

**REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR SITINGS OF MEMORIALS & SYMBOLS AND  
NAMING OF COUNTY FACILITIES, PARKS & ROADS COMMITTEE**

**Of the**

**Suffolk County Legislature**

A meeting of the Review Committee for Sitings of Memorials & Symbols and Naming of County Facilities, Parks & Roads 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 April 14, 2008.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Lynne Nowick - Chairperson/District #13  
Legislator Lou D'Amaro - District #17  
Linda Bay - Representing Legislator Losquadro/Minority Leader  
Ralph Borkowski - Representing Department of Public Works  
Carol Walsh - Representing Tom Isles/Suffolk County Planning Director  
Paulette Bartunek - Director/Suffolk County Human Rights Division

**Members Not Present:**

Brian Bielanski - County Executive Designee

**Also in Attendance:**

Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Nowick.  
Justin Littell - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro  
Catherine Stark - Aide to Legislator Schneiderman  
Lisa Keys - Aide to Legislator Romaine  
James Montalto - Aide to Legislator Losquadro

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(\*The meeting was called to order at 11:07 A.M. \*)

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I will call the meeting of the Sitings of Memorials & Symbols and Naming of County Facilities, Parks & Roads Committee to order. We have a revised agenda.

*Introductory Resolution 1158-08 - Naming the Supreme Court building in Riverhead the "Thomas Stark Supreme Court Building" (Romaine).* This is Legislator Romaine's Resolution and I believe Lisa is here --

**MS. KEYS:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

-- for a presentation. Legislator Romaine was not feeling well; is that correct?

**MS. KEYS:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay, and we didn't want him to spread around his germs.

**MS. KEYS:**

Yes, try to keep him at bay.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

So Lisa has a packet for us, I believe?

**MS. KEYS:**

I think everybody has it.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. Has -- does anybody have questions for Lisa?

**MS. KEYS:**

There's a lot of information in there.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Well, of course, everybody knows that Judge Stark was a County Court Judge and a Suffolk County Supreme Court Judge. I also believe he was the Administrative Judge for a while.

**MS. KEYS:**

I think he was.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I think years ago when I was a --

**MS. KEYS:**

Catherine is his niece.

**MS. STARK:**

Actually, technically my first cousin once removed.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Oh, okay. Because years ago I worked there, I remember Stark being the Administrative Judge --

**MS. STARK:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

-- over the court system. The resolution, of course, is self-explanatory. What Judge -- not Judge, Legislator Romaine intends or requests is that the Supreme Court Building in Riverhead be named the "Thomas M. Stark Supreme Court Building." Does anybody have any questions of Lisa while we're here; anybody have any comments?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Well, I do.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay, Legislator D'Amaro.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Thank you, Chairwoman Nowick, I appreciate that. The -- I did not see this in -- I saw the town resolution in advance, but I did not see the other attachment to the handout.

**MS. KEYS:**

What you have today?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

The additional backup, it's labeled "additional backup".

**MS. KEYS:**

Yeah, it was all sent in to the Clerk's Office, everything that's in here.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I didn't get that.

**MS. KEYS:**

You know, everything is done electronically now, so unless you open it up and print it out and attach it.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah, I also didn't see the --

**MS. KEYS:**

But there is a lot.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

-- typewritten, I guess, synopsis of his career and accomplishments in advance as well.

**MS. KEYS:**

Right. That was the purpose of coming here today and bringing this entire packet, to ensure that everybody has the information. I don't think Legislator Romaine is expecting a recommendation either way today, more than anything he wanted to be available to answer any preliminary questions. If you have any, I will bring them back to him, if I can't answer them myself, and then you can just table it for now.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah. My questions really related to, you know, getting more information on his career and it seems like that's being done here.

**MS. KEYS:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So at a minimum I would like, you know, an opportunity to review that and consider it.

**MS. KEYS:**

Absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

So we seem to have a big packet here. I myself, of course, having worked in the court system have known him for years and who he was, but all of us should certainly make this available. So what -- if you agree, Legislator D'Amaro. We'll take a motion, I'll make a motion to table this --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I'll second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

-- for purposes of reviewing Mr. Stark's background and Judge -- I keep calling you Judge; Legislator D'Amaro has seconded that motion.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, Introductory Resolution **1158 is tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 Not Present - Brian Bielanski).**

Now we have a ***previously adopted resolution, IR 2049, Resolution No. 1125-2007, Authorizing acquisition of land under the Suffolk County Environmental Legacy Fund for Open Space Preservation for the Moeller & TMJ Realty, Inc. Property - Peconic Dunes, Bittner Preserve (Town of Southold) (SCTM No. 1000-058.00-01.00-001.000, 1000-068.00-01.00-017.002 & 1000-068.00-01.00-017.003).***

Now, this has already been -- was adopted on November 20th, 2007 and I believe it's simply naming this property. Where is the --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Lynne, I had a question on this.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Maybe, Lisa, if you know. When we approved the acquisition resolution, was it with the new name or the old name?

**MS. KEYS:**

The new name. If you look at the acquisition resolution that's in the packet?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right.

**MS. KEYS:**

In the -- I want to say the ninth RESOLVED clause.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Ninth?

**MS. KEYS:**

It says, "The official naming of the property to honor the Bittner Family. Once said property has become part of the County's park system, shall be referred to the Review Committee for the Siting of Memorials & Symbols, Naming of County Parks and Roadways for its review."

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay.

**MS. KEYS:**

It does say the Bittner Peconic Dunes -- Peconic Dunes Bittner Preserve; it's actually in the title as well.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

So what this is is to officially name the property to honor the Bittner Family; correct?

**MS. KEYS:**

Yes. And by the way, the County and the town, they've closed on this, I believe it was Wednesday or Thursday of last week.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

So we own the property.

**MS. KEYS:**

Yes, and it's going to be transferred over to Parks --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

And it's a matter of naming it.

**MS. KEYS:**

-- for maintenance and I think that's fine, but it needs your recommendation.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

And this was the Bittner Preserve in the Town of Southold, so it's simply naming it to honor the Bittner Family. Does anybody have any questions on that? It make sense to me.

**MS. WALSH:**

Who was the Bittner Family?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

The Bittner Family obviously owned the Bittner Preserve; is that right, Lisa?

**MS. KEYS:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

They owned the preserve that we bought.

**MS. WALSH:**

How come, then, it was owned by Moeller and TMJ Realty Inc.? That's who we purchased it from.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

That's who we purchased it from. It was -- that's a realty company, though.

**MS. KEYS:**

Moeller and TMJ Realty, also known as Bittner property.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Also known as?

**MS. KEYS:**

Well, I'm just looking at -- I know in the resolution it also refers to it as Moeller TMJ Realty.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

There's a quote in the newspaper article attached that says it's owned by Moeller and TMJ and it's known as the Bittner property, according to Land Preservation Director Melissa Spero.

**MS. KEYS:**

Right.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

At the town, I guess.

**MS. KEYS:**

I tried to get some information from Melissa but she was out of town at the end of the week. I wanted to come forward with, you know, anything further on Bittner.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Well, it would be difficult to vote on them if we don't know something about them I guess.

**MS. WALSH:**

And, you know, the thing is that these parcels were actually on the Master List, the 2004 Master List for Acquisition as part of additional acquisitions to the Peconic Dunes Park, County park. And when we originally were talking about naming parks, we said that we should look at the features, which is the Peconic Dune, and the area in which it's located. I question whether -- you know, seeing as how they're being paid a lot of money for this parcel, why -- I don't understand why we would be honoring someone that we don't have really any information as to what they have provided to the County.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Lisa, do you have any information about them them?

**MS. KEYS:**

That's the strangest thing because I don't have anything on the Bittners. But this correspondence between Legislator Romaine and Carry Meek-Gallagher, it seems as if they had no problem including it in the resolution based on the Town Board resolution that was submitted where the town was in support of --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

So the only question is you're saying who are the Bittner's?

**MS. BAY:**

If you look at the correspondence between Legislator Romaine and Cary Meek Gallagher, she refers to the property as the Peconic Dunes Bittner.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Exactly.

**MS. BAY:**

So it would incorporate what you were saying that this is part of the --

**MS. WALSH:**

But the thing is is that when we're naming a County property, one of the things that we've discussed is that the property, if we're going to name it after someone, and we are naming it after someone, then that person, something has to be -- we have to know something about it and what they have contributed to Suffolk County and I don't see anything that's actually supporting that here.

**MS. BAY:**

So a little bit of history on the Bittners.

**MS. WALSH:**

We need more several -- we need more information as to what they have actually done for Suffolk County.

**MS. KEYS:**

Okay.

**MS. WALSH:**

Because when you -- I had made a couple of aerials of the property and you can see how really it's the dunes that we really were acquiring, it's a very unusual environmental feature. And we purchased these properties now, we have this property and these we don't know if we'll be able to acquire them or not, but then there will be a contiguous County park.

**MS. BARTUNEK:**

And this letter does say that they want to distinguish from the Peconic Dunes Property previously acquired.

**MS. WALSH:**

And why would they want to do that? I don't understand that. Because originally when we were looking at this, we were trying to make it a contiguous County park.

**MS. BAY:**

And which is the parcel that we're talking about?

**MS. WALSH:**

This is the original, the yellow.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

So what you're saying is why pull out one piece.

**MR. BORKOWSKI:**

What's the Bittner Property?

**MS. WALSH:**

The Bittner is the green.

**MR. BORKOWSKI:**

All of that?

**MS. WALSH:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Can I keep this?

**MS. WALSH:**

Sure. And then the two parcels that stop the continuity, those are also on the Master List, but we haven't been able --

**MR. BORKOWSKI:**

I see a structure there; is that their house?

**MS. WALSH:**

Those are -- those will actually be cut out.

**MS. KEYS:**

Those are going to be demolished, I believe.

**MS. WALSH:**

Well, on the narrowest parcel there is that said part of, so I would imagine they're going to take something out of that.

**MS. KEYS:**

Yes and the bulk heading at the site will be removed.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

So what we need to do is get some more backup information as to what -- why should we name this Bittner -- who is Bittner and have they done anything? And then we can -- that's what you're requesting?

**MS. WALSH:**

Yes, yes.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. And I think that --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Lynne, if I could just jump in there. It may or may not be justified as far as, you know, naming it Bittner, we'll find that out as we review who this person was and so forth. But also, even if it is, I'd like to know why it's being set aside from I guess what is now an existing County park; is that correct?

**MS. WALSH:**

Yes, that's correct.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Probably because there's something in the middle, there's a piece of property in the middle --

**MS. BAY:**

That's not ours.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

-- that's not ours; is that why it was set aside?

**MS. WALSH:**

But those parcels are on the Master List.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

They are, they're targeted for acquisition, so this may be premature in any event.

**MS. WALSH:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Maybe, you know, I'm not sure.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Does that mean anything, the yellow?

**MS. WALSH:**

That's Peconic Dunes County Park.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Just Peconic Dunes County Park, okay.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

And then the other thing is was Bittner ever in the chain of title to this property, if you know? It doesn't have -- it's not a requirement.

**MS. KEYS:**

I'll find out.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Any other questions for Lisa to bring back to Ed Romaine?

**MS. WALSH:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. Well, no, those are valuable questions.

**MS. WALSH:**

It's always me, the one who's asking the questions.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

That's fine, it's absolutely fine. We haven't met in so long that we forget some of the things that we've discussed.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

And also, I would be amenable, as fast as you can get the information, I'm happy to come back to another meeting, we don't have to wait.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yeah, we'll do that right now because I know it's very difficult, I know that Greg goes crazy trying to set up a meeting. So let's first make a motion to table this resolution. Do I have a second?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I'll second it.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? That resolution, *IR 2049 will be tabled*

*until our next meeting* which we'll decide on right now. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 Not Present: Brian Bielanski).

How sick is he?

**MS. KEYS:**

He's going to be here, he has some questions for EPA. I tried to talk him out of it.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Oh, that's not so smart.

**MS. KEYS:**

I know, just keep your distance.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I'm not going near him. Greg, stay away.

So, you know, a week? Is everybody around next week? I know there are holidays for some. Let's look into next week then.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I'm sorry, next week?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yes. Anybody available on Tuesday around 12:30?

**MR. BORKOWSKI:**

What's the date?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

That's good?

**MR. BORKOWSKI:**

What's the date?

**MS. BARTUNEK:**

The 22nd.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

April 22nd at 12:30, is that -- can anybody think of any reason?

Greg, does that sound good.

**MR. MORAN:**

It sounds all right to me.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay, is that good for everybody? Let's see what Legislator D'Amaro is thinking about.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I would -- let's see. That's the 22nd, you said, right?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yeah; any good for you?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

At 12:30? I would prefer, to tell you truth, Wednesday.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Wednesday at -- how about -- can we make it earlier Wednesday, like eleven o'clock, 12 o'clock, something like that?

**MS. WALSH:**

Eleven would be great.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Eleven is good for you. Anybody else good at eleven?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

It's fine for me.

**MR. BORKOWSKI:**

Eleven is good.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Of April 23rd, 11. Oh, we better see if Ed can make it, that would be very important.

**MS. KEYS:**

Let me check.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I could also do first thing in the morning on Monday. Although, where is that sewer agency, in Yaphank?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Let's see how he's doing first, because if he's not here it doesn't figure in. Is that good?

**MS. KEYS:**

It's on the calendar.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay, eleven o'clock, April 23rd we'll meet again, and Legislator Romaine will -- you'll bring him back those questions?

**MS. KEYS:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

If anybody in the interim has any questions, don't wait.

**MS. KEYS:**

Just e-mail me.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Just call up there --

**MS. KEYS:**

Yeah, call or e-mail me.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

This way we're prepared and we can go either way.

**MS. KEYS:**

And anything that I have in the meantime, if I, you know, get anything back, maybe I'll send it on to you.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

That would be great.

**MS. KEYS:**

It might produce more questions, so just keep the communication open.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay, I'll take a motion to adjourn; I'll make that motion.

**MS. BAY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Second by Linda bay. All in favor? Opposed? Boy, can I run a meeting huh?

*(\*The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 P.M. \*)*