

**PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Cultural Affairs 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 **September 21, 2005**.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman, Chairman  
Leg. Lynne C. Nowick, Vice•Chairperson  
Leg. Cameron Alden  
Leg. Angie Carpenter  
Leg. Jon Cooper  
Leg. William J. Lindsay

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Legislator John M. Kennedy, Jr., Twelfth District  
Mea Knapp, Counsel to the Legislature  
Alexandra Sullivan, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Ronald F. Foley, Commissioner of Parks  
Charles Bender, Aide to PO's Office  
Ben Zwirn, Assistant Deputy County Executive  
Frank Tassone, Aide to Majority Leader  
Eric Brown, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman  
Greg Moran, Aide to PO's Office  
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office  
Kevin LaValle, Aide to Leg. Losquadro  
Paul Perillie, Aide to Minority Caucus  
Vito Minei, Director of Division of Environmental Quality  
Ed Hogan, Aide to Leg. Nowick  
Terry Pearsall, Aide to Leg. Lindsay  
Warren Greene, Aide to Leg. Alden

Barbara LoMoriello, Aide to Leg. Cooper  
Thomas Isles, Director of Planning Department  
John P. Annunziata  
Randy Parsons  
Jeff Nelson  
Maureen Massa  
Ginny Munger Kahn  
Pamela Schmidlin

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

**(THE MEETING CONVENED AT 11:54 AM)**

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I would like to call this meeting of the Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee to order this 21st day of September, 2005. If you all will rise and join us for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Lynne Nowick.

**(SALUTATION)**

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you for your patience with beginning this meeting. We had the meeting of Economic Development and Energy run over. And I thank you all for waiting. Do we have speaker cards? They're being handed forward. We will start today's meeting with the public portion. I have about six cards. They're numbered. I'll take them in numerical order. So, I have •• our first speaker is Ginny Munger Kahn speaking •• representing Long Island Dog Owners Group

speaking on IR 1923. If you'll come forward. Hi, Ginny. You have three minutes to offer your comments.

**MS. KAHN:**

Okay. I am Ginny Munger Kahn. And I am one of the longest serving members of the Long Island Dog Owner's Group. We are a community organization dedicated to the health, well-being and socialization of our canine companions particularly through the maintenance and development of dog parks. At the end of my statement, please feel free to ask me any questions. We've done a lot of research on dog parks.

We are here to support Legislator Kennedy's bill IR 1923 to establish a dog park within Blydenburg County Park, which is, as you know, a very large, very beautiful park which is right next door. Once we get the park developed, we would like to invite all of you to come and visit the dog park and see how much fun these places can be and how much your constituents appreciate these kinds of places. In fact, if you tell people you supported this creation, you might even pick up a few votes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Dog votes.

**MS. KAHN:**

The dog owner's vote. I know when you see groups like us come before you, you're inclination is to view us as just another special interest group seeking access to public resources. But let me assure you dog owners are no small minority. We represent anywhere from one third to one half of the population. That's minimum of 500,000 people here in Suffolk County. More importantly, we are a very diverse group of citizens. If you go to any dog park, you will find that we are republicans and democrats. We are rich and we are less affluent. We are old. We are young. We have families with children and we have people without kids. We're people from all walks of life who have one thing in common. Our love of the woods and open fields of Suffolk County parks and our ability to enjoy these open spaces with our dogs and with each other.

Suffolk County has opened its parks to many user groups. Golfers, hikers, campers, swimmers, boaters, off-roaders, horse back riders; but there are few groups who represent as broad an array of Suffolk County citizens as those of us who are advocating for dog parks. Within the

last few years organized activities for dog owners have become increasingly difficult in Suffolk County Parks.

I have a letter here from Barbara Buscarino who is one of Long Island •• LI Dogs founding members and is a board member of the Suffolk Obedience Training Club which was founded back in 1947. This letter notes that Suffolk Obedience Training must hold its AKC all breed obedience trials in Nassau County at Planning Fields instead of here in Suffolk because there are no sites available in the County. This is ridiculous. Why let Nassau County get the revenue from such events when there are thousands of Suffolk residents involved in organized dog activities who I am sure would much prefer to attend events here in the County? Blydenburg used to be used for dog obedience matches. And there's no reason it couldn't be used for such events again.

One last point. Parks Commissioner Foley has expressed some concerns about the need to plan for more active uses of Suffolk County Parks. And he noted that these more active uses would bring in more people and will cost more money. It's true. When it comes to dog parks, people •• it will bring in more people. People love dog parks. But I am convinced that most dog owners will be more than likely willing to pay a modest annual fee for the privilege of using a dog park.

The parks officials I've spoken to have told me •• and I've spoken to them all over the country •• have told me that the cost of maintaining their dog parks is minimal. Mowing the grass, picking up trash, whatever. Basically all you do to build a dog park is put up some fencing if that's necessary for the specific site.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Ginny, much time do you need to finish your comments because that's three minutes.

**MS. KAHN:**

One minute.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

One minute more.

**MS. KAHN:**

Okay. As we've noted before, Blydenburg is a great place to put in a new dog park. It's very large so we should not have trouble avoiding conflicts with other users. There are many sections that are far away from busy streets and neighborhoods so the site will be safe and should not cause problems for nearby residents and is more centrally located in the County than the two existing off leash areas, both of which are located in the western edge of Suffolk and Huntington.

As I said at the beginning dog parks are bipartisan. They cut across many segments of the County's population. And we urge you to approve this bill. As so many other American counties and towns have found, you'll be glad you did.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you.

**MS. KAHN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You only needed 30 seconds. I appreciate it. Thank you for your comments. Okay. Next person is Pamela Schmidlin.

**MS. SCHMIDLIN:**

Good morning. I'm just here for my dog. I'm sorry. My name is Pamela Schmidlin. I'm from Smithtown, New York. I'm here for my dog. Blydenburg basically •• I'm here because Blydenburg is a great place for a dog park. The park is over 600 acres. And with so much land I feel that dog owners and all the other users of the park can work together to make it a great place and remain friends.

Suffolk County dog owners need a safe place to run their dogs off leash. With are over 200,000 Suffolk households that own a dog, I think that having a dog park in Smithtown would help bring the community together one step at a time.

Dogs need to socialize and exercise. Keep in mind the benefits of dog parks are •• it socializes and exercises dogs in a safe environment for most responsible pet ownership; provides elderly

and disabled owners with an accessible place to exercise their companions. It enables dogs to legally run off leash; promotes public health and safety. And it's a realistic enforcement of dog control laws.

Again, dogs and their owners can work with the rest of the park users to make our parks a nice, enjoyable place for all. That's it.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you. Nobody's asking for a cat park, are they? I hope we're not opening the door.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Let them run free and wild.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. I'm going to stick on the theme here for a second. We got a few more cards on this theme so why don't we take John Annunziata. You have three minutes.

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

Hello. My name is John Annunziata. I have been a longtime resident of Huntington. I was one of the people who were originally part of the alliance with Coindre Hall •• not this present alliance but the previous one •• to save Coindre Hall before Suffolk County took it over and saved it from condominiums being built there.

I've been a part of the political group •• not political groups but the groups to support Coindre Hall and dog parks. I've had dogs all my life. And for at least since 1995 I have been bringing our dogs to Coindre Hall. And they've been able to use that facility.

During this period of time the •• it was an unstated arrangement where we dog owners were actually serving as a benefit to Suffolk County and Coindre Hall because we were the ones who would maintain the •• cleaning up the area. We would be stewarding ourselves, disciplining ourselves. We would make sure that there was no crime. Any time there was any kind of drug trafficking or alcoholism or vandalism going on, there was always a dog owner there to stop it, to interfere with it and to make certain that damage was either kept to a minimum or cleared out immediately.

We have taken high amount of responsibility for this specific park. And we do intend as responsible dog owners to be partners with Suffolk County and Suffolk County Park if they open up Blydenburg. And actually if you can even go further than that. We have a knowledge now of •• we have a great deal of people who do own the parks •• excuse me •• who do own dogs. And those people •• once they know that there's a dog park available will be bringing themselves and their dogs and their social contacts together to enjoy the parks. And they'll be keeping an eye on things. They'll be maintaining the parks. They'll be telling us if something's wrong. They'll be helping the •• actually helping the County to keep costs down.

We're a responsible group of people. Not very well heard because people think that people who are dog owners •• and I've heard a lot of things over the years of dog owners being •• or dogs being a problem. But there's a new awareness of the way dogs are and the way people are in this country. And we find that here in Suffolk County also. They are very important to people. Many of the dogs are therapy dogs to help •• they're helping Suffolk County as well as other areas in being therapy dogs by helping people recover from illnesses or deal with illnesses and keeping those costs down. Okay. That's three minutes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That's your three minutes. If you could just finish up.

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

Okay. I'll wrap it up. I'm in favor of opening up Blydenburg. And I hope that we can open up more areas so that we will lessen the crowding in the dog parks •• the dog areas that are available. This will keep the dogs at a much safer level and people at a much safer level and benefit the parks and the County in maintaining these areas to a much higher and responsible degree. Might even costs us less money in the long run. Thank you very much.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Mr. Chairman, I just have one question.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. If you don't mind ••

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

I don't mind.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I have a question from Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I commend you on all the stuff that you said you do as far as the litter and the clean ups and things like that. I just have a question on intervention when you see crimes being committed. And I'll just make a suggestion. I think what you meant was you guys dial 911, right?

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

We will dial 911. We've at times called the County also.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Good. Because getting involved in like, you know, direct intervention is not a real good idea for a citizen because, you know, you put yourself in danger.

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

Yes, but just having the dogs there and having somebody there automatically stops it.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

No, and that's a good thing.

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

And that's what helps.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's a good thing.

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

If something's going on in the woods and we're walking down a path, it stops. It's just a presence. You don't need a police presence. We're the police.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We understand.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Just a word of caution.

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

Well, thank you. We are careful. We're not stupid.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

You don't want to see your •• you know, you don't want to see your friends, your relatives, your neighbors and all that get killed. And that sometimes happen when you put yourself in a position where you're either trying to stop a crime of that nature because some of those people are drug dealers; some of them are armed.

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

That's true. But even in the past few days at Coindre Hall and I've gotten there rather late, I've seen teenagers doing a certain amount damage. And I'll do is go up to them and say •• and ask them what they were doing here and what they were trying to do. And no arguments, no problem. They just simply left and the damage was avoided.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I concur. You should be very careful.

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

I appreciate it. Thank you.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Even kids that are doing damage ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yeah. If you see ••

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Just don't put yourself in danger.

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

We don't interfere most of the time physically. Most of the time the ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

There are park attendants. That is their job.

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

Yes, but, you know ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And it's the best thing to do is to get a park attendant or ••

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

Just like with police, sometimes there's a time when just a presence there will stop something that's happening. And if you call the police •• the Parks Department is severely limited as far as how their personnel •• they're under a great deal of duress. We understand that. It would almost impossible to get somebody from Blydenburg to Coindre Hall in the amount of time it would take me to go and address somebody and say stop doing that.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We understand. And we need to move on. So, thank you, sir.

**MR. ANNUNZIATA:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I have another card on the dog issue, Maureen Massa.

**MS. MASSA:**

Would you like to meet him? (Referring to dog)

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Sure.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I see you're from Hauppauge. And I feel compelled to ask you since I went to school with a John Massa from Hauppauge, any relation?

**MS. MASSA:**

No. He wants a dog park. (Referring to dog)

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Should I give him the microphone?

**LEG. COOPER:**

You both have to be on the record.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We're going to need you to stand back.

**MS. MASSA:**

As a future guide dog, I do take him to Blydenburg Park because he's welcome. And I do see a lot of people with a lot of dogs, which is dangerous. It's dangerous for him. It's dangerous for little children. So, if they had an area where people could take their dogs legally, things would be safer. Everybody would be happier. Plus we have this wonderful facility in Smithtown, The Guide Dog Foundation. There's a lot of puppy walkers in Smithtown who would like a place to take their dogs. And like I said, I just got this e-mail 15 minutes ago so •• that's all I want to say. You can give my three minutes to somebody else if you want.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Thank you. Okay. I have one more, one more on the dog related. Jeff Nelson.

**MR. NELSON:**

Hello. My name is Jeff Nelson. I own a small company called Mutts and Jeff Dog Training. And the point of the company is to help people solve problems with their dogs and to teach obedience. Today I'm here just to speak from the standpoint of a professional dog person who

sees lots of problems with dogs' behavior that I believe stems from lack of exercise and lack of socialization. When I see people, my clients in particular, who take their dogs regularly to exercise off leash and meet with other dogs, I find that when they're back in the home, they can handle everyday situations. For example, people coming over the home or children playing ball and not have it be the most exciting thing they've ever seen in their lives.

I also believe that dogs who lack this exercise and this socialization tend to manifests that energy by jumping on people, by running away, by stealing things. So, in my opinion the more off leash dog parks there are, the more happy neighbors and relatives and people who are going to come visit these dogs later on, the dogs will be better behaved.

That's really all I really came to talk about today. The truth is, the more dog parks there are probably the less business I'm going to get, but I still believe very strongly in them. Dogs who go to these places and exercise are much more well behaved than the dogs who don't. I think it's better for the whole community.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. Thank you, Mr. Nelson.

**MR. NELSON:**

You're welcome. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You probably will want to stick around. I'll try to take that resolution out of order. But I do want to hear from the Parks Commissioner before we do vote. And I also have two more cards. So, if you'd just bear with us, let the other public finish. If I can take next Randy Parsons from the Nature Conservancy followed by Tom Isles from the Planning Department. Randy, you as well I'll set the timer for month minutes. Hope that you can comport to that time frame.

**MR. PARSONS:**

Thank you, Legislator Schneiderman, members of the Committee. I'm here to speak on resolution 1999 authorizing •• I won't read it. You have it before you. I know you're busy. Essentially what this is is a partnership between the US Fish and Wild Life Service in the Town

of Southold to acquire a 48 acre parcel in the Peconic Estuary watershed known as the Reese property. In order for the Town to get a one million dollar federal grant for this acquisition, the Town needs to demonstrate that there is a local investment in land acquisition in the area. And one of the parcels the Town wants to use to demonstrate the local commitment is a parcel that the Town purchased with Suffolk County. And there's now an undivided interest in the parcel known as the Levin property. It's 52 acres purchased by the County in 2001.

For the town to use the Levin property as a local match in order to get the federal one million dollar grant, they need to file a covenant in the deed of the Levin property which says that the property will be used for conservation purposes. And if it is changed, you have to consult the federal Fish and Wildlife Service now as a partner.

Again, without the •• in the County •• since the County is an owner with the Town in the Levin property, we cannot use it as a match property unless the County consents; the County Legislature consents. Essentially you'd be agreeing that the Levin property will be used for the purpose that you purchased it for; however, you will have the additional encumbrance that if you for any reason change the use of the Levin property in the future, you'd have to go to US Fish and Wildlife and either replace the property with similar property or offer it to them for sale before you sell it privately.

The covenant has been reviewed by Jim Burke in the Real Estate Division. The Real Estate Division is comfortable with it. It's just their execution is subject to the Legislature's approval.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. Thank you, Mr. Parsons.

**MR. PARSONS:**

Any questions.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I will try to take that one out of order as well so you don't have to stay for the whole meeting.

**MR. PARSONS:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And Commissioner Isles.

**MR. ISLES:**

Randy has pretty much said all the facts so I'm not going to repeat it. But I do want to underscore just how important this is in terms of a cooperative agreement with the federal government, with State DEC, the Town of Southold and the County of Suffolk. We really have nothing on the line with this. So, in our sense it's really not critical to us but in the interest of cooperation, the Town of Southold has actually put forth money for this. So, we just wanted to underscore that we feel from the County Planning Department's perspective that this is a low impact to the County. We're planning to use this property for conservation purposes anyway. We would certainly respectfully request your support of this resolution in a timely manner so that the Town of Southold can proceed with the execution of the agreement to get back their million dollars.

Obviously the intent is to maximum and leverage County dollars where ever possible using local contributions, federal contributions. This is a text book case. And the pieces need to come together from all the agencies in order to make that happen. And your cooperation in that regard today would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. That concludes our speakers cards. Is there anyone else who did not fill out card who wishes to be heard? Seeing no hands, I will move to the agenda.

**TABLED PRIME**

First I'd like to take the tabled resolution 1923 out of order. So, **I'll make a motion to take 1923. This is a local law authorizing County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to construct a dog run at Blydenburg County Park.** Do I have a second?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Any opposed? 1923 is now before us.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

There's a motion to approve by Legislator Carpenter, second by Legislator Nowick. Let me just ask the Park Commissioner if there is any comments on this? Commissioner Foley.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Thank you. I feel like an obstructionist when I do this. But, again, it's not solely about 1923, but it's about the proposals for various interest groups to incorporate new uses in existing parks. And that includes things I have talked about before: Rowing clubs, ball fields, dog runs, all kinds of things. We're finding as we look into these proposals and our ability to deal with them, a lot of obstacles to getting from what looks like an easy thing to actually putting it in place.

We have to research back to see how the property was acquired. We have to look at all the Legislative actions that deal with that property since it was acquired to see if anybody appropriately pulled out a piece of the property and said that's going to be a nature preserve. We have to look at all the activities that go on there now and see what we're displacing when we try to deal with these things.

In some cases there are master plans that have dedicated every inch of a park to some activity that may or may not accommodate these things. I think the solution to these kinds of requests, soccer complexes, dog parks, other active uses that aren't currently accommodated in existing traditional parks is to take great care in how we do acquisitions from this day forward. If we •• we should be looking at these properties and see if they will potential accommodate things like we're talking about today and make sure that the funds we use to make that acquisition don't preclude those kinds of activities. If everything we purchase, particularly in western Suffolk, is to be preserved, we severely limit our ability to accommodate the need for new sports fields and dog runs and things we haven't even thought of in the future. I just like to put that caution on the table; that we be careful how we acquire properties.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Can I ask specifically. Blydenburg's a big park. How much land is this •• dog run, will it take up?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Well, we haven't talked about details. I anticipate probably two acres; something like that. Some dog parks ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. So, it's fairly sizable. And it would have to be fenced in?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And the costs would be borne by the Parks Department?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I haven't seen anybody else coming up with the money so I assume so.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Well, the rest of the title of it says that the Parks Department and •• Parks, Recreation, Conservation would construct the dog run. So, I'm assuming that •• I don't know if it's in your budget for this year or next, I don't know how much you have for that.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

It's going to cost somewhere between 15 and \$20 thousand to fence two acres. And some will say two acres is not enough. You need eight acres. I don't know. It's debatable.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. And are there any other things that go into a dog park besides ••

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

The successful ones ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

•• a fence?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

•• have a means of dealing with, you know, clean up and receptacles for that. Some have water. Other amenities. We would like to talk about those things. We have a meeting scheduled to talk about Coindre Hall and ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And there's no specific site that's been determined within the park?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

No, there's not.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

You might have to clear land.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Well ••

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And that would be an additional cost.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Right. It's possible. Okay.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I just want to say that, you know, what looks ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. There's some work that still needs to be done. I'll recognize Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Bunch of questions for the Commissioner. What is the size of Blydenburg? What is the overall acreage?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I don't know offhand. Enormous.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Isn't it •• I think it's like 600 plus acres as I recall. So, I mean it's a huge, huge dog •• huge, huge public park. And I can't see how there could be any possible problem in finding two acres or three acres or five acres out of 600 acres to put in a fenced in dog run.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

It might be mostly wooded. I don't know. There might be clearing restrictions.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

You might have to bulldoze some trees.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I don't know. I guess that's something that the Commissioner will have to sort out.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Legislator, when we first had these conversations, I was of the same mind you are. I don't see any way this could not be possible. The further we dig into these things, the tighter the constraints get. And sometimes there isn't a possibility because of the designation that's been applied to various pieces of property within a park or the entire park. It's not always as easy as it looks when you first walk onto the property and try to figure out ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

For instance, if it's in a nature preserve status, it might restrict all clearing?

**LEG. COOPER:**

Well, that's my question. What activities do they have at Blydenburg right now?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

There's camping. There's boating, horses. There's horse trails.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Right. So, obviously it's not nature preserve. If it's a nature preserve, you can't have any of those activities.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Well, it still could technically be nature preserve.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Some of it is wetlands. The vast majority is ••

**LEG. ALDEN:**

A portion of it is wetlands.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

It still could be nature preserve. And those could be approved within the park plan; master plan.

**LEG. COOPER:**

I don't think •• I mean •• well, the farm in my district is a nature preserve. And we had to work for four years to get authorization for a one acre organic farm there.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That's right.

**LEG. COOPER:**

And it was like pulling teeth.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Right. It may have been put into nature preserve after. I don't know the answer to it. Commissioner, do you know?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I don't yet either. But I'm ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I don't feel so bad.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

But I'm just •• the opportunity when we're acquiring land is so much more open. And I think quicker. If we have a piece of land that we're going to buy that will accommodate some of these things, that acquisition process is probably less time consuming than trying to wedge this new thing into some place where people already have a proprietary interest with an approved activity.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

In sighting can you look at some factors like minimizing clearing, maximizing distances to environmental features, maximizing distances to neighbors if there are any because this could be noisy? I'm sure you'll find a spot. But there are some things that obviously you should consider in your review process.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Yeah. Do you feel the opportunity is shrinking as you say that, though? I mean, yes, we're going to do that because we are ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I can't tell without looking at, you know, an aerial and surveys to make some of these determinations. What is our current policy regarding dogs in parks now?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

We don't allow dogs in parks except in and around campgrounds on a leash and on outer beaches.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We allow them?

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

We do not.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We do not allow ••

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Except in those two cases and where dogs runs have been authorized by legislation.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Is that correct?

**MS. KNAPP:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. Okay. Any other questions? There's been a motion and a second. All in favor? Any opposed? The resolution is approved. Thank you, Commissioner. **(IR 1923•05 approved.**

**Vote: 6•0)**

**(APPLAUSE)**

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I'd just like to thank the Committee for their assistance with this. It's something that hopefully will •• and a good use. And the Commissioner and I will talk certainly further. We've talked about possible locations. I'll be happy to engage in further dialogue. Thank you to members of the committee and to the speakers. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. Okay.

**I'd like to make a motion to take 1999 out of order. This would be authorizing Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to participate with the Town of Southold and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the US Fish and Wildlife National Coastal Wetlands Grand Program.** Do I have a second to take this out of order? There were several seconds. I'll take Legislator Nowick's second.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Second.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Take me, take me.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

They were all at the same time. Okay. All in favor? Any opposed? Okay. **1999 is now before us.** Okay. Do we have a motion to approve?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Legislator Carpenter and Legislator Cooper seconds it. Any discussion? Okay. All in favor? Any opposed? **Resolution 1999 is carried and approved.** Okay. **(Vote: 6•0)** Congratulations to Mr. Parsons as well and Mr. Isles.

Okay. Now we'll move back to our agenda starting with **resolution 1443. It's a tabled resolution to establish an ecology and technology park in Suffolk County.**

**LEG. COOPER:**

I'll make a motion to table it at this time.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. There's a motion by the sponsor to table.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Any opposed? **1443 is tabled. (Vote: 6•0)**

**Resolution 1581, linking County Parks fees for community Emergency Response Team Volunteers, Medical Reserve Corps. Volunteers and Volunteers in Public Services to park fees for senior citizens.** What do you want to do with this?

**LEG. COOPER:**

It's not my resolution.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Oh, I'm sorry. It's not?

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

There's a motion to table. Sorry. You have a similar resolution?

**LEG. COOPER:**

Yes. And I was just wondering whether the Parks Trustees ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I don't think that we've heard from the Parks Trustees on this; have we?

**MS. KNAPP:**

On either of them.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. There's a motion to table. Who made the motion? I'm sorry. Legislator Nowick,

second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Any opposed? **1581 is tabled. (Vote: 6•0)**

**1657, adopting a local law to amend the composition of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission to ensure geographic diversity.**

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. There's a motion to table by Legislator Cooper, second by ••

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

•• Legislator Carpenter. Any opposed? All in ••

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Ask the sponsor what he wants to do.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I'll go along with tabling.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All in favor? Any opposed? **1657 is tabled. (Vote: 6•0)**

**1736, linking County park fees for veterans and parks fees for senior citizens.**

**LEG. COOPER:**

I would like to make a motion to approve, but if we haven't heard back from the Parks Trustees then I guess we're precluded from ••

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

We probably should wait until we're in the budget cycle.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

As a co•sponsor I would support the tabling. So, we have a motion to table by Legislator Cooper, second by myself. All in favor? Any opposed? **1736 is tabled. (Vote: 6•0)**

We've already done 1923.

### **INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

**So, we'll move onto introductory resolutions 1950, authorizing use of Smith Point County Park property, Cathedral Pines County Park, Southaven County Park and Smith Point Marina by the Long Island 2 day walk to fight breast cancer.** There's a motion by Legislator Carpenter, second by legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I have one quick question, though.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yes. On the motion, Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

What date •• this establishes the dates next year, though, right?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Good. Okay.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. All in favor? Any opposed? **1950 is approved. (Vote: 6•0)**

**1966, authorizing a license agreement with Montauk Observatory Inc and accepting a donation of a telescope.** This is my resolution.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Brief explanation.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yeah, I'll give a brief explanation. Though I have a note here that EAF is not done and the Historical Trust Review Committee has not •• so it's going •• let me just explain to the Committee.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Make a motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yeah, there's a motion to table.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And a second. And on the motion, as you're aware we had passed a resolution to fund an observatory which was vetoed and not overridden. A group has formed a not•for•profit for Montauk Observatory to privately fund the observatory. And as they raise funds they want to know that they'll have a place to put it obviously when they're done. So, this is just seeking permission to allow the observatory dome and telescope to be placed on County park land. So, it's tabled anyway. So, all in favor of tabling? Okay. All right. So, we'll table that. Any opposed? Okay. **(Vote: 6•0)**

**Resolution 1974, appropriating funds in connection with improvements to water supply systems in County parks.**

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

There is a motion to approve by ••

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

•• Legislator Lindsay. A second by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Any opposed? **1974 is approved. (Vote: 6•0)**

**1979, appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of heavy•duty equipment for County Parks.** There's a motion by Legislator Carpenter to approve.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Any opposed? **1979 is approved. (Vote: 6•0)**

**1984 appropriating funds in connection with improvements to Old Field Horse Farm.**

Is there a motion?

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Cooper, second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Any opposed? **1984 is approved. (Vote: 6•0)**

We've done 1999.

**SENSE RESOLUTIONS**

There is one Sense Resolution. **This is Sense 61. Sense of the Legislature Resolution declaring September 10, 2005 "Suffolk County Beach Day."**

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I'm going to make a motion to table just so we can discuss this but •• so, there's a motion. Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. It's passed. Is there a reason there's any •• I'll make a second on the motion to table.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

What's the point of designating a day in the past as Suffolk County Beach Day?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

We sent out a memo. You missed it.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

There's a motion to table and •• there might be an explanation. Unfortunately the sponsor is not here to explain it and nobody seems to have any information about it. So, there's a motion and a second to table. All in favor? Any opposed? **Sense 61 is tabled. (Vote: 6•0)**

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Ben, do you want to comment on that?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

It was just a test to see if everybody's ••

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. That concludes our agenda. I'll make a motion to adjourn, second by Legislator Nowick. We are adjourned. Thank you.

**(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:32 PM)**

**\\_DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY\\_**