDGE, WEST SAYVILLE GOLF COURSE
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Vice Chair, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Arthur Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Terence McSweeney	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
Marisa Schifano	County Attorney's Office
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

Chris DeLuca	Aide to Legislator Tom Cilmi
Lauretta Fischer	Chief Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Planning
Jason Hann	Aide to Legislator Jay Schneiderman

PUBLIC PORTION

1. Mr. Robert Beattie, founder of the Island Running Club spoke about his 501c3 non-profit organization. He organizes running races on Long Island and would like to utilize County Parks in races and marathons. A 5k and a 15k race was recently held at Indian Island and it was very well attended. He added that he feels the trail runs are safer for the runners and he would like to provide organized races and runs in county parks in the future.

Commissioner Dawson stated that the Parks Department encourages recreation in County Parks. There are a number of groups such as the Beach Buggy Association, the Mountain Bikers Association and the Greenbelt Trail Conference that use the county parks for events and they are all not-for-profit groups. Any events that are held in a county park that generate any revenue for any group that isn't a not-for-profit would have to go through a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The races that are held are usually fundraisers for a particular organization.

Trustee Sickles brought up the point that Suffolk County high schools use Indian Island County Park quite extensively for cross country meets throughout the fall every year. There is some impact on using the park in that there is restroom use, trash collection and wear on the trails. He inquired as to the number of people Mr. Beattie envisions for the meets that he would like to organize. Mr. Beattie stated that most of the trail runs that he has held usually generate approximately 100-300 people. Most of the participants have family members and friends who also attend the events to support the participants.

Trustee Borden stated that there are already some runs in the state parks and the revenue generated is used for maintenance and upkeep of the parks. He and Trustee Cardillo agreed that it could be beneficial advertising for the Suffolk County Parks Department.

Mr. Beattie stated that he would like to possibly do a winter and/or summer series and to work with the Parks Department to encourage the sport of running overall.

Commissioner Dawson suggested that Mr. Beattie compile a formal proposal and submit it to his office for review.

2. Mr. Harry Reis made a presentation pertaining to the deer population at Blydenburgh County Park. He explained that he feels it is a regional issue as well as a public safety issue and referred specifically to the frontage along Route 347. He reported that deer routinely run back and forth across Route 347 from Blydenburgh County Park over to a parcel of property behind his home and that of his neighbors which is owned by the State DOT. The DEC has permission from the DOT to hunt on the state property and Mr. Reis believes it to be a danger since a law was recently passed allowing bow hunters to shoot 150' from residential houses and also to the public with the deer running across the public highway. He suggested that the county increase its fencing from 5' to 8' at Blydenburgh Park, closing off the entrance into the park at night to retain the deer and/or close the park down only to hunting for several weeks to cull the deer.

Nick Gibbons responded that Blydenburgh County Park is open twelve months of the year and the park operation is from dawn to dusk. The two-way entrance gate road on Route 347 remains open so that the public has access to the park for walking, jogging or camping. He added that he isn't convinced that even the most effective hunting program would reduce the deer population to the extent that would be necessary to mitigate the problem. The deer find safe haven in the parks but they also live out their entire life cycles in residential neighborhoods as well. Commissioner Dawson will take Mr. Reis' points into consideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2014

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.

PLANNING & REAL ESTATE

Lauretta Fischer distributed a list of parcels and maps being considered under the Old Drinking Water Protection Program, Section 12.5D. The funds were initially to be utilized for landfill capping in those towns that wished to utilize the money for those needs. The remaining portion of the funds was to be used for acquisitions within the 12.5D towns. Each of the five towns provided lists of the properties that they would be interested in and Legislator Al Krupski came forward with a resolution to provide the funding for each of the five towns. These towns include Brookhaven, Riverhead, East Hampton, Southampton and Southold. The list of parcels was presented at the November 20th Parks Trustees meeting, with the exception of Riverhead Town.

The remaining Town of Riverhead's 12.5 D proposal list was presented today, as well as several additional parcels in the Town of Southold.

Town of Riverhead

1. Broad Cove – 1 parcel, 99 acres.
2. Peconic River Addition, 6 parcels, 3.1 acres

Please see list for Suffolk County Tax Map #s

A motion to approve the 7 proposed Riverhead open space acquisitions was made by Trustee Cardillo and seconded by Trustee Sickles. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Town of Southold

1. Brushes Creek, 6 parcels, 25.65 acres

Please see list for Suffolk County Tax Map #s

A motion to approve the additional proposed Southold open space acquisitions was made by Trustee Cardillo and seconded by Trustee Sickles. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson reported that he attended the Montauk Lighthouse Christmas Tree Lighting. He commended Trustee White for his participation as the Master of Ceremonies and noted that the event was very well attended.

Commissioner Dawson also thanked Trustee Sickles for his attendance at the Big Duck Lighting which was another very well attended and successful holiday event.

The new computer reservation system changeover to Vermont Systems is underway and is planned to be ready by January 5, 2015, which will be in time for Memorial Day weekend camping.

A resolution was passed allotting \$200,000 to DPW for construction of temporary facilities at Cupsogue County Park in time for Memorial Day weekend.

The fee structure change to allow for yearly permits for deer hunting was approved by Parks Committee and by the full Legislature. The resolution to enter into an agreement between the County and the Riverhead Sewer District for the Effluent Reuse Project at Indian Island was also approved.

Funding for the planning of the Peconic Dunes dining hall unfortunately was not passed, receiving only 11 of the 12 votes needed.

Nick Gibbons gave an update on work at the Smith Point County Park. The \$48 million project has begun and 2.5 million cubic yards will be deposited at the park. That is the equivalent to 125,000 18 wheeler loads of material. The vast majority of dredge material will be pumped up out of the ocean and the balance will come from a dune excavation on the far-east end of the park. Construction time is estimated to be about five months.

Nick stated that the DEC has identified a presence of the southern pine beetle which can destroy evergreen pine trees within about 60 days. He noted that testing is being done in various locations, there is a significant

presence at Connetquot and a number of trees are likely to be felled due to the infestation. Trustee Sickles inquired if public information notices would go out. Nick stated that postings would most likely be made by the DEC where necessary.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Dawn Hopkins inquired if County Park Rangers have been placed. Commissioner Dawson reported that the existing seasonal Park Rangers have been patrolling the eastern parks. The new Park Security Director, Dodd Amrhein is recruiting for additional Park Ranger I positions. He anticipates being at full staff shortly. Artie Pendzick, a former Park Police Sergeant has been hired part time and is assisting Dodd.

ROUND TABLE

Trustees exchanged holiday greetings.

Barbara Rittman distributed a list of possible Parks Trustee meeting locations for the 2015 calendar year for Trustee review.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at Meadowedge, West Sayville Golf Course in West Sayville on Thursday, January 15, 2015.

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.