

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2011
SOUTHAVEN COUNTY PARK
YAPHANK, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Vice Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Gregory Dawson	Chairman, Town of Islip
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Richard Hollborn	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Dawn Hopkins	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Michael J. Domino	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Joseph Montuori	Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
Tony Trotta	Superintendent
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Emily Lauri	Director of Community Relations
Tom Malanga	Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Brian Culhane	Commissioner, Department of Environment and Energy
Lauretta Fischer	Chief Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Janet Longo	Acquisitions Supervisor, Division of Real Property, Acquisitions and Management
Tom Young	County Attorney's Office

INTRODUCTION

Chairman Dawson introduced our new Board member, Debra Kolyer. She will be serving on the Board as the representative from the County Executive's office.

PUBLIC PORTION

There were not any members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2011

On page 3 change “slopped together” to read “slapped together”.

A motion to accept the amended minutes was made by Trustee White seconded by Trustee Hollborn. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported on the following:

- Following the Trustees meeting there will be a dedication ceremony at the John J. Fritz Memorial Fishing Pier at 2:30 PM at Smith Point County Park.
- The housing program is going well. All rental units, with the exception of one (1) in West Hills, are rented.
- The Parks Maintenance Division has completely renovated the bathrooms at Theodore Roosevelt County Park.
- The Parks Department will be expanding the parking lot at Lake Ronkonkoma County Park. Patrons have been parking on the local streets and this will help alleviate this issue.
- We’ve been having complaints that the mosquitoes are particularly bad this year. Nick Gibbons has contacted Vector Control.
- Swimming was closed today at Smith Point due to fog. We’re hoping to have it reopen as soon as the fog lifts.

ROUND TABLE

Terry Maccarrone reported on the following:

- New water supply lines are being installed by the campgrounds at West Hills County Park.
- DPW has finalized the spillways construction contract. They will be starting with Brookside County Park, then Hubbard County Park. There has also been a recent spillway issue at San Souci County Park which we will be addressing.
- Phase I of the electrical upgrades to the campsites at Smith Point County Park have been completed. We will start Phase II after Columbus Day.
- Beach nourishment at Smith Point - We still haven’t received the approved project worksheet from FEMA. A conference call is scheduled with FEMA tomorrow to address this issue.
- There are no further updates from DPW regarding the bird watching pier at Cupsogue.

Trustee Sickles gave Deputy Commissioner Bellone a copy of the Riverhead News which had an extensive article on private clubs that were turned into public parks. There were also pictures of the Smithers Property and Black Duck Lodge.

Trustee Sickles said he was at a function when a woman stopped him and said she had two things to say about Shinnecock East County Park. She said the supervisor, Russell, is doing a fine job and she wanted the Parks Department to know that. She also said she had a problem using her credit card on the reservation system. She called the Administrative Office in West Sayville and spoke with a woman named Emily who was very polite and thorough.....she was terrific.

Trustee Sickles said he wanted to go on record. He received a letter from the Ethics Commission a few months ago requiring that he fill out a financial disclosure form, which he did not fill out. He received a follow up letter from the Ethics Commission that they were notifying the Suffolk County District Attorney's office and that his failure to comply would be referred for criminal prosecution including a class A misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$1,000 and a term of imprisonment in jail of up to one year. Trustee Sickles reported he called the Ethics Commission and told them that the County Executive doesn't have to fill out this form...he fills out the state version. Trustee Sickles said he then read an article in Newsday that the Director of the Suffolk County Ethics Commission is being questioned regarding part time work for a full time job. Trustee Sickles said the Parks Trustees are volunteers and asked why they have to fill out this form.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone responded, as she already had in a previous phone call with Trustee Sickles, that it's written in the County Charter that policy makers in the Parks Department and members of the Suffolk County Parks Board of Trustees are required to fill out financial disclosure forms. If Trustee Sickles would like to change that, he would have to contact elected officials.

Trustee White reported that on behalf of the Montauk Historical Society and the Montauk Lighthouse Museum, "thank you" to Parks administration and the crew at Theodore Roosevelt County Park for their assistance during the triathlon last Sunday. Their efforts were appreciated.

Trustee Hollborn asked Nick Gibbons for an update on Corwood Landing. Nick reported we recently completed a project refurbishing the existing parking lot. We also changed our policy...we had a gate at the entrance road that was locked which needed a special key and then became a combination lock. A special permit was required just for that park. The Parks Department decided to lock the second gate, which was by the driveway of a private residence, and let the public have access dawn to dusk as they do in any other passive park. The immediate reaction of the both the tenant and the neighborhood was opposition. They became used to having a private park for themselves which is exactly what we were trying to get away from. It's a little off the beaten path so we will keep an eye on it. Nick reported he has had discussions with Emily Lauri about abandoning the permit process for that park and perhaps adding it as one of the approved locations for the night fishing program.

Brian Culhane said he took his sunfish and son to Meschutt County Park and they had a lovely time sailing.

Janet Longo reported she visited Corwood Landing and the parking lot looked very nice. Night fishing would be wonderful there because a number of people go down there to fish anyway.

Trustee Sickles said it should be worth noting that access to Corwood Landing started with John Fritz.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported that the lifeguard tournament that Smith Point hosts is scheduled for Monday, July 25th.

Nick Gibbons reported that this year's piping plover season was awful.

- Cedar Point: 11 pair of plovers hatched 34 chicks. Not one made it to fledging. We're getting the job done as far as we can and after that, it seems to be falling apart. It's not for the lack of effort. What happens after hours or pre-dawn is out of our control. We attribute the loss to predators.
- Cupsogue: A cat colony is prevalent up in the Village of Westhampton Dunes. We had 5 pairs of plovers adults there, which was a little lighter than usual. Four (4) of those abandoned their nests entirely. We found the remains of one adult and indications a cat had been there. There were cat prints everywhere and a pair of adult wings were also found at the site.
- Smith Point: 8 pairs of plovers hatched 23 chicks. Only 4 are still walking around and only 1 is old enough to fly.

Lauretta Fischer reported that a planning steps resolution just passed to add 4 or 5 sub-division lots into the Corwood Landing holdings.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported that the next Trustees meeting will be at Indian Island Country Club and the Trustees will have the opportunity to see the improvements that were made at the restaurant by the new concessionaire.

Tom Malanga reported that we will be unveiling a plaque, which was paid for through donations to the Parks Foundation, at the John J. Fritz Memorial Fishing Pier dedication ceremony scheduled for today.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 18th at Indian Island Golf Course in Riverhead, NY.

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