

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislature Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on July 24, 2013.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Lynne C. Nowick, Chairwoman  
Leg. Lou D'Amaro, Vice Chair  
Leg. Kara Hahn  
Leg. Wayne R. Horsley  
Leg. Steven H. Stern

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Leg. DuWayne Gregory, 15th Legislative District  
George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature  
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Robert Doering, Budget Review Office  
Craig Freas, Budget Review Office  
Greg Dawson, Commissioner/Parks Department  
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick  
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern  
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro  
Deborah Tinnirello, Aide to Leg. Hahn  
Michael Pitcher, Aide to Presiding Officer  
Thomas Vaughn, County Executive's Office  
Paul Perillie, Aide to Leg. Gregory  
Rick Brand, Newsday  
Richard Martin, Historic Services  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:31 PM**

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

All rise for the Salute to the Flag led by Counsel, George Nolan.

**SALUTATION**

Good afternoon and welcome to the Parks and Recreation Committee. We do not have any cards from the public. Everybody's out at the parks and beaches; correct?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I'm sorry, Legislator Nowick, I didn't hear you.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Commissioner, do you have anything that you would like to discuss with the Committee?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I don't think so. I think I'll just wait for the resolutions. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

I just have one question. I just wanted to see what the end result was. I spoke to you about having -- you can't hear?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, I can hear you. Lightning protection?

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Having water on the golf courses. I know the -- when the temperature reaches 150 and it gets very steamy out there, my fear is always that somebody on hole seven will have a heart attack due to dehydration. And there is no water to be found. Have we done anything about that?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, I think we're going to need to look for a long term solution. Short term solution was to have, like, little gator -- gator jugs out there. But due to restrictions by the Board of Health, we can't do that anymore. So we need to look at putting a permanent water source out there. We do have halfway houses on the courses and people can certainly purchase water, but we don't -- we don't -- with the exception of Indian Island, we do not have access to domestic water out there. So the --

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Commissioner, is that a Suffolk County Board of Health or a New York State Board of Health?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I believe a Suffolk County Board of Health.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

So that is only for public courses. Private courses can have water in those thermos but public courses cannot?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, I haven't seen them out there. The issue is that they need to be protected so that the public can't put their mouths on the -- drink directly from the container or issues where they need to be

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secured where you can't get access to it, people taking their towels and dipping it into the water jugs themselves, so.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

So, is it that we can't afford to put a few out there in cages like the other courses do?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I'd really have to check to see what the other courses are doing. I think we had them out there, but maybe they weren't protected.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay. Let me reword this, then.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Okay.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Can -- I think it's important when the temperatures are, you know, rising so much and it's so incredibly hot, and whether -- I know you say that maybe possibly you can buy in some -- some halfway houses -- some -- they're not even open. You know that.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

(Shaking head yes)

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

But, you know, we encourage young people to play on weekends with legislation. And they can't always afford to spend \$2 for a bottle of water. Thinking that -- here's where I'm going with that. How soon can we do this?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Can I give you a report the next meeting?

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

That's after the summer.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Can I give you a call next week?

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Absolutely.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Okay, very good.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Madam Chair, I absolutely agree with you, too. It's something that has to be taken care of.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Well, it's something for years that's been bothering me. And I know there's New York -- Suffolk County Health, but I just -- last week those temperatures were so high and the humidity was so high. And I'm just seeing somebody falling down.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

It sounds like a matter of anti-health.

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**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

So as soon as you can.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I'll do that.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

You can do that.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I'll get back to you.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

You had also requested some information regarding lightning detection. I did some research.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

I did.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I can follow with that next week. I'm still waiting for a company to get back to me. I needed some literature on it. But the general cost is about \$15,000 a course.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Fifteen thousand dollars -- not just for the golf courses either. My point was that it's been publicized in the news very often that with these storms and -- lightning storms that what I was talking about would be -- these devices would let you know ten minutes before. So if people were on Smith Point Park at the beach, they would know to get out early enough -- blowing the whistle is one thing, but if we could look into that and -- I know that will never come to fruition before the end of the summer, but maybe it's just a good legacy for me.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We are actively pursuing it, just so you know.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Thank you, Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

You're welcome.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Can I ask a question?

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Certainly. Sure.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Let me just ask quickly, the status of the RFP on the historic homes, any progress? Did you get any resolution? I know that several came in, but what's new?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We have -- we had two come in for the Old School House and only one came in for the Black Duck

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Lodge. I can talk to you off line, the specifics of those proposals. There'll be a committee put together. We actually have a trustee for each of the facilities to sign up. So we'll be looking for members of -- to get the RF -- the RFI Committee to move forward with an RFP. Okay.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Promising.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yes.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Nice.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Well, Elwood, yes. But we can talk.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Okay. Thanks.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Commissioner, if you want me to go around, we can go to the golf courses checking for water, I would be willing to do that. (Laughter)

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

That's okay.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

That would be awesome. Does anybody else have any questions for the Commissioner?

### TABLED RESOLUTIONS

Okay, then, we are going to Tabled Resolutions: **1411, Appropriating funds in connection with fencing and surveying various County Parks (CP 7007). (Hahn)** Do I have a motion on that?

**LEG. HAHN:**

On the motion. Just a quick question. Any movement here?

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

There's no motion yet, so.

**LEG. HAHN:**

I'll make a motion to table, but I do want to talk on the motion.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Legislator Hahn has a motion to table. I'll second it. On the motion.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Has there been any movement yet on the fencing that we have the money for and we don't need an appropriation for?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Actually, yes. The purchase order has been cut and it's followed the contract.

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**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. I'm good.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **Motion to table is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**1430, Appropriating funds in connection with the Historic Restoration and Preservation Fund (CP 7510) (Browning)** I'll make a motion to table. Does anybody want to second? Second by Legislator D'Amaro. On the motion, Legislator D'Amaro.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Thank you. This had been tabled from, I think, our last meeting. And we were looking for a further breakdown as to how the funds are being disbursed, if I recall.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yes. And I think we discussed we had \$120,000 in planning money. We were going to have -- we were going to have somebody go in, take a look at it and give you an in-depth survey of how that money would be spent. We do have historic house survey but it dates back to 2006 so it's -- I don't think you want to use that.

**LEG. STERN:**

If I may, Madam Chair, so, Commissioner, then you're saying that this resolution to make the appropriation, you're saying, is probably premature because we're going to look to see analysis and get more detail back?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Correct. But we are -- there's a resolution further down in the agenda -- 1549 is going to ask for \$250,000. We can discuss it when we get to that one; for repairs to historic structures.

**LEG. STERN:**

That's structures plural. So that \$250,000 appropriation would apply not just to the specific structure, but to several structures throughout the system?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Correct.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay. We have a motion to table and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **1430 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

## INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Introductory Resolutions: **1526, Authorizing use of Cupsogue Beach County Park by Barrier Beach Preservation Association for its 5k Race Fundraiser. (Co. Exec.)**

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Motion by Legislator D'Amaro; second by Legislator Stern. Counsel, that's the fee and that's appropriate?

**MR. NOLAN:**

Yes.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay. And we have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **1526 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**1527, Authorizing use of the Long Island Maritime Museum by the Rotary Club of Sayville for Annual Beefsteak Fundraiser. (Co. Exec.)** Motion by Legislator D'Amaro, second by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? **1527 is approved. 1527 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**1528, Authorizing use of Southaven County Park, Showmobile and Pavilion by Contractors for Kids for their Family Fun Day and Picnic Fundraiser. (Co. Exec.)**

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Motion by Legislator D'Amaro; second by myself.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

If I could, Legislator?

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

That's not the one.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yes, it is. No, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, it's 1528.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

**1528, Authorizing use of Southaven County Park, Showmobile and Pavilion by Contractors for Kids for their Family Fun Day and Picnic Fundraiser. (Co. Exec.)** The County Executive's office asked if we could discharge without recommendation. There's just a slight problem with the bill; nothing too big but you can bring the CN in?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yes. So apparently we forget to put the pavilion fee that was listed in the title. So we're going to add that to the bill with a CN and take care of it -- and ask that it be adopted on Tuesday.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay. Okay.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

We would ask that the Committee please consider a discharge without recommendation. If you were inclined to approve it, we would ask that you please discharge without recommendation.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay. I'll make a motion to discharge without recommendation, second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **1528 is discharged without recommendation. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

Okay, **1549, Appropriating funds in connection with Repairs to Historic Structures (CP 7510). (Co. Exec.)** Steve Stern was talking about this? Steve, you have an issue with this one?

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**LEG. STERN:**

I don't know if I have an issue with it but I might have questions for Commissioner if I may, Madam Chair.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Sure.

**LEG. STERN:**

Commissioner, this is a \$250,000 appropriation. I guess my -- this is for historic structures plural, many structures throughout the system. I guess my question here would be the planning monies that are going to be utilized for the structure that we just discussed, is that planning money coming from this planning money? Or that's something separate?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

That's completely separate. That was already appropriated.

**LEG. STERN:**

So this is something for -- this is separate?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Separate.

**LEG. STERN:**

Do you know what the -- are there specific historic structures that you have in mind that this would be utilized for?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yes, as discussed at the last meeting, you know, who's our top priority. We have three facilities that we're targeting: Meadowcroft in West Sayville -- Meadow Edge -- I'm sorry -- Meadow Edge in West Sayville, Meadowcroft in Bayport and Sagtikos Manor in West Islip.

**LEG. STERN:**

And you believe you'll be able to do all of the preliminary or planning type of work for all three of those structures with this dollar amount?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We don't need planning money for that. This is actual hammer and nails construction money.

**LEG. STERN:**

This is the real deal; this is -- work is going to be done on those three structures?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Well, it's sections of those three structures, yes.

**LEG. STERN:**

Fine. Thank you.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay. Do I have a motion on that? I'll make the motion to approve.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Second.

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**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **1549 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

And that would be the conclusion of this meeting.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:44 PM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**