

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2014  
MONTAUK COUNTY PARK-THIRD HOUSE  
MONTAUK, NEW YORK**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Vice Chair, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT**

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Marisa Schifano	County Attorney's Office
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Southold
VACANT	Member at Large

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst

**GUESTS**

Hon. Jay Schneiderman, Legislator 2nd Legislative District

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Barbara Grimes was present to discuss the Lindley House. Legislator Schneiderman, Commissioner Dawson and Trustees had discussion with Ms. Grimes regarding ideas for renovation and use of the building.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2014**

Page 2 – Presentation by John Pavacic, Central Pine Barrens Commission – 7<sup>th</sup> line – One of the **principal** reasons for creating this was the fact that Long Island is situated over a sole drinking water resource.

**A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Trustee Alexander McKay and seconded by Trustee Kathleen Gooding. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Dawson reported that the legislation to enter into an agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension to do a wetland restoration at Cedar Beach was passed by the Legislature. Legislation for the saltwater wetland restoration project at Indian Island passed as well.

Commissioner Dawson reported that the concession stand/maintenance building was destroyed from the fire at Cupsogue County Park. Fire marshals are still investigating the site and working to find the cause. The facility was closed at the time of the fire due to rain. A few meetings have been held already to begin planning for reconstruction and a pre-planning/construction meeting has been scheduled with the DEC for next week. The County Executive and Legislative Branch are committed to doing everything possible to make sure the beach is re-opened as quickly as possible. Once all debris from the fire has been removed from the site, the beach and camping will be re-opened to the public.

The New York Audubon Society has obtained a temporary restraining order against the Army Corps to prevent commencement of the project at Smith Point County Park. Nick reported that because of the scale of the dredging project, every day that is delayed from starting is an issue that will push everything later into the season. New York Audubon is pursuing a suit against the Army Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because they contend that there isn't enough being done with the piping plover program to satisfy their concerns that the birds are being protected. They want oversight in the program and to halt construction of the dunes at Smith Point. A fourteen foot high dune is planned to be constructed to replace what was lost from Hurricane Sandy. The Audubon would like the fourteen foot high dune to be reduced to four feet high to facilitate the travelling of the birds from the bay side to the ocean side more easily. This would enable the birds to forage on both the bay side when it's low tide and the ocean side when it's low tide there. The Audubon wants a reduction of the beach as it exists today, which is approximately ten feet in elevation in the breach area. They would like the county to cut back the elevation to four feet, which is lower than what it was after the hurricane. A major contention is that by maintaining the bay side habitat and creating a primary dune, the birds could still spend the entire summer on either side of Burma Road. However, there is enough forage habitat to support survival on either side.

Trustee Alex McKay inquired about the Cupsogue Beach fire and how plans will proceed. Commissioner Dawson reported that meetings have already been held with DPW and preliminary meetings with the DEC have been scheduled so that planning can begin as soon as possible. The site will be cleared of all debris once insurance adjusters have completed their reports. At this time, there is no known cause for the fire but thankfully, there were no injuries to anyone.

Trustee Gil Cardillo inquired about golfing and camping sales this season. Commissioner Dawson reported that both golf and camping sales were up. Beach sales were about the same as last year due to the fact that there was no real heat wave this summer.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Dawn Hopkins thanked Trustee White for hosting the meeting and luncheon, and also for dessert provided by Trustee Sickles and his wife, Joyce.

Chair Hopkins reported that the Trustees received a letter from a constituent, Andrew Shemella regarding the County's policy of charging 24 hour docking fees for transient docking for boats that stay only for several hours. Discussion of possibilities ensued.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee Gil Cardillo reported that he visited Meschutt County Park and it was very busy. Both Indian Island and Sears Bellows also continue to be very well maintained.

Trustee Kathleen Gooding reported that next month the meeting will be held at Sylvester Manor. If anyone would like to do a short tour of some of the other public properties after the meeting, she will arrange to provide a van to take a group and to please email her to let her know. Directions for getting to the meeting location will be sent out ahead and carpooling was suggested.

Trustee Sickles reported that he was contacted by Southampton Town Council requesting if he might meet with some representatives of the Flanders, Riverside and Northampton Community Association and the Bay View Pines Civic and Taxpayers Association. One of the representatives communicated to him that there will be a Grand Opening Celebration of the Long Island Duck Farming Exhibit at the Big Duck Ranch on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. A dedication & ribbon-cutting is planned, as well as a fair and live music. There will be no admission fee charged and all are invited. The event is sponsored by Friends of the Big Duck in the Town of Southampton and is partially funded by the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation.

Flanders representatives also inquired if there were any updates on plans for a foot bridge on the 14 acre parcel on Flanders Road, which falls partially in both the Towns of Riverhead and Southampton. Discussion ensued on various possibilities for this project. Plans have not yet been finalized.

All were very appreciative of Trustee White graciously hosting and providing the excellent luncheon.

The next meeting will be held at Sylvester Manor in Shelter Island on Thursday, October 16, 2014.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Richard White and was seconded by Trustee Alexander McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**