

**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 December 11, 2013.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

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  
Greg Dawson, Commissioner/Parks Department  
Terry Maccarrone, Deputy Commissioner/Parks Department  
Lance Reinheimer, Director/Vanderbilt Museum  
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick  
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro  
Thomas Vaughn, County Executive's Office  
Paul Perillie, Aide to Leg. Gregory  
Ali Nazir, Aide to Leg. Kennedy  
Miles Borden, Park Trustee  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

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**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:13 PM**

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay, welcome to the Parks and Recreation Committee. We'll start with the Pledge to the Flag led by Legislator D'Amaro.

**SALUTATION**

Good afternoon and welcome to the Parks and Recreation Committee. We have two cards here. Lance Reinheimer.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Thank you very much. I'm Lance Reinheimer, Director of the Vanderbilt Planetarium and Museum. I'm here to speak about IR 2067 which amends the Capital Program. This resolution transfers \$50,000 from Capital Project 1755 to a new project for the Vanderbilt to do a study for noise -- for noise -- to mitigate noise pollution. We've had many meetings or several -- couple of meetings with the neighbors. It's a chronic problem where there are -- there's a neighborhood that borders the museum. The museum is making a lot of efforts to expand its special events and weddings to provide revenue for operations. And as we expand our wedding operation and our special events for revenue, we're kind of clashing with the neighbors and their quality of life.

They came to us with a couple of suggestions. One of them was to build a sound wall where the tent is. If you're familiar with the property, the tent is on the old golf course for the museum. This is historic landscaping. In the past we've been prevented from changing its contour because it is historic. But it also borders this neighborhood. Building a sound wall there may adversely impact the landscaping. I'm not sure if that's a good solution either.

Another suggestion that came from area neighbors, and I've looked at it, was to build a road behind the museum. Again, if you're familiar with the property from the road that goes down to the boathouse, bring a road up behind the museum, on the waterside, there's a flat area of grass that would accommodate our 50 by 80 foot tent. That takes it away from the neighborhood. It takes the tent -- it puts the tent in the area where it would have minimum noise impact on the surrounding area. These are two options.

Now both these options are drastic in terms of construction impacts to the property. And so rather than just go and do something without a long range plan, our idea was to appropriate plans for a study. The funds left over from the study, if all of them are not used for the study, could be used for any construction project supervision. This could morph into a construction or some kind of project that would implement what the study recommends.

We're really trying to be proactive with the neighbors and to come up with an idea of what we can do so that we can coexist. We have a good relationship with our neighbors. They're understanding, you know, they know that when they see a lot of cars, that means the museum is doing well. When the museum is doing well, that's good for Suffolk County. But they also live there. The road is narrow. So when we've had events where traffic has spilled onto the road and there's been parking, we developed a plan to mitigate that.

We had a music concert where people would park on Little Neck Road. The next music concert that we had, we had a plan to prevent people from parking on private property, parking on Little Neck Road. We had an agreement with the Town to use their parking lot for overflow. So we're trying to do everything we can to be proactive.

As far as appropriating the funds this year -- next year we only have \$200,000 in the whole Capital Project for museum projects. So this was a way to be proactive to appropriate the funds this year

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that were surplus funds from 1755 to create a new project.

I'd be happy to answer any questions on this.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Lance, that sound wall, that doesn't sound like that belongs at the Vanderbilt. That's not a fait accompli, right?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

No, that's just options, you know. The sound wall was an option. The road was an option, but there may be other ideas out there. And that's the point of the study. And I fully agree with you, because if you change how you manage your outdoor venue, and in years in the future we don't have our tent on the golf course, you're stuck with this sound wall that has no purpose so -- and that also adversely impacts the landscaping. So I agree with you, that's not a plan I would like to see, but that was a plan or -- or that was idea that was put forth to the museum.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

I could see the Vanderbilts turning over in their graves with the sound wall. Does anybody else have a question? Okay. Thank you, Lance.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Thank you. And just one more thing before I leave. I was just informed by Budget Review that the endowment is up over \$11 million. It was hovering around 10.5 for a longtime. It's up to \$11 million. This year we only took out \$110,000 from the endowment. And that was prior to the opening of the planetarium. So we're leaving that money alone. We're hoping it grows or it will grow. And I just wanted to let you know that it is going in the right direction. Thank you.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Thank you, Lance. We have a card from Miles Borden, our Suffolk Parks Trustee. Hi, Miles, how are you?

**MR. BORDEN:**

Very good.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Nice to see you.

**MR. BORDEN:**

This is a personal note. On behalf of the Suffolk County Parks Trustees, I thank you for your 12 years of service to the citizens of Suffolk County. And we certainly appreciate that.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Thank you.

**MR. BORDEN:**

We recognize that you've continually kept Parks on the top of your Legislative agenda. And we certainly appreciate that. Parks Commissioner Greg Dawson and his professional staff join me in this congratulatory note. While your tenure is coming to an end in Suffolk County, we in Smithtown are again going to get your service at the Town level. And as most of you know, Lynne was just recently elected as -- to the Town Council, and which we certainly, certainly are looking forward to your leadership. And, again, thank you for 12 years of service.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Miles, thank you so much. And coming from you that's such a compliment. But I also have to say

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having you on the Board of Trustees has been -- it's been my pleasure to have named you many years ago. You're always there. You've been to more meetings than not. And just stay there. Keep up the good work and represent us in Smithtown. And thank you all.

### TABLED RESOLUTIONS

Okay, we are going to go to Tabled Resolutions. 1603, Directing the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to develop a plan for the care and use of the Hilda Lindley House in Montauk County Park. (Schneiderman)

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Motion to table by Legislator D'Amaro; second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **1603 is tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. HORSLEY ABSENT)**

And in case I forget, Legislator Horsley has an excused absence today.

### INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

And now we go to **Introductory Resolutions. Introductory Resolution 2067, Amending the 2013 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds for an outdoor noise study at Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum (CP 7407). (Spencer)**

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Motion to table by Legislator D'Amaro.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

That's at the request of the sponsor.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

At the request of the sponsor. I'll make the second. All in favor? Opposed? **2067 is tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. HORSLEY ABSENT)**

**2094, Appropriating funds in connection with restoration of West Neck Farm (aka Coindre Hall), Huntington (CP 7096). (Co. Exec.)**

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Motion to approve by Legislator D'Amaro; second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **2094 is approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. HORSLEY ABSENT)**

**2095, Amending the 2013 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with construction of maintenance and operations facilities Charles R. Dominy County Park (West Sayville Country Club), West Sayville, Town of Islip (CP 7173). (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion; second by Legislator Hahn? Is that okay?

**LEG. HAHN:**

(Nodding head yes)

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**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Just before you call that vote, I just wanted to ask the Commissioner here just a little more detail as to what this project entails and what this particular funding is marked for.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Where it's going? Yeah, we're going to be rebuilding the maintenance facility, the West Sayville Golf Course -- I'm sorry? Expanding the maintenance facilities so we have a place to keep our equipment out of the weather. As it is now we have millions of dollars of landscaping equipment, golf course equipment out in the element. We're also going to put an area for our fertilizer and pesticides, another building for that and a bulk storage area.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

This is Capital Project 7173. Is it specific for that particular project?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

It's specific for building -- it's specific for maintenance facilities.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

For maintenance facilities, this being one that's going to be expanded?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Correct.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Have we done that in the past at the same location?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, we haven't done any maintenance facilities in West Sayville.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. So -- and the need for this is that you have equipment that's being stored outdoor now?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Correct.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

And that's -- has it been -- or has it been at another location and this is making it more convenient?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, no, it's stored at the golf course itself. And it's stored out -- out in the elements.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

What type of equipment is that?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Greens machines, tractors, lawnmowers.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Golf course equipment?

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**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Golf course equipment, correct.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We also want to bring the fertilizer and pesticide storage in compliance.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right. So by expanding the storage facility, will we extend the useful life of the equipment, do you figure?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Right.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Is that the purpose of doing this?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

That's safe to say, yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah, okay, very good. Thank you for answering my questions.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Legislator Hahn.

**LEG. HAHN:**

You mentioned pesticide and fertilizer storage. Can you tell me a little bit more about how that will be properly handled? And the pesticides and fertilizers storage area, how that will be constructed?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Terry is more familiar with it. I'll let him --

**MR. MACCARRONE:**

This project's at DPW right now. The design stage is pretty much finished. We're waiting to go out to bid. That's what this extra money will help us -- allow us to do. Part of the design will allow for the proper storage of the pesticide and fertilizer, climate control, and there'll be like a well so that it can't -- if there's any sort of a spill or anything like that, it can't get out into the environment.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair, and welcome everyone. Let me just follow-up on Legislator Hahn's question regarding pesticides. I recall here we had passed 1533 back in 2008 that was Legislator Cooper's legislation to follow the guidelines set in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses, which essentially says that we have to use our best efforts to do things in an environmentally sensitive way, which goes to the use or non-use of some of the materials that we're talking about. Can you maybe bring us up to date on what, if anything, we have done to adhere to

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those guidelines? And if that plays any role in the kinds of things that you are utilizing today.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Sure. The list of pesticides and chemicals that we use on a golf course is predetermined by the Citizens Action Committee, CAC, they meet currently. And there's a list of certain chemicals and fertilizers that we can use. If there's anything out of the ordinary where we need to spray for certain infestations or fungus or something like that, we need to go to the CAC to get a special approval. So the chemicals that we're using now have all been pre-approved by the Committee. And, again, they meet quarterly. Does that answer your question? So we're following guidelines pursuant to the legislation.

**LEG. STERN:**

So what you're using right now is done in accordance with the standards as outlined in the legislation that we passed back in 2008?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Correct. And it's all organic.

**LEG. STERN:**

Okay. Very good. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **2095 is approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. HORSLEY ABSENT)**

**2096, appropriating funds in connection with improvements to water supply systems in County Parks (CP 7184). (Co. Exec.)** Commissioner, did you want to make any comments on that?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yeah, this is money that was adopted. We're just looking to appropriate it. It's to improve water conditions at some of our campgrounds, put in RPZs, expand water where we don't have it currently. Tapping fees that we have to --

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

What about the fees? I'm sorry. Through the Chair, what about the fees?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Any fees that we need to pay Suffolk County Water Authority for tapping into the mains -- from the main lines.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

This funding is to pay the fees?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, this funding is to operate that. That's one of the things it could be used for; it's to purchase materials to expand or -- like last year we did Cedar Point. We expanded the water out to some of the campsites. Other areas we need to put in backflow prevention devices. So it's just an

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all-encompassing improvement to water systems in County parks.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

We're expanding the water supply into County parks. That's mostly in campsites? Is that what you're saying?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Pretty much, yeah. Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So that is -- if you go to a County campsite and there's water supplied, does it impact the fee that's charged for using the campsite?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

There are set fees for water and electric, yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

There are.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

It's -- Terry, do you know the exact fees?

**MR. MACCARRONE:**

No.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I'm not looking for exact fees. So the point being that if you expand the water supply, in some instances this bill would produce revenue because we would be in a position to have more water available in the campsites and we can charge a fee for that?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I think that's safe to say; an increased fee.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right.

**MR. MACCARRONE:**

Also, Legislator, there are -- for instance we have two projects ongoing right now that are grant-funded. One at Sagtikos Manor, one at Deepwells. And involved with both of those, we're going to be bringing in increased water service so this fund would be used for situations like that as well.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Good. Thank you.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

What do you use the increased water service for at the Manor? For irrigating the lawn or --

**MR. MACCARRONE:**

Well, at Sagtikos, the grant is to bring back the historic gardens and irrigation there. At Deepwells we're putting in a hidden sprinkler system. So we need more service for there.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay. Did we have motion yet?

**MS. ORTIZ:**

No.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay, I'll make the motion.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **2096 is approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1.**

**LEG. HORSLEY ABSENT)**

And I hope some day there'll be water on the golf course for people to drink -- drinkable water that you and I would actually go to and maybe drink.

**MR. MACCARRONE:**

You can go to the machine.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

And that's if they're even selling the bottles and the machine doesn't say "out of order"; if it's a hundred degrees only. (Laughter)

**Introductory resolution 2097, Appropriating funds in connection with construction for beach replenishment at Meschutt County Park (CP 7163). (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Second by Legislator Hahn.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Just before you call that again, I just wanted to -- this is for appropriating \$50,000?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

That's correct.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

And I was curious what type of construction that \$50,000 will buy.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

It's mostly beach nourishment. It's mostly sand we bring into the beach on a yearly basis.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right. Okay. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We have a maintenance permit for 5,000 -- I think 5,000 cubic yards every year.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. Very good.

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**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **2097 is approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. HORSLEY ABSENT)**

And that's the end of the agenda. But just let me take a minute to say how much I enjoyed chairing Parks over the past several years. And I think that the people of Suffolk County are very, very fortunate to have the beautiful parks and beaches. Greg Moran and I took a tour of some of the beaches this summer and some of the the parks. And certainly I've toured the golf courses enough times to complain enough times. I know that when I showed up everybody got -- at least we get rid of her (laughter) but our golf courses are top of the line. And I would tell anybody and be proud to tell anybody to play on those courses. Go to our beaches and our parks.

So thank you and thank you, Commissioner, and thank you all for making these parks and beaches possible.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I would be remiss if I didn't thank you as well for all your support over the last two years and for your patience in my learning curve.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Can I still call you if I see that the bathroom has to be painted? Or the water on the golf -- I mean is that okay? Because I have you speed dial, right?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Absolutely. I look forward to seeing you at West Sayville and Timber Point.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Could I also just say -- and I was remiss at the Ways & Means Committee for thanking Legislator Nowick for her years of service on that Committee.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Thank you.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

And as Vice Chair of this Committee, I also want to say it's just been an honor and a privilege to serve with you. I appreciate your service. I appreciate what you bring to the Legislature. You will be missed and I appreciate your friendship most of all.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Thank you.

**APPLAUSE**

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Best of luck.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Do we still have time for the term limits to be overturned? Because -- (Laughter) -- I'm in the ready position. Okay. No, Miles, I'm coming to Smithtown. I thank you.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:33 PM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**