

DATE

**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 May 7, 2014.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman, Chairman  
Leg. Kara Hahn, Vice Chair  
Leg. Thomas Cilmi  
Leg. William J. Lindsay III  
Leg. Kevin J. McCaffrey (not present)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Leg. Kate Browning, 3rd Legislative District  
George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature  
Lora Gellerstein, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Robert Doering, Budget Review Office  
Greg Dawson, Commissioner/Parks Department  
Lance Reinheimer, Director/Vanderbilt Museum  
Jason Hann, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman  
Alyssa Turano, Aide to Leg. Hahn  
Ali Nazir, Aide to Leg. Kennedy  
Michelle Isabelle Stark  
Jim Barr, Long Island ABATE  
Steve Barbato  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Reporter

## THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:30 PM

### **CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Good afternoon. I'd like to call this meeting of the Parks Committee to order this 7th day of May 2014. Will you all please rise and join us for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Kara Hahn.

### **SALUTATION**

Remain standing for a moment. We recently lost one of our own here in this building, Bobby Knight, who worked in the Clerk's Office; was involved, I think, in some capacity, with most of the Legislators and various different things, functions here. He passed away just a few days ago. So if we could have a moment of silence in his memory, please join me.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED**

Thank you. Please be seated.

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

Okay, we don't have any presentations scheduled so we're going to go right to Public Portion. I only have one yellow card. If you wish to be heard by the Committee, you do need to fill out a yellow card. If you haven't done so already, please do that. Our first card is Lance Reinheimer. I have a feeling that -- I'm being asked by Legislator Hahn, if we're not having a presentation, why is there a giant presentation --

### **MR. REINHEIMER:**

That's not -- it's actually just a very short PowerPoint to go over a bond resolution that the County Executive is bringing over. I can skip that. You've got copies of that.

### **CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Why don't we do your three minutes. And as you're kind of a quasi-official here with the County, you know, we can always bring you up to the table as well.

### **MR. REINHEIMER:**

Okay, thank you. First of all, I'm here to speak on IR 1378, which is before you today, which is a Capital Program Resolution to appropriate \$200,000 for waterproofing. This is scheduled in the 2014 Capital Program. It's ongoing problems we have with water intrusion, but specifically this will be used for Normandy Manor.

We have tenants in there right now. They're paying in the neighborhood of \$5,000 a month in rent; plus we're not paying the utilities for that facility. So, on an annualized basis, it's worth about \$66,000 in revenue to the Museum. They're scheduled to move out this year. When they move out, the plan is to do reroofing and work on the eaves of that house that are rotten to get it in shape for, in my opinion, I hope to continue to rent it out to the next residents. So this is perfect time to do this work during, you know, the later half of 2014 before we have new tenants. Because it's pretty intrusive, the construction. There's a lot of work that needs to be done. That's a slate roof that's on Normandy Manor. The County bought that house 10 years ago. It's across the street from the Museum. It was part of the original estate. But to use that building for public assembly is not practical. And so we're using it to help us with our operations and Operating Budget by generating revenue. So it's funds well invested to fix the roof. And that's what -- this resolution will cover most of that.

### **CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. I actually have a question on this. Maybe somebody else does as well. Lance, you just

5/7/2014 Parks & Rec Committee meeting

made a statement it's funds well invested. So I just want to explore that because -- so we are spending on this bill 200,000 in County money, Capital money to reroof the building, which is not used for any public assembly; it's just used as a private residence that's rented to bring revenue into the Museum. The Museum isn't paying the capital. The County is paying the capital.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

But it does produce \$60,000 a year for you -- not for you personally but for the Museum. Is it money well spent? These buildings tend to be very expensive, as we know, to maintain. So 200,000 -- what other capital costs are involved in this? Let's say, for instance, the money wasn't for the Museum, just the County. We are maintaining a building. We were getting the revenue. They're paying the utilities. Are we seeing enough revenue to just even break even here? 200,000 in capital is just one item. That's just the roof. So what else do we have here? Is a good investment or bad investment?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

It's an excellent investment. The house is in great shape. We had a design showhouse in there a couple of years ago. We had designers put in close to \$200,000 in improvements; 58,000 just for the kitchen. That was all private money that improved this house that enabled us to rent it out and generate revenue to try to get the Museum to be financially secure.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

How much did we -- we bought it? We bought the house; the County did, right.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

The County.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

What did we spend on it?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

I believe we paid somewhere in the neighborhood of 1.5 million.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay, so 1.5 million. And then we put an additional 200,000 here, an additional 200,000 -- so we're already, you know, in that \$2 million range. What does a \$2 million house typically rent for? If we're going to rent it enough to support a mortgage on a \$2 million house, I'm going to take a moment and do that calculation, what are we getting, 60,000?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Getting \$5,000 a month plus they're paying the utilities. So it's \$60,000 a year plus utilities so it's somewhere in the neighborhood of probably 66,000.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So if I own that house or somebody else owned that house, 2 million plus the land tax that they would be paying every year, the property tax, could they rent it for 60,000 and make that mortgage? My guess is no, they probably couldn't. So I'm going to have to think about whether it's actually a good investment. But certainly from the Vanderbilt's perspective where they didn't have to pay to purchase the house and they don't have to pay for the capital costs and it produces \$60,000 a year, it's certainly a good investment.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Well, what we did is we used a realtor to advise us on the rental market. So at the time that

5/7/2014 Parks & Rec Committee meeting

this -- and this is a license agreement so it's not a rental agreement. A license agreement they don't have exclusive rights to the property. We have rights to that property.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Does the public have access to it? Not really?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Not in any meaningful way. So what if the County sold the building?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Well, that's an option. And that's been discussed. And there's probably about \$700,000 worth of bonds. But that's an option.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Right. Because I just don't see the public benefit to it, but it is a good funding vehicle for the Museum.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Which translates to a public benefit because that does help us with our Operating Budget.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

But not if -- I mean it's basically 66,000 to you guys. But if the capital costs are so high to the County, it might be cheaper for us just give you guys \$60,000 a year than to keep funding this house that the public gets no access to. It's worth exploring. Anybody else want to weigh in on this? Legislator Cilmi, you're a financial guy.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Well, to be fair, I had a little heads-up because the same presentation was made before the Budget and Finance Committee yesterday. And I sat in on that Committee. And one of the things that I -- one of the points that I raised was that many of us here on the Legislature were not here when the original legislation authorizing this appropriation passed in 2008. Is this different? Oh, this isn't the boathouse. Oh, my apologies.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

That is the boathouse up there.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We're not talking about the boathouse.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

There's a building -- a residential facility across the street from the Vanderbilt that we bought that they rent.

**LEG. CILMI:**

There was a reason I was confused. I'm hearing you say that it's going to generate some money. And yesterday you said it's not going to generate any money. Where am I?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You may have missed some of this conversation. So they rent it for about \$60,000 a year, 5,000 a

5/7/2014 Parks & Rec Committee meeting

month, house across the street. So it's not open to the public. They see \$60,000 a year in revenue from it. We own it. We're being asked to fix the roof for 200,000. I was asking about what we paid for it. It's not on the tax rolls so we don't see that revenue. And the County, our costs are somewhere -- they appear to be in the neighborhood of -- Legislator Lindsay, about \$100,000 a year just in debt service?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

If you just calculated a 30-year mortgage, \$2 million at an annual interest rate of 5%, it works out to about \$10,000 a month on the mortgage payments. So about \$120,000 a year.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Right. So it's costing the County -- they're getting 60,000. It's costing us over 100,000 to do this. It would have been probably better financially to sell the house and just give them the \$60,000. That's my point.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay, so let me then --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We'd lose \$40,000.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Actually my question -- the question I was going to ask really still applies, even though the foundation I was laying was the wrong foundation. When Suffolk County got this property from the Vanderbilts --

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Normandy Manor was purchased by the County ten years ago. It was a private home. The Legislature voted to buy this piece of property for about 1.4 million. So this is separate. It was at one time part of the estate, but when we inherited the estate --

**LEG. CILMI:**

This was not part of it.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

This was not part of it.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. Well, that really answers my question. All right. Thanks, Lance.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So they're looking for 200,000 in capital to fix the slate roof is basically what the bill that will be before us later. And I guess we'll debate the bill. All right. Thank you, Lance.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Okay. Do you want me to speak of -- anything about the boathouse?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You know what, not at the moment. There's no bill in front of us so -- on the boathouse. You know what? Go ahead.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

I'll be brief.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Actually, you know, Lance, I have one more yellow card that came in. Let me take the yellow card and then we'll bring you up. Mr. Barbato. Steve Barbato. This is on the bow hunter bill. Mr. Barbato, just identify yourself for our records and then you have three minutes to make your comments known.

**MR. BARBATO:**

My name is Steve Barbato. And I'm here in opposition of resolution 1379-41 (sic). I'm a lifelong resident of Suffolk County. I'm a Suffolk County taxpayer for 24 years. I'm an avid bow hunter. I've been bow hunting in Suffolk County since 1987. I'm in complete opposition permitting nonresident archers in utilizing Suffolk County parkland to hunt.

And these are the reasons why: There is limited access contrary to the lobbying efforts by the talking points, there's enough competition from the same -- from other Suffolk County residents to obtain a parking spot to hunt. As you know, there are 20 Suffolk County Parks that have a total of 27 -- sorry -- had a total of 70 parking spots, some allowing one car; others allowing two. Also not all parks are open for the start of the bow hunting season, which has been traditionally October 1st. Six out of the 20 parks have a start date of November 1st and November 15th, thus limiting the access even further.

Now, if you deduct these 20 parkings spaces from the total overall 70 parking spaces, again, you're only left with 50 for the month of October, again, reducing the limited access even further. Most hunters would prefer hunting the early season because of the mild weather and that the deer have not been pressured as much.

In my opinion if Nassau County residents want to hunt in Suffolk County, there is more than enough opportunities available. The New York DEC has total of 13 properties that include 21,233 huntable acres which allows 340 hunters per day. I have the map if you'd like to look at that. You can go on the website as well. The best part of this unlimited hunting access from the State is that it's free.

Some other issues that I'd like to address is, I guess, the overall deer problem. The deer problem, in my opinion, is not an open land problem. It is, however, a residential problem and it's a Suffolk County problem. It is our problem and our problem only. We can fix it if our elected officials in this great County allow us to -- by working with us. We do not need any other entities to disrupt it.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That's three minutes, but you're going to get more time anyway because several of us have questions for you, so.

**MR. BARBATO:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And I appreciate you coming here today. I also appreciate you reaching out to me by phone. We've had several conversations. When I initially came up with this bill, it was -- I had gotten an e-mail. I think most of the Legislators had, from a Nassau bow hunter. And I spoke with that individual because the idea kind of seemed with the high deer population maybe on a limited scale during this event -- but I said to that individual "unless the Suffolk County bow hunting community supports this, it's not going anywhere." When we talked on the phone, you were going to reach out to some of the other bow hunters in Suffolk County --

**MR. BARBATO:**

Correct.

5/7/2014 Parks & Rec Committee meeting

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

-- get a sense of where they stood. Have you done that?

**MR. BARBATO:**

Yes, I have. And I had some of them contact you. I believe you spoke to --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yes.

**MR. BARBATO:**

-- three or four others?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Well, that's how they got my cell number, huh? That's okay.

**MR. BARBATO:**

I deleted it. Don't worry about it. However, I mean it was such a short response and a short turnaround time. I mean we weren't really aware of this problem.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

But that's okay. Would you say the general sentiment among the Suffolk County bow hunting community is to not allow even a small window of opportunity to other outside Suffolk residents?

**MR. BARBATO:**

There's too much competition as it is now just within the Suffolk County residents. You know, to add more to that mix, I think, would be, you know --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So there's a parking consideration. You're saying there's not enough parking.

**MR. BARBATO:**

Yes, there's -- there's 20 parks. There's 70 spots. I do have the maps. You can look at the maps. I don't know if you're familiar with the maps. And you can see for yourself how many available parking spaces there are on each park. And there's not many. There's usually one or two to each park.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

But other bow hunters have expressed the same concerns that you're expressing.

**MR. BARBATO:**

Without a doubt.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay.

**MR. BARBATO:**

And I wish I had more time to put it together.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

No, that's okay.

**MR. BARBATO:**

To really show you the outreach.

5/7/2014 Parks & Rec Committee meeting

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

No, that's -- I'm already -- I already got quite a number of calls and e-mails. So that's my sense, too, is that Suffolk bow hunters are not in favor of it. And I won't -- I'll probably withdraw the bill if that's the case.

**MR. BARBATO:**

We would like you to do that if you could possibly.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I've received a number of phone calls and e-mails from Nassau County residents as well.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Nassau? Suffolk?

**LEG. CILMI:**

What's that?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

From Nassau?

**LEG. CILMI:**

From Nassau and Suffolk for that matter. And it occurs to me, you know, in our role here as Suffolk County Legislators, we obviously represent the residents of Suffolk County.

**MR. BARBATO:**

Appreciate that.

**LEG. CILMI:**

But that being said, I'm certainly sensitive to the deer population issues and the hazards that are caused by that as they are germane to my District as well, maybe not to such an extent as they are out there. But, nevertheless, I find your arguments compelling. And I would just ask you to describe some of your experiences as they relate to your hunting --

**MR. BARBATO:**

Sure.

**LEG. CILMI:**

-- here in Suffolk County at our parks in terms of parking issues. And I know some who play golf, and I'm not really a golfer but I've heard that, you know, if you want to play golf at some of the golf courses around the area, you may have to show up at, you know, two, three in the morning to get on line. Are we experiencing that sort of thing --

**MR. BARBATO:**

Without a doubt.

**LEG. CILMI:**

-- at all here in Suffolk?

**MR. BARBATO:**

Yeah, without a doubt. Usually my day starts when I go hunting around three o'clock in the morning.

5/7/2014 Parks & Rec Committee meeting

**LEG. CILMI:**

Is that to line up to get into the park or --

**MR. BARBATO:**

No, that's to leave my house -- I mean leave the house. There's no really -- an official entrance to go into the park. There's just designated parking areas.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right.

**MR. BARBATO:**

So if you go to that parking area and there's somebody already parked there, you have to leave. Okay. So there's two hunters allowed to each parking spot. Okay. So if there's somebody already there, you must leave. And that happens quite often believe it or not, Legislator --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Cilmi. So you said there are 2 hunters per parking spot?

**MR. BARBATO:**

Correct.

**LEG. CILMI:**

If you had three people in your car, that's not allowed?

**MR. BARBATO:**

No, not allowed.

**LEG. CILMI:**

How do you -- once you get to that spot and you park, who controls how many people are getting out of the car?

**MR. BARBATO:**

There's usually a sign. Nobody really controls it unless a Park Police comes back and enforces it.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So a Park Police Officer would have to come by or, I guess, possibly soon a Park Ranger would come by.

**MR. BARBATO:**

Park Ranger, yeah, any Park official would have to come by and enforce that. But some spots, like I said, do have two parking spaces. You're allowed two hunters in each spot. But like I said --

**LEG. CILMI:**

So how many -- where you're going to hunt, there's designated parking.

**MR. BARBATO:**

Correct.

**LEG. CILMI:**

How many different hunting areas are there in -- and, forgive me, I'm not a hunter so I --

**MR. BARBATO:**

Okay. There's 70. There's 70 --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Seventy different locations?

**MR. BARBATO:**

On 20 pieces of parkland.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. And within a reasonable proximity to the land that you're hunting on, talk to me about the parking facilities that are there. Have you been to all 70?

**MR. BARBATO:**

Parking spaces?

**LEG. CILMI:**

No, all 70 --

**MR. BARBATO:**

Parks? I've been to most of the -- the 20 parks, I have hunted in.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right. Okay.

**MR. BARBATO:**

You just really drive there and there's designated spots. You have to know where they're located.

**LEG. CILMI:**

But there are very few designated spots. That's, I guess, the point I'm trying to get at.

**MR. BARBATO:**

That's correct. That's correct.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And do they fill up?

**MR. BARBATO:**

And they're spread out pretty far apart. They're spread out. So if a parking space is already taken, then you must go to another park. And hopefully, you know, one of their spots isn't taken, so.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Does that happen often?

**MR. BARBATO:**

Often. It does happen often, yes, it does. Especially the beginning of the year during the rut, it happens quite often. And, again, there's just a lot of competition from other Suffolk County residents. I don't have a problem with that. That's the way the game's kind of played. But to add, you know, another 100 bow hunters to that, I think, is going to be -- it's going to be terrible, horrible.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. I guess the other questions I have would be put to our Commissioner. So thank you very much for answering my questions.

**MR. BARBATO:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Anyone else? Any other questions? All right, thank you, Steve.

**MR. BARBATO:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay, so that is all of the yellow cards I have. Is there anyone who did not fill out a yellow card who wanted to be heard? Seeing none, all right, let's go to the agenda. Oh, I'm sorry, I did say that Lance would have an opportunity to talk about the boathouse. Sorry, Commissioner.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Okay, I'll be very brief today. Jay was lucky enough to hear my presentation, and Legislator Cilmi, yesterday. This is an unusual situation. The County Executive is coming across with a bond resolution to appropriate \$475,000 for the boathouse to finish stabilization work that's started -- actually that was stopped in 2008. It's very unusual. The Committee -- Budget and Finance Committee yesterday brought up some very valid concerns and questions. And I actually apologize for not having answers to those questions.

I spoke to Public Works. The questions that were concerns were, first of all, 2008 estimate of 475,000, from my conversations with Public Works over the past several months concerning this building, that was a very tight estimate to begin with. The scope of work was also questioned. What is the scope of work that's going to be done? The temporary structures that are there that are holding up the roof and the porch are just that, they're temporary. So what is the work that has to be done in order to stabilize that building?

The third question that was brought up by Budget and Finance was, do you need permits? And generally on the waterfront you need DEC or environmental permits. My recollection is that the permits that we had for the waterfront to do work on the waterfront had expired. I had a brief conversation with the Commissioner of Public Works yesterday; a brief conversation with Jim Ingenito from Public Works, the County architect concerning this project. It's possible that some of the work can be done without DEC permits. It's also possible that because these temporary stanchions are already there, that to get the permits is not a difficult situation.

If they spend some of these appropriations, that resets that five-year clock. But these are issues that were raised yesterday. And these are issues that Public Works is going to research. I think for the purpose of this Committee and where we are today, the consensus is, between Public Works, myself and probably the County Executive is -- and the Legislature, let's not rush into this resolution. Let's not consider this Tuesday and be forced to make a decision yes or no.

What we would like, and I say we, I'm speaking from -- I should say myself, but I think from my conversation with Public Works today they'd be in agreement, to have this go through the Committee system, vet out the questions, let's see where we are. Legislator Cilmi raised concerns, you know, and I looked at the vote sheet, there's a vast number of different Legislators here than were here in 2008. If it is the desire of the Legislature to pass this bond resolution, there is a higher threshold. So by having 12 votes, you have a second bite at the apple and you're putting your seal of approval on it if you adopt it. Or if you reject it, you're saying we disagree with actions that were taken in 2008. And that's fine. This is a new Legislature.

In my long experience with the Legislature, this is highly unusual to have a bond resolution 5 years after the resolution -- appropriating resolution. So I understand the caution. And I certainly agree with you, that's the proper way to go.

So you have a copy of the PowerPoint, which shows the temporary stanchions. It shows the back of the boathouse as it looks today. And you also have a historic picture that shows the supports that are holding up this concrete patio on the sides, which, as the roof is structured, that weight goes down onto those stanchions.

5/7/2014 Parks & Rec Committee meeting

So I think that's where we're going Tuesday is to, let's send this back to Committee. Let's look at this and take our time and come to whatever decision it is, that it's the correct decision. It's not rushed. I'll be glad to entertain any questions.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**  
Any questions? Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**  
I just want to offer my appreciation to you, Lance, for that. I know you have a special day coming up. And for those of my colleagues who were not at Budget and Finance yesterday, you're getting married, congratulations and you will be away on --

**MR. REINHEIMER:**  
I'll be away on Tuesday.

**LEG. CILMI:**  
On Tuesday for our meeting. So I appreciate the opportunity for all of my colleagues to look into this in as much as, as you stated, as I stated yesterday, many of us were not here during the original vote. In fact 80% of this Committee was not here during the initial vote for this. So while I think it's -- it would be best to somehow come forward with a whole new resolution, I did understand your point that if, you know, we have an opportunity, especially if we go through committee, to fully vet, you know, the importance of this and we can take it from there. So thanks.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**  
Anyone else? Thank you, Lance. And I actually did get one yellow card more came in, in the interim, Jim Barr, if you want to come up. Jim, you have three minutes.

**MR. BARR:**  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. I just -- the resolution 1380 before you regarding Long Island Abate trying to enter into an agreement with Suffolk County Parks to utilize the property, I would just like to take my three minutes to just let the Committee know about Long Island Abate a little bit in case you don't already.

Long Island Abate -- ABATE stands for American Bikers for Awareness, Training and Education. We're a 501 (c) 3, not-for-profit organization. We are not a motorcycle club in any sense of the word. We are an umbrella organization like the AMA, American Motorcycle Association. It's an umbrella organization to look out to improve conditions for motorcyclists on the highways. Our purpose is to make the roads safer and to educate the motorists out there, that motorcycles are on the roads, to try to get them to look for us.

We put motorcycle awareness signs up on the highways. We partner with the Department of Motor Vehicle. We disseminate literature that comes from the Department of Motor Vehicle up in Albany. It educates motorcyclists what they should be doing on the roads. It educates motorists to look for motorcycles. It's stickers, bumper stickers, stuff like that. We also -- we go into local high schools and we put on presentations before the Driver Education classes. We try to reach the teenagers before they actually go and get their licenses to teach them to be looking for motorcycles. We've been in six high schools in Suffolk County so far and BOCES also.

We're a completely voluntary organization. There are no paid employees or members of ABATE whatsoever. Everything we do is for charity. We are -- we like to get involved in situations where the -- like Greenport, for instance, Mayor Kapell was having issues about motorcycles going down to Greenport on Sundays. Some people were complaining about the noise. Long Island ABATE went out there. We met with the community. We went back and we tried to police the motorcycle community to behave respectfully and responsibly on the roads. We came out with a slogan called Ride Proud/Not Loud. And we continuously police the motorcycle community to ask them to be

respectful in a Town. And it had a tremendous effect.

We did the same thing when -- there's a couple of bars in Patchogue, were complaining that -- the residents were complaining about motorcyclists leaving late at night too loudly. We went down. We stationed ourselves there. We policed the motorcyclists themselves, asked them to please -- a lot of people when they leave at night they don't understand the echo effect of their mufflers. When you bring it to their attention, they often --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Mr. Barr, that's all your time but there may be some questions, which there are. I have some myself. I'll start with Legislator Hahn.

**LEG. HAHN:**

I just want to know if you've been to Port Jeff yet? Because we've been getting a lot of complaints.

**MR. BARR:**

Yes, that's on my list here.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay.

**MR. BARR:**

Long Island ABATE is an official member of the Port Jeff Parking Committee. The Mayor and the Village Trustees brought to our attention that it would be nice -- they felt it would be nice if the motorcycles would congregate in one particular area rather than taking up the limited spots that are on Main Street.

So Long Island ABATE approached Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine. And we came to an agreement. Long Island ABATE is going to lease 50 motorcycle spots in the Town of Brookhaven parking lot. And in exchange -- we're going to give -- pay \$2500 dollars for the use of those 50 spots. And in exchange all motorcyclists will be encouraged to go into that lot over by the Ferry and park along that guardrail there, which -- at no cost. So we'll pay the annual fee; this way the motorcyclists don't have to pay the \$8 fee from out-of-towners and stuff like that. And what that will do, it'll encourage the motorcyclists to go down there which will in turn free up the parking spots in Port Jefferson. And that's a prime example of what we try to do to make the motorcyclists' community work in conjunction with all other members of society.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yes, I've noticed the increase in the parking lot. And I think that's a good idea. But I was really speaking to the noise complaints. The noise complaints you've described from the East End and from Patchogue are the same complaints that we get in Port Jefferson. So if you can ever do some noise -- I was going to say abatement, noise reduction initiative in Port Jefferson, that would be much appreciated as well. Thank you.

**MR. BARR:**

Yes, we do plan to. And once we get established this season in May down there, we're going to put up a couple of signs. And we're going to personally go down there and speak with all the motorcyclists. And, of course, there's going to be the couple that we can't reach. But when we do meet with them individually, it does seem to have a very good effect.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Specifically in order to get to Port Jeff they often pass through residential communities early in the morning where there are stop signs. And in case I don't get to see you more on this issue, or although maybe we should talk separately offline, you know, there's some stop signs where they stop and then they rev up as they leave from the stop signs. And that's been an ongoing complaint

5/7/2014 Parks & Rec Committee meeting

that comes up at my community meetings over the years. So I would very much appreciate you, you know, following through on those talks. Thank you.

**MR. BARR:**

We'd love to. And we'd be happy to sit with anybody at any time to discuss these issues. Thank you.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you so much.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay, Jim thanks for coming out. And thank you for your work with ABATE as well as with the County Parks Department. It's good to see you.

**MR. BARR:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Tell me a little bit about how ABATE plans to use this facility. There's three buildings out there at the park? It's not just one. Right? So we bought the Beagle Club. There's a couple of buildings that are left over.

**MR. BARR:**

Correct. There is one thing -- a structure that I would consider a house that is -- was utilized as a meeting room. There's very few interior walls.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You describe it as a house? It's a bed/bathroom kind of situation? Plumbing and --

**MR. BARR:**

No, structure-wise it's a house.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Right. But if I walked in, what would be there right now?

**MR. BARR:**

It's a meeting program. The one main room --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is there a kitchen there?

**MR. BARR:**

-- 30 feet -- yes, a commercial kitchen.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is there a bedroom in it? Just one big room.

**MR. BARR:**

Two things could be considered bedrooms, yes. We've used them as offices, but, yes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So it's two bedrooms, bathroom.

**MR. BARR:**

A mens and a ladies commercial bathrooms. Four urinals, two toilets, shower and a --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And a kitchen. Okay, that's one of the buildings. So it's basically a house.

**MR. BARR:**

Correct.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. What's with the other two buildings?

**MR. BARR:**

Two barns. They're 30 feet by 70 feet. They're post and beam construction with aluminum or galvanized steel siding around them with a couple of overhead doors. One was strictly a kennel, which on the exterior of it, it has chain link fences, six-foot high every six feet, which would allow the dog to go in on the outside of the building and locked in. And then it has a small hatch to allow the dog to go into the barn, which would then be contained inside of a plywood wooden box so the dog can come in out of the weather but still be contained in its kennel. That was the one.

The other one was -- is a barn, exact same size, and it had two horse stalls in it. And the rest was used as a workshop for the Beagle Club owners.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And then there's a bunch of property. And the property is like what -- well, it's a lot of acres. How many acres?

**MR. BARR:**

Total's 150 acres. And the two acres are cleared around the three buildings separately fenced.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right, two acres are cleared. So tell me how ABATE is planning on using the facility and the buildings.

**MR. BARR:**

Okay. If anybody's interested, I do have copies of an exact proposal of all the things that we would like to do. Would you like this?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Just read into the record a couple of the things you plan on doing there.

**MR. BARR:**

Okay. For example, the things that we would like to do on the property would be to hold meetings there on Tuesday evenings. There's monthly membership meetings; provide occasional safety classes to motorcyclists; provide driver education classes to the public; provide an on-site presence to deter vandalism; contract with a motorcycle school to provide rider classroom training; and hold small fundraisers on the property, which would be 100% reinvested back into the facilities.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. You know, I like ABATE. I greet you guys, when I can, when you come out to Montauk because you do a lot of fundraising for our veterans. My former colleague, Jack Eddington, I think is a member of ABATE.

**MR. BARR:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Right. My one concern, I just need to have this kind of clarified a little bit. You know, I know a lot

## 5/7/2014 Parks & Rec Committee meeting

of bike riders go out to Greenport as you mentioned. This is on the way. It is somewhat of a residential area. You know, is this going to be kind of a hangout for bikers? Or is it going to be legitimately a place where just on occasion, you know, you hold a fundraising event? I mean, are we going to see like a constant stream of motorcycles on this street? Or is this going to be better managed?

### **MR. BARR:**

Well, there will be motorcyclists coming and going. Most of our volunteers do ride motorcycles. So when we're entering the property and leaving, we are going to be on our motorcycles. We would like to open up Saturday, Sunday, say any motorcyclists in the neighborhood or any resident in the neighborhood -- not neighborhood, but in the area, please stop in, have free coffee and rolls, learn about Long Island ABATE, learn about the things that we do, the charitable events we do, the representation we do for the motorcycle community. But it would be no more than if it were a deli in the neighborhood, which would just be an occasional person passing by and stopping in type of a thing.

One thing we are going to strictly do is police our own as they're leaving the facility. There's going to be a large sign on the property at the exit that every motorcyclist is going to see, a very large reminder that we are in a residential neighborhood. And it is incumbent upon every motorcyclist to be respectful of the neighborhood, to make sure that they do not leave revving their engines. And if we find any motorcyclists are being abusive as they leave, we will take actions as an organization against their memberships.

### **CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Right. And probably the biggest incentive you have is the way we'll probably structure the contract if this goes through. So if -- if it is causing problems and they're not, you know, following the rules, ABATE's going to lose the right to use the property; simple as that. So if you want to hold onto it, you're going to have to make sure you're good neighbors.

### **MR. BARR:**

Completely understood.

### **CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Thank you.

### **MR. BARR:**

The -- and I said, the first part I mentioned was specifically what Long Island ABATE wants to do for ourselves on it. But just so you know, we'd like to open up the property to all. We're not looking for exclusive use for the property. We are -- we are going to help the County Parks Department open this up to the entire community. And we want to encourage different things to take place on the property. We want to have, like, open picnics, for the neighborhood that they can come in, perhaps a nighttime drive-in movie thing, which would be based toward the neighborhood people to be coming in. It is not going to be strictly for motorcyclists' use. It's -- we want to invite the Farm Committee, if they want to come in and have an auction, you know, for their farm produce, stuff like that.

I was talking with somebody last night. He agreed to be a free design consultant that perhaps we can get a community garden started on the property, where perhaps that the food that's produced there could be used for charitable purposes. It's not at all going to be exclusive for ABATE. The whole property is going to -- I had conversations with Tom Ronayne. We would like to perhaps set up free counseling for veterans, perhaps PTSD counseling; or any services that could be of need to any charitable or any not-for-profit or recipients. In other words, we're not looking to charge people money to do things. But any good-nature type of events that could be done for children, veterans, poverty, whatever, we would like to utilize the property to push those issues forward.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And it all sounds good, but also just make sure -- I don't know what funding source was used to purchase it, but there may be some limitations as to what you can do on that property, because of that, if it's Quarter Penny, there's certainly a host of restrictions, so.

**MR. BARR:**

Yes, it was Drinking Water Protection Funds. And not do any improvements on the 148 acres.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Right. And even the types of, you know, whether you can do the drive-in movie thing, it's probably fine, but you just want to check it.

**MR. BARR:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. And then the house, I mean would you agree to a restriction on not using it for overnight lodging? Because I don't want it to be -- end up being somebody's house there paid for by the County.

**MR. BARR:**

Absolutely. We would agree to a nighttime curfew.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Nighttime, that's not a bad idea.

**MR. BARR:**

The one thing I do promise you is that we will be good residents; good partner --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Partner.

**MR. BARR:**

-- with Suffolk County Parks to the community that's there. That's a promise.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I appreciate that. All right. Anybody else? Tom? Nobody? All right. Thank you, Mr. Barr.

**MR. BARR:**

Thank you for the time.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. Now to the agenda.

**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

Starting with Table Resolutions. Commissioner, welcome. **1002 of '14, Authorizing an agreement to revitalize Cedar Island Lighthouse (Schneiderman).** I will make a motion to table; second by Legislator Lindsay. And, Commissioner, there's nothing new on this, right? Has Mr. Leahy gotten back to you in any way?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yes, he's actually sent us both an e-mail. I'll forward it afterwards. He wants to go with the option of just amending the current contract as we had discussed. But I think the resolution needs to be rewritten because the resolution calls for us to enter into an agreement with the Friends of the Cedar

Island Lighthouse. And the group is actually the -- US Lighthouse Historical Society. So we could have a discussion about it.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Well, I need to amend it either way.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Offline.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. Will you coordinate with George in terms of what changes need to be made to the current bill?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Sure.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. So I'll -- there's a motion to table and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**Tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. McCAFFREY ABSENT)**

**1094, To waive fee for use of the County Showmobile for the Amagansett Fire**

**Department's parade (Schneiderman)** A motion to table by Legislator Hahn; second by Legislator Lindsay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Opposed? Resolution's tabled.

**(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. McCAFFREY ABSENT)**

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

**IR 1322, Designating a "Discover Suffolk County Parks Day" on June 21, 2014. (Schneiderman)** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second by Legislator Hahn. On the motion, Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Just to the sponsor, Chairman, what's the significance of June 21st? Didn't we just have a designated -- like some sort of a Parks Day in New York State a couple of weeks ago or a week ago?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

There is great significance to June 21st. It's the day that the Parks Department said would work, so. I didn't make up the date. They came up with the date. They felt, you know, it's kind of right, schools are just letting out. It's kind of the beginning of summer. And, you know, last year we tried this. Unfortunately we got rained out. This year it includes a rain date. And we're just kind of trying to test the idea. There was a -- we did something like this with the golf fees for veterans where we reduced the fee. And we actually ended making even more money by charging less. And we just made that permanent. That's kind of the whole peers, in the beginning of the Summer some people who may be unfamiliar with County Parks will actually, you know, discover them and become regular customers and maybe even buy Green Cards. So we're hoping that even on the day of, we see an equal or greater amount of money. But in the long-term, there's a positive impact to doing this. Commissioner?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Is there a question?

**LEG. CILMI:**

Am I -- did you hear of something recently where there was a New York -- some sort of New York State --

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

That's a green cleanup date. That's a volunteer day. I think that's what you're referring to.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. All right. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Commissioner, for this to work, we need to publicize this. People need to know.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

It is in the bill.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

It is in the bill. So can I just ask you, I mean have you thought about how you're going to make it known to the public?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We're going to work with -- we're going to work the website and with the County Executive's Office, they have the intergovernmental -- the Public Information Office, so.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. And, you know, I'll help you with it, too, maybe to try to make a formal announcement. Maybe we'll do a press conference at one of our wonderful parks, like Smith Point or Cupsogue.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yeah.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We have a lot of them. And we'll invite the whole Committee.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

All right.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Try to encourage people to use our parks. Because we have really one of the most extraordinary park systems in the country.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I tend to agree.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I hope so. All right. So all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Approved. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1.**

**LEG. McCAFFREY ABSENT)** Thank you, Commissioner, for working with me and my staff on this. All right. And, you know, Commissioner, as part of that bill, you're supposed to follow up at some point with us with a report.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We can do that.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Thank you. All right.

**1331, Authorizing the use of Smith Point County Park property by Mastic Beach Ambulance Company for "Help Us Save You Program". (Browning)** Motion by Legislator Lindsay; second by Legislator Cilmi. Commissioner, do you have any comment on this? Can I just ask a question just more for logistics. I think it's great. Clearly there's a lot of costs associated with this Ambulance Department and the park. They're there quite frequently. This would give them a chance to do some fundraising at the Park. Where, though -- I know they're putting their signs at the entry gates. Who's collecting the money? Is there somebody there with a bucket or --

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Volunteers from the Ambulance Corps actually sit at the tollgates and they collect that money.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

They're not in the booth with our guys, right?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, they're not in the booth. I think they're standing outside.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Our people aren't collecting the money, though.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, our people are not collecting money.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Because I would have some kind of cash custody concerns with that. So they're doing that?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Any other questions? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1331 is approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. McCAFFREY ABSENT)**

**1378, Appropriating funds in connection with waterproofing, roof and drainage at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum (CP 7439). (Spencer)** I'm going to make a motion to table. This is that -- it says it's the Museum, but this is that building across the street from the Museum. My calculations are indicating that the revenue that they're getting through rent is only about half of fair market revenue. And the School District and the County are losing out on property taxes. I think we ought -- you know, I'm not trying to take 60,000 away from the Museum, but it's costing us probably well over 100,000 just to give them the 60,000. It's just not efficient, so -- and taking tax money away from the School. So I think we need to explore whether -- before we go out and spend 200,000 on a slate roof for this building, if we shouldn't try to, you know, get rid of it. You know, not get rid of it, but sell it or transfer the asset in some way. So I'm going to make a motion to table.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second by Legislator Lindsay. Any other discussion on this? Can I encourage everybody to go out there and take a look at the building so we have sense of what we're talking about. It's a very nice

estate. And it's a beautiful building. Seems to me that a \$5,000 rent is well below fair market value, so. Okay. Well, any other motions? Any other discussions? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? I will reach out to Legislator Spencer since it's his bill on this. Okay, so tabled.

**LEG. HAHN:**  
I'm opposed.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**  
Okay, so I just want to recall that vote on 1378. All in favor? Opposed? Opposed to tabling is Legislator Hahn. Abstentions? Okay so it's still three to table. **(VOTE: 3-1-0-1. LEG. HAHN OPPOSED. LEG. McCAFFREY ABSENT)**

**1379, authorizing non-resident bow hunting permit on a pilot basis. (Schneiderman)**  
I'm actually going to withdraw this bill. There's -- no one from Nassau has come to defend it. And I've only heard negatives from Suffolk bow hunters. I don't wish to pursue it. **1379 is formally withdrawn.**

1380, Authorizing an agreement with --

**LEG. HAHN:**  
Period?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**  
I'm sorry, Legislator Hahn? You know, so on the bow hunting bill, I made it clear to those folks from Nassau that without the support of Suffolk bow hunters, I was not going to pursue it. So I'm not going to pursue it because I haven't heard any support from any Suffolk bow hunter. So there's support from Nassau bow hunters, but there's not enough.

So **1380, Authorizing an agreement with Long Island ABATE for the use and maintenance of the former Long Island Beagle Club property. (Krupski)** I'm going to support this. I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. HAHN:**  
Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**  
Second by Legislator Hahn.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**  
You know, I raised some concerns earlier about neighborhood issues. But the person who probably needs to be most concerned about this is the Sponsor, Legislator Krupski. And he's obviously backing this. So I have no issues with it. And I think some of the details will be in the contract that's worked out with the Parks Department. Commissioner, are you all right with this?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**  
Oh, absolutely. And I'd also like to point out that this did go before the Parks Trustees at their last meeting. They voted unanimously in favor of it. So I know that was a question of yours.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**  
Okay. Any other discussion? All right, hearing none, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's unanimously approved. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. McCAFFREY ABSENT)**

**1388, Authorizing beach fee waiver during extreme heat events. (Schneiderman)** The Administration wants to tweak this a bit. So let me just say a word and then I will make a motion to table. This would give the Administration the ability to waive park fees during heat emergencies.

5/7/2014 Parks & Rec Committee meeting

We need to tighten up what a heat emergency is. This is commonly done by governments as a public health and safety issue. With global warming, we're seeing more heat stroke and more of these spikes in temperature. The concern was the language that was developed may be too broad. There may be too many days where the discretion would be given to the County Executive. So I'm going to work with the Administration on it and with Counsel in coming up with a little bit of a higher threshold by which -- at which time the County Executive could waive this. So I'll make a motion to table; second by Legislator Cilmi. Commissioner, is there anything you wanted to add to that?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, I think you summed it up pretty well.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Commissioner, for the next Committee meeting, is there any way that you can give us what the revenue impact is by looking at past, you know, what the revenue was in the past on those hot days? I don't know if you can just randomly pick a couple of days in the third week of July when it's usually the hottest.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yeah, we'd have to -- I mean we can certainly give you revenue-based on any given day. We'd have to go back and backtrack to see which days were above 90 degrees and exceeded --

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I know it's -- you're predicting the weather which is a shot in the dark. But before -- as this bill moves forward, before we vote on it, I would want to know what the financial impact going to be to the County. Those usually are the busiest days at the beaches and I know we get a lot of revenue on those days. And given our financial situation, I don't think we should be, you know, be very hesitant to give up any revenue that we're currently getting.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'd like to just to add to that. This, really, bill is designed to -- purely for public safety; that there may be days where it's dangerous for people. I mean, the heat's you know -- the incidents of heat stroke is growing in this country. I think there was some 46,000 deaths last year. With global warming it's becoming more of a concern. The hope is -- yes, I certainly understand that if the County Executive uses this discretion, that, you know, he or she would be doing it to save lives potentially; that there are a number of people in this County who simply can't afford air conditioning. And, you know, a single mother with several kids might seize the moment to say, "you know what, let's go to the -- let's go to cool off at the ocean. They've waived the park fees." And that's the whole thing.

There's no question that there'll be a cost associated with it. But there's also a cost on the public health side. Just like with the recent initiative to raise the price of -- not the price, raise the age for cigarettes. Certainly there was a loss of sales tax, but in the long run there was some savings.

So that's just a decision we'll have to make. But I think once we get the language tightened up so it can't be abused, at least the County Executive will have that power. Right now they'd have to come back to the Legislature for us to waive the fees. And we know how long of a process that is, so. By the time you do that, the heat is over and we've already had, you know, the health consequences.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Legislator Schneiderman?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Oh, yeah.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Let's not also discount the cost -- the additional cost associated with public safety those days. Because if we're going to have additional people at those facilities, you would, I would think, want to have additional public safety people at those facilities, additional lifeguards at those facilities, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. So, you know, there may be a fiscal negative associated with as well. Or more than -- you know, over and above the negative of the loss of revenue from the fees.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Well, we should, you know, we should do our best to try to get a sense of what fiscal impacts may be. The one big unpredictable is A) how many of these are we going to potentially have where it meets the threshold; and B) will the County Executive use that discretion to do this. We do have cooling centers already. And I don't know if we add additional staff when we open up a cooling center but -- or police or whatever it might be, I have no idea. But this is kind of -- this is really -- I just want to see this during kind of emergency events. That's what it's about. And, you know, with any emergency, there are costs associated. One thing, Legislator Cilmi, if this truly is an emergency of, you know, statewide significance, there may be reimbursements for all of these costs. Legislator Hahn.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Do we know how many of these type of days that would qualify happened last summer over the last five summers? Is there a way to go back and track? Are we talking -- how does it get defined again?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Well, the current bill is too broad. What is it, George, heat advisory? What's the language?

**MR. NOLAN:**

It's when the National Weather Service has issued a heat advisory, excessive heat watch or excessive heat warning.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So, Legislator Hahn, we're going to --

**LEG. HAHN:**

So an advisory is what; a watch what; and a warning is what? Okay.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You know, I think because this bill is going to get revised --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

-- if we could answer that after we've kind of raised that threshold. Because some of the advisory might be off the bill by the next time.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yeah.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

The watch may be off the bill.

**LEG. HAHN:**

In the bill can you define what a national heat -- the things that are going to trigger it, if you could define it, what they are.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'll defer to Counsel.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Certainly we'll try to do that, yep.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you.

**MR. NOLAN:**

You bet.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

And as a side note, we've also reached out to the National Weather Service to get it for the last five years. They just haven't gotten back to us yet with the information on how many days fit into each of these three categories even though we might not be using these three categories.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Right. And, again, as a sponsor of the bill, it's really designed for these extreme events that are dangerous for humans that -- to give the Executive the ability to take decisive action to protect human health. That's what it's about. And clearly it's too broad so I'm going to clean it up and bring you a new one.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right? Thank you. Anyone else? Okay, so I made motion to table. Was there a second? There was a second. Okay, Legislator Lindsay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1388 is tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. McCAFFREY ABSENT)**

**1396, Appropriating funds in connection with improvements to Old Field Horse Farm (CP 7176). (Co. Exec)** Commissioner, you have some more detail on this?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We're requesting -- the money was put into the Capital Budget for 2014. We're looking to appropriate \$100,000 for improvements to the facilities. There's a number of structures on the site. It's currently used as a horse farm. I think some of the projects are working on a grandstand and some of the roofs on, you know, of the buildings. We're just looking for the appropriation.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Kara, this is your District, right?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And I hear this is a beautiful facility, but it's quite old and --

**LEG. HAHN:**

It's historic, yes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yes, it's historic, but probably very expensive to maintain, I guess. There's not a lot of money here.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We have a user group and it's very good.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yeah, there is, yeah. So now we have, what, several years' worth of these \$100,000, just authorizations, if I recall. I think we did \$100,000 each year for three years?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Correct, something like that. I would refer to BRO for the exact numbers.

**MR. DOERING:**

Give me a moment. I could look that up for you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Greg, this 100,000 is going toward, again, which building?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Improvements to the structures. I think the first one on the agenda is the grandstands out there. And there are a number of other structures. Again, the group that works out there has improved some of the stables or barns. I think they've done four out of the nine. So we work in conjunction with them.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is there an operator at this facility or do we do it ourselves or do we have a concessionaire?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We have an agreement in place and for other historic sites.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is there a concessionaire there or is there --

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

It's not a concessionaire. It's a --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Friends of the Old Field Farm or something like that.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Friends.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And it's a Sally Lynch --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Do they do --

**LEG. HAHN:**

It's not-for-profit.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

-- horseback rides or --

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

They don't -- no, I don't think they -- they actually do shows.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Shows.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

And they're limited because of some covenants or restrictions on the property, limited to the number of shows they can do, the number of people and whatnot. I can share with you at a different time but --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Sounds good.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

-- what the property's used for.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. Any other questions? All right. So there's a motion to approve by Legislator Hahn; second by Legislator Lindsay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Approved. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. McCAFFREY ABSENT**

**IR 1398, Appropriating funds in connection with improvements to Cupsogue County Park (CP 7080). (Co. Exec.)** And, again, Commissioner, if you can give us any more detail?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yeah, we're -- again, the money was -- the money was set aside in 2014 for the improvements. We're just looking for the appropriation. We're asking for \$175,000 to do work on things like the handicapped ramp up to the pavilion. As it stands right now it's not -- it's not in compliance. We'd like to bring it up to code. We'd like to move it to the side of the building where the handicap parking spots actually are and take it away from a -- where it is now it goes right up into the concession area. And there's always a big crowd over there. So, like I saw, we just want to use the money for improvements.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Do we have any questions? Okay, I'll make the motion to approve; second by Legislator Lindsay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Approved. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. McCAFFREY ABSENT)**

**Onto 1410, Authorizing use of Meschutt County Park by the Suffolk Bicycle Riders Association for its Bicycle Rally Fundraiser. (Co. Exec.)** Commissioner, they've done this before at Meschutt or is this the first?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I don't have the application, I'm sorry, I can't answer that.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

No, that's all right.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I mean we do a number of -- a number of events out there, walks and runs. I don't know off the top of my head if this is an existing event or not.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is this a group that had trouble getting the permit to cross through Southampton, do we know, by

bicycle?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Sorry, I don't.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I don't know either. All right. But it's typical of -- we've often approved these types of things?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Pretty typical event, yeah.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I make a motion to approve; second by Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Approved. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. McCAFFREY ABSENT)**

**1412, Accepting the donation of one (1) "Land Rover" Sport-Utility vehicle for use -- who's getting this one -- for use in the Suffolk County Parks Department's Piping Plover Monitoring Program. (Co. Exec.)** That's very nice. Land Rover is donating a sport utility vehicle for the Plovers. Not for the Plovers to use but for monitoring Plovers.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Actually they donated one in the past. And it's exceeded its life expectancy.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So, just tell us how you use it? Because obviously there's concern that, you know, you don't want to see these Plover eggs get damaged in any way by vehicles, so.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Well, we do hire a number of Plover stewards per the Federal regulations at -- I think it's almost 16 sites throughout the County. And these Plover stewards use these vehicles to go out and monitor the facility. Some sites need to be checked on up to three times a week and do the reporting. It's also used by the Environmental Unit during other times during the year for environmental purposes checking trails and whatnot.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And then this Land Rover at night ends up where?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

It's parked at a park facility. I think it might be out at Sears Bellows.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

But it's not going home with --

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, it's not going home with anybody.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. Legislator Hahn.

**LEG. HAHN:**

I think you know what I'm going to ask.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I don't.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Is this given to us as part of the agreement with Land Rover when they use the property on Sheep Pasture Road?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yes. The Old Sand Mine? Yes, it is, the same group.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So -- I understand it's the same group.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

A-huh.

**LEG. HAHN:**

But is this part of the -- like do they give us this because we let them use the park for that? Like is there a contractual -- *in order for you to get this, we get to drive our vehicles in the sandpits.*

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I'm not sure if there's a contractual agreement, but they do run -- they have two events at that sandpit every year. But, you know, on the other side they do a number of cleanups out there. They do a number of cleanups out in Smith Point Park. It's, you know, it's a four-by-four user group.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Right. I have, you know, obviously ongoing concerns about the use of that land in that manner. I'm talking about the land in Setauket. And I think that we need to be allowing that land to recover from the damage that has been done to it prior to the County taking it due to tax default. And I have, you know, an issue if the giving of this is as a result of allowing them to use and further degrade that land. There were a lot of problems one year where it went over the New Greenway Trail. The usage went across the New Greenway Trail and some things that had been done there, I think, it does further degrade the property. I think we need to find a way to fence that property off. Obviously there's other ATV users that are utilizing it. It's not just these Land Rovers, but I don't think I can support this for that reason. I do support the Piping Plover Program, but I'm going to, maybe, abstain for that reason.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I will say that we did have that issue two years ago. And we met with the group. And Nick went out there actually prior to last year's event. And they have had two, possibly three events after that one that we had the issues with. And there's been no issues. I don't think your office received any calls. We certainly didn't receive any calls.

**LEG. HAHN:**

No, I think you're right about not having received calls. It doesn't mean that I support the further degradation of, you know -- just because this property is used occasionally by illegal ATV riders doesn't mean we should allow ongoing use in this manner. Because I think we should allow it to heal and find a way to encourage that property in its healing.

And I also, you know, maybe this Capital Budget will help us deal with this, but I also really feel we need to take responsibility for turning that property around. And if the community agreements that we have aren't able to do it, then, it should be our responsibility to do so. And so I don't want to support this for that reason so I will be abstaining. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Anyone else? All right, I'll call the vote on 1412. This is accepting the donation of the Land Rover for the Piping Plover Program, Monitoring Program. All in favor? Opposed? Oh, I'm sorry,

5/7/2014 Parks & Rec Committee meeting

no motion and a second. All right. Thank you, Madam Clerk. I'll make a motion to approve; second by Legislator Lindsay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Abstain.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

One abstention, three approvals; means the bill is approved. **(VOTE: 3-0-1-1. LEG. HAHN ABSTAINED. LEG. McCAFFREY ABSENT)**

That brings us to the end of our agenda. Commissioner, is there anything else you need to bring to our attention?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. Any other Committee members need to say anything? All right, we are adjourned. Thank you.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:39 PM  
{ }DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**