

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**of the**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at 12:30 p.m.

**Members Present:**

**Deputy Presiding Officer Jay Schneiderman - Chairman**

Legislator Kara Hahn - Vice-Chair

Legislator Tom Cilmi

Legislator Bill Lindsay III

Legislator Kevin McCaffrey

**Also in Attendance:**

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature

Christina DeLisi - Aide to Deputy Presiding Officer Schneiderman

Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory

Mike Cavanagh - Aide to Legislator Lindsay

Alyssa Turano - Aide to Legislator Hahn

Jason Richberg - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Benny Pernice - Budget Review Office

Greg Dawson - Commissioner/Suffolk County Department of Parks

Tom Vaughn - County Executive Assistant

Greg Dawson - Commissioner/Suffolk County Department of Parks

All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken & Transcribed By:**

Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer

(The meeting was called to order at 12:38 p.m.)

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. Good afternoon. I'd like to call this meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee to order this 22 day of July 2015. Please rise and join us for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator McCaffrey.

(Salutation)

You may be seated. Mr. Clerk, do we have any cards for the public portion? If you wish to be heard by the committee, you need to fill out a yellow card. I have one. Each speaker is allotted three minutes to make your comments known. The sole speaker is Beth Emmel, E-M-M-E-L. Beth, if you're in the audience, I ask you to come up to the podium. You'll need to push the button so the light comes on.

**MS. EMMEL:**

I have handouts, please.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And if you'll start by identifying yourself, and then you have three minutes. My name is Beth Emmel. I have an issue about my green key. Me and my husband's green key was suspended for three years on September 10, 2014, because we allegedly threatened and verbally abused park supervisors at Cedar Point. That's what they say. That did not happen. We've never had a problem in your parks in the 10 years that I have camped with my husband and my two children as a family.

July 5, 2014, we have had a seven-day trip planned. During that trip, I had to make a visit to the ER because I suffer from epilepsy, okay? A lot of things go on with my medications. We had extensive rain July 4, 2014. We couldn't pack up our 30-foot trailer and all the equipment that goes and with a family of four. At 12:30, Russell Shive, the supervisor, comes up on to the campground. My husband is packing. I'm taking a rest with my two children, and he makes a demand that we must remove the trailer immediately. Came off very, very onboxious and rude, actually scared my children, okay?

He came back at the site at 2:00. At this time, too, Mike LaBarbara, another supervisor, was also present. Mike LaBarbara saw my husband putting air in his tires to tow a 30-foot trailer and responded with the first thing, put his hands up, and said, "Now you're being spiteful." Well, you know what? It was very, very tense; I will be honest with you, but all we were doing was trying to pack up. They kept coming onto the site, delaying the whole packing process, causing a problem with a camping family that has, like I said, has never caused a problem before. They had words. My husband asked Mike LaBarbara to identify himself because he could not believe how we were being talked to as a family. Mike LaBarbara would not. He was not wearing an identification badge. He was not wearing a uniform badge. He would not identify himself. Then Mike LaBarbara said -- he said that there was another camper waiting, which we knew that was not true because we had called the West Sayville office because we wanted to extend our stay a couple days prior. We found out we couldn't. We realized that. That's why we were camping -- That's why we were packing up and finishing up our camping trip, okay?

Every time those supervisors came to the site, progress was being made. We were not barbecuing; we were not playing ball; we were not playing our game of Monopoly like we do as a family. These

men were harassing us. At that time, I said to Mr. LaBarbara, "Can I please have an accomodation. I have a disability. I have the disability green key. I have the disability reservation," which you all have that. He said to me in a very nasty voice --

(Buzzer sounds)

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That's three minutes. I'll allow you to finish your story, but if you could make it as brief --

**MS. EMMEL:**

I'll make it short. He looked at me and said, "What disability?" I had to stop again, my progress with packing up, and educate himself about how all disabilities are not visible. I am an advocate for the epilepsy foundation. I educate students in schools in Suffolk County. My request for an accomodation was ignored. The police were called. Officer Manlar (ph) thought this was ridiculous that he was called from Riverhead to East Hampton to -- for us. We weren't causing any problems. Russell Shive then told the officer to give our family a summons. It just got worse and worse and worse. We ended up -- he just said, You know what? You pay your \$25 late fee the next trip. That's what I did.

I have been trying to resolve this since that weekend. The first thing I did was I called after that weekend, I called Greg Dawson's office. I am amazed. I get spoken to nice when it's face-to-face. I don't have phone calls returned. I don't have e-mails returned. They say, Oh, you know what? I have to go to Frank Krotschinsky (ph) for support, he tells me. Oh, well, we really work for the -- we really advocate for Suffolk County. We don't do it for the people. I've gone to the Epilepsy Foundation. I just don't know where else to go. We had a meeting almost a year later because I would not give up, would not give up, okay?

It was taken away, but I need that green key to make a reservation. As a person with a disability who has epilepsy, I cannot swim. I cannot kayak. I cannot hike in the woods without another adult present. Everything has to be planned, okay? That's what these kids deal with. The last time I swam without an adult, my son went -- he was an infant, and he went to the bottom of the pool. I have had numerous accidents, brain surgery, the whole bit. I don't look disabled. I am disabled, and I have the paperwork for it.

Now, what I'm asking is if somebody can please review what is going on in this parks system, there's also been many complaints and written complaints, phone calls about Russell Shive and his personality. Greg Dawson says, It's just his personality, it's just his personality. I don't think I should be treated that way, talked to that way. I don't think my children should be talked to that way. No one. If they want respect, they need to talk to people with respect, okay?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay.

**MS. EMMEL:**

And you have documents, you have letters from Ms. Hahn, who has also supported me.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you, Ms. Emmel.

**MS. EMMEL:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is there anyone else who wishes to be heard on this? Okay. Or any other matter? Okay. So I'm going to make a motion to close public portion.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second by Legislator Lindsay. All right. We are done with public portion. We don't have any presentations. Why don't we go, before we start, to the commissioner on anything general. If you wanted to respond or not to -- I'm not sure that the committee as a whole knows the procedure for revoking a green card. I know it's been done in the past. It's typically at your discretion. And if you want to speak to that at all or if you feel like it's an executive session kind of thing, that's understandable too.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yeah, I think we're probably better off discussing this in executive session.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I mean, there are two sides to every story, and I can certainly supply you with the meetings that took place, the discussions that took place.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Could we, just speaking more broadly, if somebody needs an accommodation because of a physical or other disability, is it procedure that they would contact the park and make an arrangement so that they would have more time to, say, set up, more time to pack up and leave?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yes, there's -- a reasonable accommodation can be made.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. And is that done by telephone or by writing?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

It can done either or. I mean, you can do it in person, they can do it -- they can call prior. But enough said; like I said, I'd be happy to --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And, then, so typically one camper -- somebody makes a reservation; they have a day that they're scheduled to leave at a particular time. What time is checkout?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Noon.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

At noon and the next camper typically arrives at 4:00.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

4:00.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'm sorry?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

4:00.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So there's a four-hour window of time. What does our Parks staff do in that interim? Clean the site?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

They go from site to site, do any cleaning that needs to be taken care of.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Question from Legislator Cilmi.

**MS. EMMEL:**

I had the green key. I had the handicapped status.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'm sorry, ma'am. We just had public portion, so now it's time for the legislature and our commissioner. Thank you.

**MS. EMMEL:**

Okay. I understand. Thank you.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. So recognizing that there are two sides to every story, Mrs. Emmel indicated that Legislator Hahn, who is here with us today, has been engaged with this, so I imagine you've spoken with her and she's spoken with the constituent, et cetera, et cetera. My question is going to be a more of a general question. One of the things that Mrs. Emmel said was that she was talking about one of the employees, Shy?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Russell Shive.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Russell Shide (ph). And apparently, and I'm asking you to confirm or deny this, Mr. Shide has somewhat of a gruff personality?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I wouldn't say "gruff." He's a by-the-book individual.

**LEG. CILMI:**

By-the-book individual, and does that come off when he's dealing with our constituents/his customers?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I guess that's --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Probably does.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

That's up for the customer to tell you.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So, you know, this is -- in this particular instance, this is really a customer service interaction, if you will, and the fact that we're government and not a business doesn't absolve us of a responsibility, in my view, to deal with people in a business-like fashion. I'm not saying that that didn't happen in this case. I don't really know, other than what Ms. Emmel said, what happened, but if we have employees in our departments that aren't treating people with the utmost of respect, whether they be long-time customers, short-time customers, whatever they are, that's a problem that needs to be addressed somehow. I don't know how, I don't pretend to know how, but that's a problem that needs to be addressed. Do you agree?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I agree, and in this particular instance, there was an area supervisor, and I know Ms. Emmel said they were not clearly identified, but they did have shirts that said "Suffolk County Parks" on it, and he did identify himself as an area supervisor so.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Did he identify himself by name, do you think?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

According to my investigation, he said, you know, "My name is Mike. I'm the area supervisor," but he did not give his last name.

**LEG. CILMI:**

There should be -- I would think there should be some requirement for any of our employees to be able to produce, you know, identification, you know, an actual piece of identification to a constituent, customer that asks for it.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I agree, but when two Parks supervisors approach a campsite -- a campground in a gate or with Parks shirts on --

**LEG. CILMI:**

I mean, clearly, they are employees of the -- and that may be totally obvious, but still they should be able to -- one of our constituents or a customer should -- deserves to be able to see that identification so that if they do wish to make a complaint in some way about that person, they're able to do so with adequate information to do so, you know?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Okay.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Listen, nobody likes receiving complaints, and certainly more often than not, it's the complaints that

we hear and not the compliments, and I know your department overall does a really great job of making our parks beautiful for our residents, and I'm sure your Parks employees overall do a really great job of dealing with our residents, and we probably don't hear that enough, and we always hear the complaints. But when there are complaints, you know, they should be addressed appropriately, and in order to do that, we need to know exactly who the complaint is about and what happened, so I'm not suggesting that our Parks employees wear body cameras, but at least we should have, at the very minimum, we should be able to identify ourselves to our customers and residents.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator Hahn, did you have something? Well, let me say something. First on the issue of our employees being easily identified, you know, with a name tag and position, some sort of uniform, I think that's a given. That really has to happen.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

In this instance, in my opinion, it did. They produced an identification card, uniform.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

If somebody's got to come over and say, Look, you've got to vacate the site, you want to know that that's a Parks employee with that authority. But, you know, being someone -- and I understand we want to have a very friendly cordial, professional relationship with all the park visitors -- I think that's important too -- but our campers are also committing to a contract, to come at a certain time and leave at a certain time, and we have committed that space to the next camper. And so -- and I don't know the exact details and we can go over this -- you know, 12:00 comes, they're still there, 1:00 comes, maybe they're still there. You know, 1:00 comes, you start -- particularly somebody who's in the hotel business, and I've got deposits and payment from the person coming in, you start to get nervous.

You have promised a product that you can't deliver because somebody else didn't keep their commitment, so at some point you've got to be a little stern. And I don't know if that's what happened in this case, maybe it did, but, Greg, we don't have a lot of tools at your disposal in terms of, you know, delivering a contract, basically, to the next camper. What do you do in a situation like that, and does that happen very often where a space is not vacated at the agreed-upon time?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

If the campers come in -- well, we charge the \$25 late fee. If they stay past 4:00, we charge an extra night's fee. Depending if somebody is coming in or not coming in, we would call the park rangers down.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

But if somebody is coming in, you can't have them stay. You have to have them leave. So what do you do in that situation?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Right. Well, you would call -- I mean, you suggest that they leave. You suggest that you're going to call the park rangers. The park rangers will come down, and --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

They have the ability --

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

They can't tow you out. The best they can do is issues summonses.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Has that happened?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

The same thing would happen --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is that what happened in this case? Was a summons issued?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No summons was issued. The green key, again, the green key was not suspended for their failure to leave the site; it was suspended for the --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Now what is the procedure? Let's say somebody disagrees. Is there a way to challenge that or, you know, even shorten the sentence? If it's a three-year revocation, can they come back after a year and say, you know, can I have this shortened on good behavior or can I get a second chance here?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

In this particular instance, they appealed to the county executive's office, and the county executive's office heard the complaint. There was allegations of ADA noncompliance, so Frank Krotzschinsky was brought in and had conversations with the folks, and then we actually had a meeting, all three of us, I'll say about a month ago or three weeks ago, because -- to hear any information that we might not have gathered in the year prior.

**MS. EMMEL:**

Mr. Krotzschinsky wanted to know how disabling it was.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is there any different resolution forthcoming or no?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, and I think that's why Mrs. Emmel is here today, because we -- I upheld the three-year suspension.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. And where are we; it's one year into it, right?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

One year.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Legislator Hahn, did you have -- you keep moving the mike closer. Do you have something to add to the conversation?

**LEG. HAHN:**

I had said that, you know, I had tussled with investigating whether or not we could have some kind

of hearing process or appeals process, and I didn't want to necessarily just make it just about Parks, but there may be other instances, other departments, where we have this customer-type relationship and where people are purchasing services in some manner that can be revoked by the commissioner or head of the department. You know, but it hasn't played out that way yet. You know, I just wanted to -- I wasn't quite sure -- I'm not really prepared to talk about this today. I don't have all my file with me, you know, on all the back and forth about what the who -- who might be the appropriate person that can cover all folks to handle that kind of appeals process or something.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Personally, I'm trying to keep the conversation more generalized rather than the specifics because I'm not sure all the specifications are appropriate for this type of proceeding.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Well, there's personnel matters involved, and personnel matters always have to be handled in executive session, so it can't really discuss all the fine details of the exact scenario, but we do want to make sure that in the future...

The other thing that came up -- oh, that's what I wanted to ask you about, Commissioner, and I don't think I got this answer from you previously, but I think there was some new policy put in place where you can only stay seven days at a time now.

**MS. EMMEL:**

No, but I wasn't --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Sorry. I'm only allowed to talk to the commissioner. I can't talk to anyone in the audience. I'm sorry about that, Mrs. Emmel.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

The policy is you have to be in for seven days and out for seven days at any particular campsite. That doesn't stop you from going from one campsite to another campsite, but, like, you can leave Cedar Point and go to Smiths Point. If you can get a reservation, you can do back to back, but they have to be in different parks. You can't stay more than seven days. Seven days is the limit. I think for some of the outer parks that's not heavily utilized, years ago, they were allowed a two-week reservation and we're certainly going to review that this coming winter to see if that makes more sense where you could have a two-week reservation, but that wasn't the case.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Well, the other thing I would consider or ask that you consider is if someone stays there seven days and wants to stay longer and there are no reservations, no one there on that day looking to stay, maybe allowing a day-by-day extension, you know, where nobody else wants to come -- obviously, if there was -- somebody came in and there were no other spots, that person would get to use it because they hadn't been there yet and hadn't had the opportunity. Like, I don't believe in -- I don't think people should be able to have year-in, year-out Fourth of July weekend; like, I think that there needs to be a way that that can get lottery and people -- different people get that every year because I think that there's, you know, there's something wrong with the system when it's the same folks every year, year-in, year-out, but if it's not being used, we should be able to say, Okay, you can stay one more day because nobody wants to use it, nobody's here to use it and let them pay on a day-by-day basis until someone else wants to come.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

And I don't disagree for a two week -- as I indicated earlier, we're certainly going to look at the less-utilized parks to do that. I mean, with the reservation system, it's difficult to change rules for a park. I think we might just make it so you can make a two-week reservation in a place like Cedar Point and Southaven and places that aren't heavily as utilized. It's a nonissue with places like Smiths Point and Montauk and Shinnecock East because those things book and it's -- you're in seven you're out seven.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yeah, but I also was told, though, during the week, like the weekdays, you know, it's not as heavily used, so if someone stays seven days and then they want to stay the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday following when nobody else wants to be there, you know, as long as it's day by day so that you're sure no one is coming and trying to get in, you know, that would make sense to me that you could extend it, their stay, passed the seven days on a case-by-case, day-by-day basis if no one else is interested.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

And we're doing these reservations on a computer system, and we just need to add new rules into the system to be able to accommodate that, and I think right now it has a number of rules that it gets a little complicated but understood.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Anyone else? All right. Thank you, Commissioner. And there was no one else in public portion, right, just to clarify?

All right. So we're going to move right then to the agenda. Okay. We're going start with tabled resolutions.

The first one is **IR 1441, Authorizing Inter-Municipal Agreement with Flanders Fire District to maintain fire lanes in County parks (Schneiderman)**. Before I move on this one, Commissioner, we've had several meetings. August will be the twentieth anniversary of the Pine Barrens fire. I was -- obviously, a major event that people still remember 20 years later because of the heroic efforts to put out that blaze. That area is just -- there's just so many dead oak trees. Things are so dried out, and I'm concerned about fires and the amount of residencies along those parklands and the Flanders Fire District. Are we making progress?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I think we're ready to go with an agreement with the fire departments. I think we were waiting on your office to coordinate a meeting, and I also thought John Pavasek (ph) was going to sit down with you (inaudible) --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I did. I met with John Pavasek. They have a whole plan that's -- and I had the fire commissioner there. Nick Gibbons was there. There was also some suggestions I made that they seemed open to exploring. So if you could just get an update, maybe, from Nick on that.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I will do that.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Because we don't meet in August, and I don't -- we don't have to do it through the committee. Just

contact me directly and let me know the progress on that.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Will do.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I mean, it seemed like the Pine Barrens commission had a pretty good plan in place.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yeah, they actually presented that plan to the Parks trustees at the last meeting we had out at (inaudible) last Wednesday.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And Pavasek was kind of a little bit challenging what may or may not have been historic fire lanes, so it wasn't clear what areas should be opened, should not be opened. We had some difference of opinions, but they did have a place to protect those residencies by creating a buffer and moving understory and opening some roads, so I just want to make sure that's moving forward.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

And to be understood, the agreement that we're going to enter into with the Flanders Fire Department, they're going to clear the existing roads that have trees falling across them, not establishing fire roads or whatnot, and there's enough work to do there that'll keep everybody pretty busy so.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Well, when you're ready. So we don't need this if you do that by permit, right?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And there is progress towards that permit?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. All right. I'll make a motion to table.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second by Legislator Cilmi. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1441 is **tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**.

Moving on to introductory prime.

**IR 1538, Authorizing use of Old Field Farm for the Three Village Chamber of Commerce's 16th Annual Family Beach Barbeque (Hahn).**

Legislator Hahn. Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second by Legislator Cilmi. Commissioner, this is good to go, right? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**IR 1539, Authorizing use of Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Center for Eastern Long Island Hospital's Gala (Krupski).** Motion by Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I'll second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second by Legislator Cilmi. On the motion.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

On the motion, the hospital has a gala every summer, and this year it's being held just down the road on a private home on the bay, and in order to provide safe off-the-road parking, the hospital would like to use Cedar Beach parking lot and then run a shuttle back and forth.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Commissioner, are you -- is that okay?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We're fine, yeah. We looked -- this fundraiser came through. It went through the permit process. We looked at the number of cars, the number of people, and the right fees are being charged so.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Who do the fees go to in a case like that?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

General fund is all --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

They go to the county not to Cornell?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Right, they come to the county. The check is written as "Suffolk County Parks." It gets deposited into our account, but everything goes into the General Fund.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And Cornell and their operations won't be affected by --

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No. When the application came in, we checked with Cornell, and they were fine with it.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. And, Al, you are good with this?

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

I can send you an invitation, if you'd like.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That's okay. I have enough events. I'm sure it'll be a good one. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**IR 1540, Authorizing use of Cedar Beach for Peconic Estuary Program and Cornell Cooperative Extension's Back to the Bay 5K Run (Krupski).** I'll make a motion. Seconded by Legislator McCaffrey. Commissioner, this is okay as well?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**  
Yes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**  
This is something that happens every year, I think, right?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**  
I'm not sure if this is annual.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**  
Oh, there's something. I'm thinking of Mighty North Fork thing that happens.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**  
(Inaudible) it's an annual but it's routine. We do these events pretty routinely, or we work with groups that do these events pretty routinely.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**  
Okay. So there's a motion and second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**IR 1557, Authorizing use of Cathedral Pines County Park by Long Island Abate for its Annual Campout Fundraiser (County Executive).** Motion by Legislator McCaffrey. Second by Legislator Cilmi. Commissioner, this is good as well, right?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**  
All good to go. All the fees are in place.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**  
Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

All right. That gets us to the end of the agenda. Is there any other business for the commissioner? Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
Since I'm here, I'd just like to ask the commissioner issue of mowing the grass at the rent house, I was wondering if that has ever been resolved.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**  
Well, we took it over when the town decided that they couldn't do it. I mean, we had an agreement with them. They decided they couldn't do it for liability issues. Our parks staff picked it back up. They're cutting it every two weeks. I was out there twice this summer, and it seems to be fine. I'm not sure if the group's got any issues. We're cutting it every two weeks.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**  
Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

You're welcome.

**LEG. MCCAFFREY:**

Commissioner, I just want to -- the ongoing -- not the ongoing but the saga with the golf balls off of our driving range at Bergen Point Golf Course, I know we spoke and I was wondering if you had a chance to speak with the owner of Babylon Honda, who was alleging -- has there been a resolution to that?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I did on multiple occasions. I spoke to him as late as last Friday. I told him I would get back to him sometime midweek. He wants me to be the intermediary between him and the golf pro. I said I would do it. I said I would reach out to the golf pro. He wants a negotiation back and forth. I mean, the golf pro's stand is that he's not responsible for the damage. He made good on damages about three or four years ago, but there's no real indicative proof that it was caused by the golf balls from his property.

**LEG. MCCAFFREY:**

Other than the fact that he's got a bag of our driving range golf balls in his parking lot.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I could tell you about that at West Sayville too, but what we did agree to do was to get a price quote for an extension to that fence that runs a little bit to the west, and the pro has agreed to reach out to the contractor to see how much that would cost, and, I mean, if it comes in at a reasonable price, we could certainly have a conversation about it.

**LEG. MCCAFFREY:**

Right. This isn't really wayward golf balls. What's happening is the golf balls don't get picked up at night. They are -- the kids, I assume, are going out onto the driving range and hitting the balls into the parking lot of a car dealer, and so he's alleging that we're kind of negligent in that we didn't pick up the golf balls, and the kids are going in there at night and there's no security, et cetera, whatever, and in this instance, which had happened previously, cars were damaged and most recently a windshield was broken. I think it was over \$1,000 in damage, and so anything we can do to rectify that, I think with the -- I mean, if we're not picking up those golf balls at night and they're out there, you know, I don't want to put any more liability on the county, but I believe we could do things differently.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

He has assured me that he is, and I think even the Honda dealership acknowledges that he is picking them up. I think what they said that this was a one particular night, they didn't happen to get picked up and the kids came over the fence and were hitting the balls. So again, there's a little...

**LEG. MCCAFFREY:**

Anything you can do to help resolve this would be appreciated. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Will do.

**LEG. HAHN:**

I'm looking forward to the ribbon cutting at Forsythe Meadow Woods Park, and I'm just hoping we

can get the trail trimmed back a little bit this week.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

They are there today. I sent an e-mail to Alyssa yesterday.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Awesome. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

They should be there today. Actually, I was out there on Sunday afternoon. The place looked real good, except for the trail needed --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Right. Thank you. I really appreciate that because it's going to be a fun day. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Seeing no other business, we are adjourned.

(The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.)