

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

OF THE

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Operating Budget Minutes

A special joint meeting of the Environment, Planning & Agriculture Committee and the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on October 22, 2014 to discuss the matter of the 2015 Operating Budget.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Kara Hahn - Chairperson/Environment, Planning & Agriculture

Vice-Chair, Parks & Recreation Committee

Legislator Al Krupski - Vice-Chair, Environment, Planning & Agriculture

Legislator Sarah Anker - Member/Environment, Planning & Agriculture

Legislator Tom Barraga - Member/Environment, Planning & Agriculture Legislator Tom Muratore - Member/Environment, Planning & Agriculture.

D.P.O. Jay Schneiderman – Chairman/Parks & Recreation Committee

Legislator Tom Cilmi - Member/Parks & Recreation Committee

Legislator William Lindsay - Member/Parks & Recreation Committee

Legislator Kevin McCaffrey - Member/Parks & Recreation Committee

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George M. Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature

Jason Richberg - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature

Robert Lipp - Director/Budget Review Office

Laura Halloran - Budget Review Office

Benny Pernice - Budget Review Office

Greg Dawson - Director/SC Parks Department

Regina DeTuro - Administrator/SC Parks Department

Sarah Lansdale - Director/Economic Development & Planning Department

Tom Vaughn - County Executive's Office

Amy Keyes - County Executive's Office

Ryan McGarry - County Executive's Office

Alyssa Turano - Aide to Legislator Hahn

Christina DeLisi - Aide to D.P.O. Schneiderman

Mike Cavanagh - Aide to Legislator Lindsay

Justin Littell - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro

Eva Greguski - Aide to Legislator Calarco

Timothy Rothang - Aide to Legislator Browning

Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Trotta

Catherine Stark - Aide to Legislator Krupski

Sean Rogan - Aide to Legislator McCaffrey

Amy Ellis - Aide to Legislator Anker

Elizabeth Nostrand - Assemblyman Steve Englebright's Office.

All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

*(The meeting was called to order at 2:53 P.M. *)*

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

All right. I think we're going to begin the joint -- Legislator Schneiderman is here, yes. Okay, good. We're going to begin the joint Public Hearing of the Environment and Parks Committee. And so if we can all rise for a Salute to the Flag, led by Legislator Schneiderman.

Salutation

Okay. We'll begin with -- do we have any cards for Environment? We'll do the Environment Committee first.

Environment, Planning & Agriculture Committee Public Hearing

Okay, seeing that there are no cards, if the departmental representatives would like to come forward, Director Lansdale.

Hi there. How are you?

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Hi. Just wanted to make myself available to answer any questions.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Do you have any presentations or comments about the budget as it exists?

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

We are very happy with the budget as presented and do not have any other comments.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Very good.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

We do. Legislator Schneiderman.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I don't know if this is best directed to you, just a question that happens to be in my mind about 477 funding. I don't know to what extent that you're involved with that, but there's a certain number of programs that I don't have -- I can't find detailed that are 477 funded programs that are through Cornell Cooperative Extension.

One in the past was a Pesticide Phase-out Assistance to Suffolk County Department of Public Works. I want to say it's in the \$100,000 range. It's still there. It was initially, I think, a two or three-year program; this is many, many, many years later, it's still being funded. Is there a reason why the County workforce has not been adequately trained to do this themselves as part of the pesticide phase-out?

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

I don't have the answer for you right now, but I can certainly get back to you with that answer.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I also have a 477 Fund question. On the Water Quality portion of that, that should go to brick and mortar. There's about 78 or 72 positions that have been taken out for salaries. And I've been asking the various department heads, from Dr. Tomarken to Commissioner Anderson, and now Commissioner Dawson -- if we could start to take one or two salaries out every -- every year just to free up some money for brick and mortar projects. How would -- what's the -- and not to eliminate the positions, but to just to fund them from Operating expenses and not funding them from Water Quality, 477. So what would be the benefit of having money available in 477 for Water Quality projects?

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Well, the benefit would be that we would be able to fund more projects to improve water quality. We have been actively looking for grants to support water quality projects throughout the County, and I'm happy to report that we've actually secured a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to restore wetlands at Smith Point County Park, of which two staff members who are currently funded through the 477 Water Quality Program, if the funding resolution is approved by the Legislature accepting these funds, that would represent a reimbursement of a portion of their salaries totaling \$28,000, approximately, over a four-year period.

So it's a small portion, but it's something that we're continuing to pursue.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you. I'll -- I guess I'll continue on this same line with Commissioner Dawson. Thank you.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Just on that one point. If you do get that reimbursement, and this has been a sore point in the past, I'd like to see that reimbursement go back to 477. As you're indicating, I think suggesting that it would free up some money in 477, but in the past, reimbursements of salaried positions in 477 haven't made its way back to the 477 Fund.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Your comment is noted. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Any other questions? Legislator Schneiderman.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Just maybe, Benny, I don't -- do you have those programs, the 477 funded, Cornell Cooperative Extension programs? Is it something you could pull up?

MS. HALLORAN:

I have the Cornell projects on my screen. Did you ask about EDP Cornell projects?

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Only the ones that are 477 funded.

MS. HALLORAN:

Well, there's Stormwater Phase II, there's Alternate Management Strategies for Control of Insect Pests, there's Development and Implementation of the Agricultural Stewardship Program, Integrated

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Pest Management and Restoration of Peconic Bay Scallop Populations and Fisheries; those are the ones.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Not the Integrated Pest Management, but the one you said about Control of Insect Pests; how much is that funded at?

MS. HALLORAN:

I think there are two pest-related ones.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yeah, one's a program where they educate farmers and work with farmers on reducing pesticide. The other one is where they're working with County employees.

MS. HALLORAN:

One is for the County. I have to think which one is which, but --

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

The first one you mentioned.

MS. HALLORAN:

Alternate Management Strategies --

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

That one.

MS. HALLORAN:

-- is 118,114 in the '15 recommended, and Integrated Pest Management is 160,000 in the '15 recommended.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Do you have descriptions of those programs?

MS. HALLORAN:

I'm sorry, what was that?

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Do you have descriptions of each of those?

MS. HALLORAN:

Benny's pulling up the database. I don't have it right here in front of me.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

My recollection is that one of them was supposed to be a two-year program to train County employees on reducing pesticides in --

MS. HALLORAN:

I think one of them is related to reducing County use of pesticides, you're right, and I'm going from memory. And the other one's --

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It seems to become an early allocation rather than the initial, you know, scope of the project was like a two-year project.

MS. HALLORAN:

Well, I do have the Cornell request back. I can get you that information.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'm sure they've asked for the money, but --

MS. HALLORAN:

If there's any description along with it.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

But if they would have succeeded, they would have, at this point, trained DPW employees to be able to do this. That's what the original project was for.

MS. HALLORAN:

Well, that's really, I guess, a question for the department.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. If you find the description, I'd like to hear it, but if not we can move on.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Director Lansdale, if you don't mind. The County has embarked on a rather ambitious and fairly comprehensive initiative to invest in alternatives to wastewater treatment for residential and, you know, all over the County where we are only 30% sewerred and 70% unsewerred, and we have this extraordinarily exciting program to bring in alternative technologies. Do you see there being new staffing needs as we ramp this program up? It sounds very ambitious and I just am wondering if there's anything in here that reflects a new project of this magnitude.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

This is certainly an ambitious undertaking and we are in the initial stages of rolling out this program. So this at this current point in this early phase, project development, we are using existing staff and will be for the foreseeable future. But obviously, as this -- there's greater details that are fleshed out, we will certainly look at staffing needs and funding needs as we move forward. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Thank you. Are there any other questions, comments for -- on the environmental side? Rob, did you?

LEG. CALARCO:

(Shook head no.)

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Okay. Oh, Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you. There has been a -- and I don't know if you want to comment on this or the Administration wants to comment on this. There's been a some support for keeping the Multifaceted and Legacy Funding in place for land preservation, and I just wondered if there's support from the Administration to keep that in place as opposed to eliminating it.

MR. VAUGHN:

I'm sorry, Legislator Krupski. Could you repeat the question for me, please?

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Just answer in the affirmative and we can -- we'll all be good here. Where is there support for keeping the Multifaceted and Legacy Funding in place for land preservation? The funding mechanism for that in place, instead of -- instead of removing it from the pipeline debt, as part of an overall land preservation strategy of the County.

MR. VAUGHN:

Legislator Krupski, I'd prefer to have this conversation not -- (*laughter*), not in front of a roomful of people when I don't really have all the information.

So I understand the nature of the question. I do have some information. I'm not positive about how much I understand the information that I have and not have -- not understanding the information that I have, it would be a poor choice on my part to put it on the record.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Well, we wouldn't want you making a poor choice; would we?

MR. VAUGHN:

I like to try and avoid those most times.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

All right. Well, thank you. And if it could be -- because it is important. It is very topical. It's not going to go away, either way. And land preservation is a strategy for land use and for quality of life and for water quality, they are all very important and we'd like to make sure all those things are considered.

MR. VAUGHN:

Very good.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you.

LEG. ANKER:

I also want to state on the record that I am very supportive of, you know, continuing with the Legacy Funding and Multifaceted funding. You know, we don't know for sure what's going on with the referendum, we're hoping it will pass, but we need all the money we can for land preservation. So, again, I support Legislator Krupski's request in keeping that in our budget and making sure it's available to use for open space.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you.

MR. VAUGHN:

Just the one thing that I would add is that this is not -- you know, those funding sources are not part of the operating budget that we're debating right now. They are part of that capital closeout bill that was put together by the -- by that bipartisan committee. And again, beyond that, I would just prefer to have those conversations at a later point in time when I am more informed.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you. We're just keeping the profile raised. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KRUPSKI:

Anyone else have any other questions for Director Lansdale or anyone else about the EPA budget, the Environment, Planning and Agricultural Committee? All right. I need a motion to adjourn that

portion. Is that a motion.

LEG. ANKER:

I'll make a motion.

VICE-CHAIR KRUPSKI:

Is there a second? Is there a second?

LEG. McCAFFREY:

I'll second.

VICE-CHAIR KRUPSKI:

You'll second, thank you.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

I'm not on the committee.

VICE-CHAIR KRUPSKI:

Adjourned. Oh, well, you guys are -- Legislator Muratore.

LEG. CILMI:

You really don't need to have a second.

Parks & Recreation Committee Public Hearing

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. Anybody wish to be heard on the Park's budget? Commissioner Dawson.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I have a question for the Commissioner.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Before we get started with questions; Commissioner, is there anything you want to say about the proposed budget?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Only that we're very happy with the budget.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

It must be Christmas.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We're happy with the budget. But, I mean, if I could just put on the record, I know BRO's recommendation was to eliminate three additional positions that we put into the budget. We respectfully ask that they be -- that they be kept in the budget. We feel that there -- they are a necessity.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Why are they a necessity?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We're actually looking to hire two supervisors of cashiers to help us assist in supervising the cashiers in our -- at our 23 locations where we take cash. We bring in over \$10 million worth of revenue. We feel it's important to have some additional supervision out there.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Legislator Krupski, you had a question?

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Yeah, thank you. And I already spoke to the Commissioner about this earlier. It relates to the use of 477 money to fund salaries and there's -- there is interest in taking the funding away and having those positions funded through the operating budget and not taking the positions away; taking the funding, moving the funding so that the 477 funds could be used for what it was intended to, and there's some 33 positions here. Do you have any thoughts on that, Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I think if you -- the 477 positions that we have currently funded are mostly at the golf courses, and I would hate to have a reduction in the workforce over there.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

No, I'm not suggesting a reduction in the workforce. We want to make sure the greens are smooth and the fairways are level. But what I'm suggesting is to have them funded from a different source and not have it taken out of 477.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

But then we would lose its -- if we -- we would be moving it from another portion of the department. So, I mean, we'd still be down -- we'd still be down a head count.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

No, that's not what I'm suggesting. Just to fund it out of an operating budget and not out of 477.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. On that, I mean, I read the description that's contained in the budget as required and it's -- it says 100% funded, not 50%. It's 100% 477 funded. These guys who are mowing, you know, the lawns at the golf course. And it says -- their rationale is that they're complying with the Pesticide Reduction Plan. So I imagine they've been trained in that Pesticide Reduction Plan.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Well, we have licensed applicators putting down pesticides, but when you have an organic program like we have, you need more people to keep an eye on the -- keep an eye on the -- to keep a green lawn.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

And the reason why I raised that is because at the same time we're continuing to fund the training program of the County employees to phase out pesticides through Cornell Cooperative Extension. It was a program that was supposed to be phased out itself several years ago, but it's still going. To what degree are your guys, or women, being trained by Cornell Cooperative Extension under that program to reduce pesticide use?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We work very closely with Cornell and TASMA --

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

(Inaudible)

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yeah, from Cornell, along with Nick and our field supervision. I mean, they're constantly being trained. But, again, when you can't put down chemicals to reduce insects and crabgrass and all of that kind of stuff, you have to have enough people on staff to make sure the watering is done correctly, make sure the -- you make sure the lawns are cut the way they should be cut. So --

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Are they talking to her once a month or a couple of times a year?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

They actually come out routinely. And when there's a problem, if they notice there's a problem on a green with some kind of dollar spot or something like that, they'll come out and take a look at it, analyze it for us and tell us how to best -- best treatment; too much water, too little water. There might be a different way of dealing with an insect rather than using a pesticide; I'm sorry, an organic way of dealing with the problem.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Legislator Cilmi?

LEG. CILMI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, Commissioner, our parks, I think, are some of our most valuable assets in Suffolk County; and as you said, you bring in quite a bit of revenue from them. And I'm interested to know whether or not you have any creative ideas in terms of increasing our revenue in our park system without negatively impacting our residents.

So, you know, are there any value -- value-added services that we could provide, or attractions that we could provide in our park system on the whole that we could derive some additional revenue from, or is there any creative ways that we could reduce cost?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I appreciate your comments. We do have a tremendous park system and I think the best way of increasing revenue without impacting the residents is to get additional users in the parks. We have the facilities there, we just need to get the people out. So it's marketing, marketing, marketing. You even noticed in the budget, we did put in for a Neighborhood Aide that will actually be able to go out there and do some -- go out to community meetings and kind of talk up some of the services that we have.

As you know, we're working on a new point of sale reservation system. That's going to give the ability to do additional marketing, target certain user groups. We have promotions on our golf courses, and things like that. When there are races in the park, I mean, that's kind of what -- I mean, I think that's the best way to go as marketing, getting more people out, not increasing fees or anything like that.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. To that remark, have you had the opportunity at all to work with the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We have had some discussions with them about getting additional advertising out of those and, you know, conversations with Moke and whatnot to try to -- to try to increase that.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. So if we are able to better market our parks and, therefore, more folks want to utilize our parks, theoretically that translates into more revenue from our green key system and potentially at

concessions that might exist at some of the parks; is that right?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

That's correct.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

And daily fees.

LEG. CILMI:

And daily fees as well.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We don't necessarily need to increase the fees, we just get more people into the park.

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We have a set overhead at, say, Meschutt Beach.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. Do we have any land that we are currently under-utilizing or not utilizing at all that could be used within our park system for either passive -- you know, passive recreation or active recreation?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Funny you should mention that. Yes, we actually -- we just purchased North Fork Preserve and we've been, you know, we've been coming to this body trying to get some planning funds to get some additional campsites up there and equestrian facilities and whatnot. So, yeah, in ways of increasing recreation, certainly.

LEG. CILMI:

We have the -- the park in Bohemia, I guess it is.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Bohemia Equestrian Center.

LEG. CILMI:

The equestrian center. How many other equestrian centers do we have throughout the County?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We have two. We have two concessionaires; one at West Hills, Huntington, and we have Deepwells out in Montauk.

LEG. CILMI:

And what's the nature of our arrangement with those organizations?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

They vary. Well, the two concession agreements we have -- we have a license agreement with them where they do trail rides, lessons, rentals and that kind of stuff, and we get a percentage of gross. They also have a certain capital commitment that they need to invest into the facility. The one at Bohemia Recreation Center, it's a -- I believe, it's a custodial agreement where they manage and maintain the place and we let them use it.

LEG. CILMI:

Are there any other opportunities? Such as, for example, the County Executive recently announced a marathon that will be held next year in September; that will hopefully raise some money, to which he said will be dedicated to veterans services in Suffolk County.

Suffolk Community College this year hosted the World Badminton Championships, or the U.S. Open, I think, a badminton championship. Are there any opportunities like that at any of our parks that would attract a larger crowd.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We do that now. We have a number of triathlons that happen. One's out in Montauk, one's at Smith Point. We have road races in the park, and generally the proceeds of those go to a not-for-profit. We have coming up, I think it's this weekend, we've got the Owl Prowl with Seatuck. We do those things kind of routinely. The County doesn't necessarily generate the money, but the money -- the fundraising goes into the group that's under a custodial agreement with us and the money actually goes back into the facility. So, yeah, we look for those when -- we look for those when we can.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay, thank you.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

This is a follow-up, thank you, to Legislator Cilmi's question about activities at parks. So when you hear about the demand for, you know, camping at Hither Hills and tee-time and Bethpage Black and all that stuff, what about under the -- what parks are underutilized? Because I know there's some that -- and you mentioned like taking in fees, but I know County parks where they don't, you know, they don't a charge a fee. And I'm not suggesting that you charge fees at all the parks.

What parks that are -- do you feel that are under-utilized that you want to -- you said you wanted to attract more people, but are any parks -- so some parks are probably at capacity. So what parks aren't at capacity that you'd like to get more people there that you have the -- you already have the support there to have additional people without having to build more infrastructure?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

It's more about the time of use than it is about the use itself. Like a place like Cedar Point, I would say it's under-utilized. I mean, it's packed during the holiday weekends. We like to get people there more from Tuesday to Thursday.

Golf courses; I mean, you're not going to get a tee-time between 6:30 in the morning and 10 o'clock. We really like to bring people in at 10:00, 11:00, 12 o'clock. So, yeah, we work with the pros to try to come up with creative ways to discount fees, because the fees here are set by the Legislature mostly has to be on the golf green, you take some of the fees off of the -- off of the carts and whatnot. So again, that's where the marketing comes in.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

A couple of follow-up questions, too. So you talked earlier about promoting the parks, and one thing we've been trying for a couple of years now is Discover Suffolk County Parks Day. It may have been a big flop, I haven't seen the numbers. Have you looked at it, is it working? Is it bringing new people into the parks? Actually, I'm not sure it's even -- the general public is aware of it. That's been part of the issue.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I think it was revenue neutral. I mean, obviously we did a press conference out there. Just, I mean, I don't know what else to do to kind of market that. We didn't lose --

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Revenue neutral would basically imply that we had twice as many people paying half the price.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I think that's --

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, then I would have to say then it's potentially working. Even though we're not making extra money, we're bringing new people -- we must be bringing new people in. And then maybe then they would then go and come back to the parks on other days.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

You can make an argument, yes.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

So we haven't lost money by reducing the rate.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

No, we do not, we do not.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

That's interesting.

Let me ask you about Cupsogue. The -- I don't think the County proposed budget has any reduction in anticipated revenues related to the fire at Cupsogue, so I'm assuming that we're not going to see any loss of revenue there. So let me ask you, how that's going? Are we going to be up and running? It's a pretty popular beach.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

The beach will be up and, I mean, you have our commitment. You were out there with myself and the County Executive a couple of weeks ago. We have a commitment to absolutely open up the beach, whether we have to put, you know, portable restrooms out there, portable concession stands out there or whatnot, it will be open.

The clean-up was just completed on, I want to say Monday. I was out there yesterday, the site's all -- I mean, it's still fenced off where? The boardwalk is, but the debris field has been removed. We had a pretty positive meeting with New York State DEC on what permits we may or may not need to have it go so working with DPW to move those plans forward.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Can we look? I mean, that's a pretty popular park and it fills up and we end up turning a lot of people away. Are we maximized there? Can we get more parking spaces?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I think -- I mean, you have water on both sides and the outer beach on, you know, to the west. I don't know that we could get --

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, you have that area that ramps up to the concession. It goes through a fairly large area that, you know, if you redesign that ramp, now's your opportunity to do that, you might be able to get another 50 spaces into that area.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We were looking at that. But it would cut into the dune system and we didn't --

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

No, that's not in the dune system, it's behind. It's adjacent to where the parking lot is. Basically extending the current parking lot a little bit further to the west to where that ramp area is, but you have to put the ramp at a different location. Not touching the dunes. I don't want to touch the dunes.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I think -- in the current parking spot right to the west?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

The area where the ramp currently goes through. That ramps up to the former concession area that burned down.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I think before the concession area burned down, we were looking at the area to put the new handicap ramp in, because the one to the east wasn't ADA compliant and it was -- it was causing an issue with people, with the showers and where people queued up to buy their food and whatnot. So the general idea with it would -- again, before the fire, was to put the new handicap ramp on that side. We could certainly look at as we're designing.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, yeah, look at redesigning the ramp so that we can get a few more parking spaces in there.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Cause that could produce some revenue.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yeah, okay. I thought you were talking about when we were out there last week, we were out there with the mayor, the Village Mayor.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yeah.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

And he was talking about a completely different area. So, my apologies.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yeah. No, I wouldn't touch the dunes. We need the dunes to protect the upland. Was there anybody else who wanted to be heard?

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Just wondering if we can get a park in the 4th Legislative District one day.

(*Laughter*)

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

You got any open space in there?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

You have Van Bourgondiens out there, so. And isn't the Bergen Point Golf Course in your --

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTТА:

I probably missed -- are you going to try to rebuild that this year?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

It's going to be a lengthy process; the permitting process, putting stuff out for bid and getting it constructed. But we will be committed to opening up the beach. I mean, even if it has to be portable restrooms and portable concession stands. I don't want to commit to having that -- to having, you know, what was there.

LEG. TROTТА:

All right. So it's not -- I didn't -- extra -- '16 maybe.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We're hoping for '16, sure.

LEG. TROTТА:

So it's going to be -- that same guy's going to have the concession there probably?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yeah, he has the -- he has the current lease -- license agreement, I'm sorry.

LEG. TROTТА:

I guess, we'd have to modify the lease because he doesn't have that big, you know, that big an area. He had a big, two-sided, you know, drinks on one side.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Without getting into the details of the license agreement, he pays us a set, for lack of a better word, rent, and then he pays us a percentage of gross. So if his revenues are down, obviously, you know, that's where that would come up. But I would not -- I don't think we're looking at amending -- amending a license agreement for next year. It hasn't really come up.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

You can't continue to charge him rent for a building that's not there. Maybe you can, but -- (*laughter*) -- wow, what a business model. I don't know, I don't know what to say about that.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

New Performance Management Team.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Do we have -- we don't have the money in place to rebuild the concession at Cupsogue. We're going to have to do a capital project for that.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We will. We'll have to do a capital project or do an offset somewhere, somewhere to find the money, but we'll get it.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Are the plans in place? Are we starting to redesign it and is that process in place?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yes. Actually, we met with the concessionaire, we had a very positive meeting with --

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

But not with the concessionaire, but with, you know, DPW and --

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Absolutely. I have been in discussions --

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

You know, are we going to build it exactly what was there? Are we going to put it back? Are we going to make changes to it? Is it historic?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

It's not historic. We're going to build it pretty much in the same footprint. We can expand out a little bit to the north, out to the parking lot area.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

We have an opportunity maybe to resolve issues. We had issues with the bathrooms a little bit, so maybe there's -- weren't large enough maybe or weren't ADA compliant.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Well, I mean, we're starting with a fresh slate now. Obviously that building there has been there for 40 some-odd years and they just kept adding to it and adding to it, and now we can start with a fresh slate and build it to, you know, what we want.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Hahn.

LEG. HAHN:

And will -- is anyone here from legal? Can we work into future contracts that the concessionaires have to have fire insurance?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I think -- I'll leave that to legal, but I'm sure there are questions. They don't own the building, we do; they don't own the contents, we do.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Yeah, but they're cooking. They're the ones doing the cooking

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right. Anyone else?

LEG. KRUPSKI:

No, thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. Thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. Anyone else who wishes to be heard on the Park's budget? All right. We are adjourned.

(*THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 3:27 PM*)