

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 13, 2006.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Lynne C. Nowick, Chairperson
Leg. Vivian Vilorio•Fisher, Vice•Chairperson
Leg. Kate M. Browning
Leg. Jon Cooper (not present)
Leg. Cameron Alden

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Ian Barry, Assistant Counsel
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk
Terry Pearsall, Chief of Staff
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
Ronald F. Foley, Commissioner of Parks
Paul Perillie, Aide to Minority Caucus
Alexandra Sullivan, AME Legislative Director
Brian Beedenbender, County Executive's Office
Fran Seims, Legislative Aide
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Leader
Maria Barbara, Aide to Leg. Alden
Kara Hahn, Press Secretary
Miles Borden, Parks Trustee
George Hoffman, North Shore Heritage Area Planning Commission
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 11:11 AM*)

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

This is the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting. Legislator Vilorina•Fisher has joined Legislator Alden and myself, so now we can start.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, good.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Will you all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance? And today I would like to have Miles Borden lead us in the pledge.

SALUTATION

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Look. Isn't it nice to have a Parks Committee with an empty auditorium?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That's right. Good morning everybody and welcome to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Today we have a presentation by George Hoffman, who is the Outreach Coordinator for the North Shore •• North Shore Heritage Area Planning Commission.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Good morning. You could sit down if you like. Whatever you like. You want to sit or stand?

MR. HOFFMAN:

I will try from here. I have like just a small poster •• just •• I don't know if you can see this but it will give you kind of an idea; I don't know if it will hold up.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

You know what, if you could •• we could just maybe pass it to each other.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Yeah. If you want to see it. I just wanted you to see the geography, you know, the geographic layout of the North Shore Heritage Area. Good morning. My name is George Hoffman and I'm the Outreach Coordinator for the North Shore Heritage Planning Commission. And I would like to thank Legislator Vilorina•Fisher and Legislator Nowick for allowing me this morning to make this presentation.

Let me just start •• a lot of people don't know what a heritage area is. But a heritage area is a state designation of an area that has a common history, a common culture, a common geography. And in New York State right now there are 17 heritage areas, all of them Upstate. This is the first one that's

been designated for Long Island. And as you can see from the poster it really •• it's a very large geographic area. It stretches from Great Neck all the way to Orient Point.

And this was created under state legislation back in 1998. It was sponsored by State Senator Ken LaValle, Steve Engelbright and Mike Tully.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Can I just interrupt you ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Sure.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

•• while we're looking at the chart.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Sure.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay, because we're getting distracted by it••

MR. HOFFMAN:

I'm sorry.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

•• trying to understand it. Because didn't it start out 25A all along from Great Neck east?

MR. HOFFMAN:

Absolutely.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

But what we're looking at here is north of 495.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Yeah. What happened was as it was originally started as you said in 1998 as sort of what they called the a •• the a •• Spy Trail, which had a lot to do with 25A because it was really the art history in terms of the Colonial War, starts with a spy network that was operating on Long Island back in 1777.

But part of the legislation also said that the members of the Planning Commission could create and look at the boundaries and decide if the boundaries were sufficient they could expand them or contract them. And they made a decision about two years ago that it was really much larger than just going from Great Neck to Port Jefferson. And we had gotten some requests from the east end to expand it all the way out to Orient Point. So two years ago the •• the boundaries were actually expanded.

(*Legislator Browning entered the meeting at 11:13 AM*)

Interesting it takes in over 65 different municipalities. There's eight towns, one city and 55 villages. And what you're looking at there is not only the boundaries •• if you notice it goes •• the boundaries go all the way out to the Connecticut/New York border in the Long Island Sound. And it stretches on the south •• the boundary is the Expressway or Jericho Turnpike, whichever • • whichever one is further south. So it's quite a large area. It's one of the largest heritage areas in New York State.

And what we're asking for you to do today is to take •• is to endorse the concept. In order to establish a heritage area the •• the municipalities included inside the boundaries have to endorse it. And we're hoping that this Legislature would look favorably upon that.

The good thing about a heritage area is that the state sets up a heritage area program within the State Parks Department. It will provide you with additional fundings for any type of projects, you know, that you have that are based on culture and history. It'll also provides you with technical expertise if your •• if any of villages or towns or even the County would like to have historians come in from the state and help them do the inventory of the historical properties. So we really see it as a really good thing to do. There's

no mandate from the state in this. It's local people that will actually run the advisory committee.

Once it's established, every participating municipality gets one representative and it becomes an advisory committee. And it will just go to promote and protect the history and the culture of the area. If anyone has any questions I can ••

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes, I believe Legislator Vilorina•Fisher has a question.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Great.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Yes. I'm •• I'm trying to clarify with Mr. Perillie as to •• I had heard that there were some problems in the Lloyd Neck area ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Right.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

•• with this. Are you familiar with what their objections are?

Because I ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Yeah.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

•• something about boats and I couldn't remember, and ferry services.

MR. HOFFMAN:

There's •• there's been some opposition to the establishment of the heritage area from some of the villages. Right now the town •• most of the towns in Suffolk County have adopted it. Huntington approved the plans. Brookhaven approved the plan. Riverhead approved the plan. Smithtown's Planning Department finally released the plan with the recommendation for it to be approved at the next meeting. And then you have the Town of Southold.

It seems like the villages are very concerned about any encroachment on what they perceive could be their autonomy. They have limited autonomy to begin with. And they just get nervous of anything to do with the state. And as much as we've tried to convince some of the villages that this is really not the case, there just does seem to persist this •• this sense there that if they •• if they're part of this heritage area that the state may tell them to do something that they don't want to do. We've •• you know, we've gone over the management plan a hundred times and I really •• it's very hard to disprove a negative but that seems to be the core of their objections.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Right. It was always my understanding that this would provide resources ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Absolutely.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

•• rather than mandates.

MR. HOFFMAN:

There is not one mandate in the entire plan. In fact, the sponsors have told us that you can opt in and you can also opt out. If a village or town or county decides after a while that it doesn't want to be part of it, it just does the same type of resolution. Just says that we don't want to be part of the heritage area anymore.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. So my resolution could pass?

MR. HOFFMAN:

Right.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Which we needed to do.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Right.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

And •• and I've been active with this for, you know, quite awhile.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Absolutely.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

And I had a representative on it from my area because the spy's •• a lot of the spy's come from my district.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Right. In more ways than one.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Yes. And so I've been very enthusiastic about this ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Right.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

•• but I •• I just recently learned about some villages being concerned about it and their encroachment. But I always saw this as •• as a resource. Will you be here on Tuesday?

MR. HOFFMAN:

I'd love to come. I •• I would like to just further•up on that point though. The •• the other objection that we're getting from the villages, anytime that you deal with New York State there's always a •• there's a recommendation for public access. You know, they •• they believe that, you know, all our beautiful areas should be open to the public.

That •• that •• that runs counter to a lot of the village theory. You know, the villages really •• they don't want any more tourists to come to their villages. They don't really want people to visit. So I think that there was a

misconception in this plan. Some villages, you know, they •• they may have a Main Street that has, you know, a, you know •• it may not be performing very well. They're looking for tourism. But other villages we recognize, they really don't want any more people coming. So ••

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

They're guarding their borders.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Yeah. And that was the concern I think. That •• as you saw on that •• on the poster; that it showed some open access areas I think that some of the villages had problems with. But that's really up to the village to decide. You know, if it has a particular bluff, scenic bluff, that it would like to make available for people other than just village residents, it can apply to the state for additional funding to do, you know, if there's like beach remediation, things like that. But they would have to come with the idea that it has to be open access.

You can't take state money and then exclude people that are residents of the state.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay, but •• but that's too narrow with •• even without the heritage plan.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Absolutely.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

If mean if ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Absolutely.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

•• the County, for example, helps the village to •• to do any kind of recreation area, it has to be open to all County ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Absolutely.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

•• residents. That stands now. So that's ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Right.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

•• not really introducing a new concept.

MR. HOFFMAN:

No, it's not. And I think that that's what •• I think that that was the major confusion.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay.

MR. HOFFMAN:

But we've •• we've got now 20 villages have signed on. And we •• we think more will. As they start to see it as a vehicle for additional state funding, I think you're going to see other villages want to opt in as well.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. And you'll be here Tuesday?

MR. HOFFMAN:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Are you meeting here or in Riverhead?

MS. HAHN:

Riverhead.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

We're •• we're in Riverhead.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Okay. Okay, great. Any other questions?

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes.

MR. HOFFMAN:

I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'm •• I'm just trying to understand what it is that you do in relation to these areas.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

If a town says to you, yes, we'll opt in. Then what do they get out of it so to speak?

MR. HOFFMAN:

Well, there's a state funding mechanism under the State Parks Department specifically tailored for heritage area communities.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

This was the 1998 ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Well, it's actually it's •• it's •• it's yearly funded by the state •• state government, which is up to \$350,000 to participating municipalities. If they have particular projects that enhance or promote or protect •• protect or preserve their history, their culture, and their geography, if you're in heritage area •• right now like at the Village of Belle Terre that's not in a heritage area wanted to apply for a grant, they could not apply under that program because they're not in a heritage area.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So a town like Smithtown which is my ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

•• hometown, is in heritage area?

MR. HOFFMAN:

Well, it will be if it opts in, You know, at their next board meeting. They're •• they're also considering •• the town of Smithtown is considering approving the plan, which should make them a participating town in a heritage area.

They would now be eligible for any of the grants that come out of the heritage area grant programs through the State Parks Department.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And they would be able to perhaps repair bluffs along the sound?

MR. HOFFMAN:

Well that's ••

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'm •• I'm not sure exactly ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Usually ••

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

•• what they would do with the grant.

MR. HOFFMAN:

I'll •• I'll give you an example. In the Town of Southold one of the •• the village trust •• town trustees wanted to know could they apply for a grant to preserve their lighthouses. This would be a perfect type funding program for that because lighthouses are history, they're culture. And this heritage area grant would be •• it would be a great opportunity to do that. Bluffs •• bluffs are very expensive as you know and there's also other funding mechanisms in the state for that.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, then would you •• would this Long Island heritage area management plan work if a town opted in? Would they then work with say the local town Historical ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

•• Society?

MR. HOFFMAN:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And then would the local town Historical Society apply for the grants or the town itself?

MR. HOFFMAN:

Both the towns and the Historical Societies have the ability now under a heritage area to apply for the grant, which they would not have if they're not in a heritage area.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. That's what I wanted to know.

MR. HOFFMAN:

That's yeah ••

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay.

MR. HOFFMAN.

Most of these grants, I think, are going to be used to •• to preserve historical

buildings. I think it's going to be more used for that. If you wanted to promote some sort of historical, cultural event you could do that as well.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Right. And I know locally we have a lot in my town. Caleb Smith House ••

MR. HOFFMAN:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

•• Blydenburgh, so on and so forth. Thank you very much.

MR. HOFFMAN:

All right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Any other questions? Thank you.

MR. HOFFMAN:

Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. We're going to go to the agenda. Does the Commissioner want to come up and speak to any of the issues here? Good morning, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Good morning. Thank you. I don't have any specific comments on anything but would certainly would be pleased to answer any questions you have about this.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Can I ask a question?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Vilorina • Fisher.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Commissioner we've been tabling 1953. I believe because it hasn't yet been voted on by the Parks Trustees. Has it come before them?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

No, it has not. And that's not the only reason. I have said many times here we're working on an examination of the full fee schedule and working with the County Executive's Office to develop a recommendation of what fees ought to be changed or combined. And this is one •• this is in the category where if we get this thing to you •• if we get it worked through, we'll probably recommend some kind of combining of a number of different discount fees into one category to make it easier for clerks in the parks system to figure out what's going on with those.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. So you're trying to work out a program to put before the trustees.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We're trying to streamline the whole fee schedule.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

I see.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Include this issue in that streamlining. It takes a lot of negotiation and sorting out to get it in a form that's acceptable for presentation to you.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay, all right.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

That's the major issue.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Commissioner. I just was curious as to what was going on.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Well, the County Attorney's representative is asking is if we could include 2021. I don't know how that works in, but he brings up the point there that that almost also must go before the Trustees. I guess my question of the Legislature is who presents these things to the trustees? I mean we're not involved in developing the resolutions many times; they just show up here. This is the first time we know about them. Does the Legislature expect me to take them to the Trustees? Is the sponsor going to take them to the Trustees? How do you envision that working?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Commissioner, I know that with previous Commissioners, that the way it worked is if a •• if a Legislator felt that he or she wanted to go before the Park Trustees, they would go to advocate. But generally the Commissioner after having been, you know, apprised of all of the •• of the legislative intent, and how it would work within the department, the Commissioner would present it to the Parks Trustees. You would put it on the agenda and present the legislation ••

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Okay.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

•• to them.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

So you're trusting editorial comment to me on those occasions.

Thank you.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Well, because we know that you will present it in an objective and fair way.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

All right. Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

Actually, through the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

We develop a dialogue over some of these and •• and if you express a, you know, a sincere like problem with the legislation, we would expect you to present it to the Parks Trustees and •• and express your, you know, like your reservations or, you know, if you do have problems with legislation just like, you know, you have in front of us. And in that way, you know, we're not asking you to just go in there ••

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

•• and, you know, like gloss over anything that might be a, you know, a problem or a ••

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

•• deficiency or anything like that. And that's why it might be more like your discretion when you feel that you should take it to the Park Trustees, that if •
• if there's problems with a bill and we're working them out, and we get to a point where, you know, we •• we think that, you know, there's a good substantive type of thing that might get passed, that might be the point where •• where you take it.

So, I don't know about just automatically when we file legislation you take it to Park Trustees. And then, you know, it comes back here, we debate it, we change it and then it might have to go back to the Park trustee. So, it's more or less like we're •• we're going •• kind of counting on your expertise where we have almost a workable bill and then have it presented to the Park Trustees.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Okay. And •• and workable is a key word there; because sometimes these things come up, and the way they're written applying that language to the real world, operating a park system, it's not workable.

LEG. ALDEN:

Right.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

And we need an opportunity to figure those details out. And that's true of 1464. It's fairly simple to say there will be a Suffolk County Parks Corps. It's much more difficult for us to work out with the County Attorney's Office and Risk Management all the conditions and protections that have to go with the program like that. And we haven't carried this one into any of that realm at all. I don't •• I don't know how today we would technically implement this idea of this Suffolk County Parks Corps. As good an idea as it is, there are a lot of details to creating that in a way that will actually work; protect the volunteers and protect the County.

LEG. ALDEN:

Through •• through the Chair can I just •• and this is for informational purposes. I •• I spoke to the sponsor of it. What he had happened was a few people, and more than just one or two, but a few people came to him and said that, you know, we noticed in certain parks that, you know, there could be areas of concern. We'd like to volunteer our time as individuals. You know, they're not a group it so it would be individuals. We want to volunteer our time as individuals and go in and rectify something that they considered as a problem or a deficit.

So the sponsor has been, you know, like •• I think pretty good as far as, he'll listen to any suggestion. If you could come up with something and try to make it work. But that was what he was faced with; people wanted to help and he wanted to use •• and I think he used a mechanism that Vivian Vilorio •Fisher came up with originally for groups and tried to adapt that to

individuals.

So if there's some way to make it work, you know, he'd be more than happy to talk to you about, you know, your concerns and •• and maybe some suggestions if you think you can go somewhere. Or if you think it can't be used, you know, then maybe we can go back to those individuals or he can go back and say, you know, there •• there are groups that are already established under Vivian's legislation that maybe you could just be a part of and then be assimilated through that way.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Well, actually that's the route that I took when I started which was •• the Commissioner had said, we're acquiring so much property and we're not keeping up with the management side of it. And I also had groups in my district who were interested in going out to work on the parks.

So, what I did I first worked with the Commissioner and then I worked with the Park Trustees. I took in their suggestions and then I introduced the legislation. So I kind of worked with the Commissioner and the Trustees first. And I think it would probably be good if we could try to, you know, have that pattern especially with the parks. Because it's •• it's so big if we could •• as you say looking at this for the first time when it comes before you, and then you're trying to kind of work backwards and see the genesis of the legislation and how can we address that problem in the legislative intent.

But I think it's good that the •• that Legislator Romaine is keeping an open mind to see how we can address a problem that was presented to him by constituents. But I started in the same place, Cameron. And it was because

of my work with the Park Trustees and the Commissioner that I wound up narrowing the field because of litigation, because of insurance problems, liability, all that kind of thing. And you also don't want people identifying themselves as Suffolk County and, you know, it could be a •• it could be a, you know, child molester ••

LEG. ALDEN:

That's exactly right.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

•• who's wearing a Suffolk County shirt and then puts himself in a position of authority and some little kid follows him into a park.

So, you know, we have all liability so we want to be real careful and that's why I narrowed the scope of mine. Originally it was much broader. And because of my conversations with the Park Trustees I narrowed it down quite a bit.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yeah. We face the same dilemma the sponsor did. You know, we have willing people. It sounds like a good idea, looks like a good idea, ought to be easy. It's not. And we had it •• when I was with the state, we had a means of dealing with this. But I think there was a lot of work done to boil it down to a simple way to allow a volunteer to do work on a park with everyone's interest protected. So we've •• I think we've got to do all that work before this is a •• a viable idea.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. So with that I make a motion to table.

LEG. ALDEN:

And I'll second it.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay we •• we have a motion to table.

1464 (Establishing the "Suffolk County Parks Corps" Volunteer Cleanup Program) (Romaine), a motion by Legislator Vilorina•Fisher, second by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed? **1464 is tabled (VOTE: 4•0•0•1. Not Present • Legislator Cooper)**

1953, Linking County Park fees for veterans to park fees for senior citizens. (Cooper)

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Same motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Same motion. Same second. All in favor? Opposed? **1953 is tabled (VOTE: 4•0•0•1. Not Present • Legislator Cooper)**

1974 (Amending the 2006 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the installation of cash control and security at Suffolk County Park facilities (CP 7186) (Alden)

LEG. ALDEN:

Same motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? **1974 is tabled (VOTE: 4•0•0•1. Not Present • Legislator Cooper)**

1975, Amending the 2006 Capital Budget (and Program and appropriating funds in connection with a cash control pilot program at the Suffolk County West Sayville Golf Course (CP 7186). (Alden)

LEG. ALDEN:

Same motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? **1975 is tabled (VOTE: 4•0•0•1. Not Present • Legislator Cooper)**

2021, Waiving beach fees during periods of oppressive weather conditions. (Romaine)

LEG. ALDEN:

Same motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Same motion, same reason, same second. **2021 is tabled (VOTE: 4•0•0•1. Not Present • Legislator Cooper)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

2046, Approval of the Long Island North Shore Heritage Area Management Plan. (Viloria • Fisher)

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion the approve.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion to approve by Legislator Viloría•Fisher, second by myself. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **2046 is approved (VOTE: 4•0•0•1. Not Present • Legislator Cooper)**

LEG. ALDEN:

Where's Islip's share?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah. What about Shirley•Mastic?

LEG. ALDEN:

What about this Mastic Beach or Islip?

LEG. BROWNING:

What about the South Shore?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

You guys have to get your Assemblyman and Senator to create a heritage corridor on the south shore.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

This was •• this was Kenneth •• Ken LaValle.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

This was Ken LaValle and Steve Englebright.

LEG. ALDEN:

All right. Kate and I •• Kate and I will have to work on that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

2053, Appropriating funds in connection with improvements to County Marinas (CP 7109). (County Executive) Motion?

LEG. ALDEN:

As long as they're on the South Shore I will make a motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Alden, second by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? **2053 is approved (VOTE: 4•0•0•1. Not Present • Legislator Cooper)**

2063, Amending the 2006 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with restoration of West Neck Farm, Huntington (CP 7096). (County Executive) Is Cooper here?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

No.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Oh.

LEG. ALDEN:

Kill it.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Kill it. Cooper's is not here.

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'll entertain a motion to approve by Legislator Browning. No?

Yes?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Viloría•Fisher. All in favor? Opposed? **2063 is approved (VOTE: 4•0•0•1. Not Present • Legislator Cooper)**

2071, Amending the (2006) Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with improvements and lighting at County parks (CP 7079). (County Executive)

LEG. BROWNING:

Same motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Same motion. Same second.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

I'm sorry. I was just asking a question about the offset because it's amending.

LEG. NOWICK:

So is 2063 amending.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I don't think there's an offset. I think it's appropriating regular our regular Capital Budget.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Is it appropriating? Oh, it's appropriating. I'm sorry. I thought it was amending.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

No, no; it says amending.

LEG. ALDEN:

It is amending.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

2063 was amending also.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Budget Review, how is it amending? I'm sorry.

MS. MOSS:

This is actually a resolution that was sponsored by the Executive's people.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

I can't hear you. I'm sorry. Can you please use the mike?

MS. MOSS:

Sorry. This was actually a resolution that's submitted by the Executive so they would be doing the fiscal impact statement on this.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Brian, can you tell us about this?

MR. BEEDENBENDER:

I think it's actually just mis•titled. Because if you look at the resolution ••

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Yeah. I'm not seeing any kind of offset or amendment.

MR. BEEDENBENDER:

Right. And even if you look at the current to revise, the numbers are the same. Actually, excuse me. The amendment •• I apologize, I see it now. The amendment is going from G to B funding. Because this was one of those projects that was caught up in the pay•as•you•go waiver. There should be a clause •• yeah, the Third Whereas Clause refers to the 5•25•5 law being waived this year ••

LEG. ALDEN:

We •• we can't do this yet.

MR. BEEDENBENDER:

•• so the amendment is to move it.

LEG. ALDEN:

We didn't amend the •• that didn't pass •• not pass, but hasn't been signed into law. Right?

MR. BEEDENBENDER:

Right. But what we've •• we've been doing with these •• it will be signed into law by the time •• the way the calendar works, by the time you have the meeting on the 19th and you guys make your decisions, there'll be enough time for him to sign the resolution after it goes into effect by the state.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Thank you for clarifying. Because I saw amending, but I didn't say see any kind of offset so I wasn't clear ••

MR. BEEDENBENDER:

I didn't see it at first either.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

•• what was being amended. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. **2071, (Amending the 2006 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with improvements and lighting at County parks) (CP 7079). (County Executive)** Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? **2071 has been approved (VOTE: 4•0•0 •1. Not Present • Legislator Cooper)**

Commissioner, just if you have a minute, I just want to very delicately bring to your attention that Legislator Alden and I have been doing our due diligence.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

By golfing at Timber Point?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We have •• no. We think it's ••

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, we did that too, but.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We do think it's important to go to County golf courses. And all kidding aside, I do find myself •• many times find people ask me, well what about Indian •• is it Indian Island? In Riverhead. Is that worth going to? Or what about Bergen Point, is that worth going to? We're asked very often because they obviously know that I'm on Parks or we're in the Legislature. And most of the time we're able to say, that's a nice experience. But I would tell you that I think both Legislator Alden and myself are a little disappointed in Bergen Point. And I think that we need to start looking into that and maybe working together to have that more of a jewel for us.

LEG. ALDEN:

Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

I might point out that those were two separate independent visits. The Chairwoman •• the Chairwoman went at one time and saw it within the past couple of weeks. And I went within the past couple of days and looked at it. It's less than stunning.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And now we're planning to do it together.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah. Let's go play; not now. But ••

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

I think we should hold our committee meeting there.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

But it is very important because our golf courses make a lot of money for us. And to be able to tell our constituents and our residents do go to these golf courses, It would be something •• I want to be proud of it.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I confess that I haven't played enough golf this year. In fact •• in fact I haven't played any. And I'll try to change that. We have been working with •• hammering the concessionaire there to make changes and improve the place. I've been depending on staff evaluations to tell me in a relative sense how it's going. They say it's been improving. Obviously it's not the level you expect it to be. I'll take a look at it.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And we've been to the other County courses. So, and we're not expecting country club settings. But, also •• and I won't get into it too deeply •• I do

get concerned, and we've spoken about this before when there's not any water on the course, And I know that there are laws by the Board of Health. But, at Indian Island the water •• you can get water at the halfway house and it is free. And rather than spending three dollars for a bottle, which is really cost prohibitive or two fifty for a bottle, water on the course is very important. I do believe on a hot summer day you could prevent stroke, heart attack. It's •• it's something that needs to be.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Well we •• there was a time when we had water on the courses.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Oh, I know. I think we've spoken about it and ••

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

And the health implications of that were apparently greater than the ones you point out for not having water. So we have put in ice and water machines at every clubhouse and tried to inform the golfers.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Do they have it at Bergen Point? Because I couldn't find it.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

It's supposed to be there. I'll check.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. It could be just me.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

But •• but it is important, so. Legislator Alden, Looks like you have a question.

MR. PEARSALL:

It's the light that's going.

OFF THE RECORD

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. No panic.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Did you have a question?

LEG. ALDEN:

No. Just a little bit more of a comment. The condition of Bergen Point is not consistent with the condition of West Sayville, Timber Point and Indian Island that •• in that •• I think we're very competitive in this, and it is a competitive market now in our golf on those three. And I think we're providing, you know, a great opportunity for people in Suffolk County at an affordable price. And that's •• that's just •• that's where I think our mission is and ••

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We get a great number of compliments about the County staffed golf courses. I think they're doing a terrific job.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

And I appreciate the way they care for things. The other one's a •• a privatized concessioned golf course. We have to obviously pay more attention to requiring a standard that's acceptable of people. And we shouldn't be providing substandard facilities.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's into its 10th or 12th year the •• that agreement?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I don't recall for sure but something like that, yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That one is different than the other three as far as ••

LEG. ALDEN:

That one was •• it's •• it's a semi•private in that we went into a contract with a company that now they're running the •• basically they run the golf course with a little bit of oversight from us. But their operation is completely different from, you know, the other three.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Right.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

It's a •• it's a private concern taking care of maintenance, fee collection, the restaurant. Everything there is under private sector management and operation. We can only oversee what they do.

LEG. ALDEN:

And there was a requirement that they put X number of dollars into the, you know, renovation or restoration of the course over X number of years. So, you know, there's a lot •• there's a lot of points that, you know, we might want to explore at, you know, in •• in more depth. And now's a good time, too, because we're coming into the •• the winter months. If something needs to be changed that, you know, this is a good time to look at it and maybe make changes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And it is a good time because this is the time to plant and do things like that so.

LEG. ALDEN:

Exactly.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And that's the only concern. And I would also put on the record that I am very, very, very proud to recommend our other courses which are beautiful.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Motion the adjourn.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Yep.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yep. Yep? That's the way it goes. Motion by Vilorina•Fisher, second by myself. All in favor? Opposed? We're adjourned.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 AM*)

{ } Denotes spelled phonetically