

Parks & Recreation 5/2/2016

**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. The Evans K. Griffing Building in the Maxine S. Postal Legislative Auditorium, 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 12:30 p.m.

**Members Present:**

**Legislator William J. Lindsay III - Chairman**

Legislator Kara Hahn - Vice-Chair

Legislator Leslie Kennedy

Legislator Steve Stern

Legislator Kevin McCaffrey

**Also in Attendance:**

Sarah Simpson - Counsel to the Legislature

Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory

Amy Ellis - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Robert Lipp - Budget Review Office

Greg Dawson - Commissioner/Suffolk County Department of Parks

Katie Horst - County Executive's Office

All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer

**Minutes Transcribed By:**

Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer

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(The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.)

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Good afternoon. Welcome to the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. If you could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Legislator McCaffrey.

(Salutation)

Welcome again to the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. We don't have any correspondence, so we will move on to the Public Portion. If there's anyone in the audience that would like to speak, you have three minutes and we have these yellow public comment cards. You just need to fill one out, and you can hand it to the Clerk, and we'll gladly call you in order. We'll start with Kathy McGraw. Ms. McGraw, and to all the other speakers, you have three minutes. You could stand right at the podium there, ma'am.

**MS. MCGRAW:**

Good afternoon. My name is Kathy McGraw. I'm a resident of Sound Shore Road in Riverhead. I've been coming out here for about 65 years, and I want to thank you, first of all, for holding this hearing here in Riverhead, making it more convenient for the folks out here on the far east end.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

You're welcome.

**MS. MCGRAW:**

Just a couple of comments about the North Fork Preserve. Over the year, we did not have a big drainage problem from that property, and of late, there have been issues. We appreciate the purchase of that property and making it into a park very much, but we would really like to see the drainage from that property handled on the property and not transported across Sound Shore Road and into the sound.

Secondly, I won't -- I won't belabor it, but that's really what the people on Sound Shore Road are interested in. I am a member of the North Fork Northville Beach Civic Association, although I'm speaking on my own behalf here today. Secondly, I've seen the plans for the park that have been proposed, and we really would like to see a little less density. Camping, yes. Maybe some buildings for folks to sleep over in but not RV usage of the land, and that's basically the points I wanted to make. And again, I wanted to thank you for being out here and giving us the opportunity to speak. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

You're welcome. Ms. McGraw, if you could wait there a moment and see if anyone would like to ask a question. Legislator Krupski has a question.

**MS. MCGRAW:**

I have no answers.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just more of an answer than a question, because we did have that North Fork Preserve Committee.

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**MS. MCGRAW:**

Yes.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

We met, and Gwynn Schroeder is here on my staff, and she really helped to organize that committee. I have to say that the consensus is that the drainage should stay on the parcel. Commissioner Dawson is here behind you, and we just had that conversation with him about trying to do wetland creation or enhancement in order to retain the water. Discharging into the sound the way it was designed is probably not the best idea. But thank you for your comments.

**MS. MCGRAW:**

Okay. I think all that happened because of the previous owner who redirected some ladders on the property and created the drainage problems that we've been having.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

There's been a lot of manipulation there over the years, over the decades of that parcel, and I think that is -- I think what you've said, though, is the general consensus is we would try to retain that water on site.

**MS. MCGRAW:**

We appreciate that. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

You're welcome. Our next speaker is John Fry, with Kenneth Densieski on deck. I'm probably killing your name there, sir. I'm sorry. Mr. Fry.

**MR. FRY:**

Yes. My name is John Fry, resident of Westhampton, long-time user of the outer beaches here in Suffolk County Park. I wanted to start the discussion regarding Shinnecock East. They closed two-thirds of the ocean sites due to beach erosion, which right now is very serious and they probably should be closed. When they had this problem two years ago, there was no provision for opening it up. During the winter, the east winds tend to erode the beaches, then you get into the spring, the winds change, the beach tends to build backup. Two years ago, the beach was built back up to normal range in June, and they didn't open it until August and that was after we got Commissioner Schneiderman to get involved and look at it, so I want to really understand what their provision is to use it periodically so that people can use it, okay?

What's the plan? What's the plan to review it? Okay. And if it can't be completely opened, is there any plan to mitigate the damage; for example, open some sites and not others? Even now, there's probably half a dozen sites that could be opened, but they just kind of closed it completely just to make it easier, it appears, okay?

When they were questioned two years ago, there was a lot of resistance from the Parks staff, a lot of finger-pointing about who was responsible for the decision, who could make the decision, who would even talk about it. It was very frustrating for the users, and a lot of people's vacations were impacted by the inability of the park to open the beach when it should have been opened. I think Jay Schneiderman's comments, when he looked at it, he said, Why is it closed? That's the first thing.

On a broader basis regarding Shinnecock East, the park says it's open, but there's no air, there's no water, there's no trash, there's no Porta-Pottys. Obviously, the weather's been pretty ratty here. People are starting to use the park, and they really need to address that, okay?

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Regarding the website for the reservations, if they do open the balance of the sites at Shinnecock, right now you cannot make a reservation. If and when they open it, if the beach builds back up, hopefully, the website always seems to be very fragile for high-volume use. How would they be able to get around that? Because the website really struggles when a lot of people use it.

Finally, regarding the website, when they changed to a new vendor a couple of years ago, they said they were going to come back to what's called the "grid view." The grid view allows you to look at campsites that are going to be open and, if so, for how many days. As of two years now, I think they started the new website, they haven't had the grid view open, so they really need to look at that. Okay? I have a copy of my speaking points.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

I'll gladly accept that from you, Mr. Fry. And we have the Commissioner of Parks here, so once we go through the Public Portion, I'm making a list of questions for him and asking him to address some of your concerns. Thank you.

### **MR. FRY:**

Good. Thank you.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Our next speaker is Kenneth Densieski with Herb Strobel on deck.

### **MR. DENSIESKI:**

All right. Good afternoon, Legislators. I'm here to also concur with the previous speaker about the cloudiness of everything that's going on. We've lived and thrived on our way of life out here for 375 years with fishing and access to the beach for our pleasure. During the summertime, actually back in 2007, at Smiths Point, they closed up Burma Road through the campground. Now whenever there is a high tide, we have no access. We would like to see that Burma Road reopened to prevent further closures because it's not only affecting the campers, it's affecting all the recreational-use vehicles.

Of course, all this is contingent on the endangered species. We understand there are nesting sites; however, those nesting sites are not being watched closely enough and being taken down in a timely manner. Beaches are being unduly closed for no reason when there's no plovers in sight or any endangered species.

At Cupsogue, you have a snow fence across the whole breadth of the beach preventing us from driving from Pikes, which is a Southampton town beach, into Cupsogue. If I, as a resident, have a Southampton Town sticker and an outer beach sticker from the County, why can't I access Cupsogue through that point? It's no different than Shinnecock East. There's not a great amount of people there. You have way more people at Shinnecock East with the amount of campers that are on the beach. In so doing, I'd like to open cut to -- from the camp ground to the inlet once these species have fledged and left the area to create more space. Once September 15th happens at 6:00, the Southampton town beaches are open 24/7. We have full access to all beaches. That is when we would like to see the whole park opened and full access. It has been done before, a couple of years ago when they had the fire at the pavilion. The park was totally closed, blockaded. They would not allow us in or out of the park for any reason, and they use the excuse because of the fire, because of asbestos, because of this, because of that.

After getting nowhere with the Parks Department, I decided to start a phone campaign to Mr. Bellone's office. Within three days, they had that place wrapped with snow fence, and we had full access to everything, so it can be done, and it was done. Also, you have a little parking -- two parking areas at Atlantic Beach and there's one on the bayside. I've been told by numerous

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fishermen they've been kicked out of that parking lot by the Westhampton Village dunes constables. I would like to know what authority they have to kick us out of that county parking area. The ultimate goal is that we would like to see K and L roads open as another picnic area 24/7 to help alleviate what's going on at Shinnecock East. There's way too many people being confined to a small space, a small area. We have no place to access the beach during the summer months between Shinnecock and Moriches Inlet; and again, because of closing Smith Point and the Burma Road situation, everyone's got to go to Shinnecock East. This includes everyone on the North Fork. It's just a burden. We're all locals. We all live here. We all work here. We don't get to spend a summer vacation. This is the only form of leisure that we get. Many of the users include emergency service personnel.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Mr. Densieski, your time is up, but if you could, I'll give you a few more moments just to wrap up, please.

### **MR. DENSIESKI:**

Okay. Including fire, ambulance, police, dispatchers, and other service-related occupations that we are on call 24/7. My father is 77 years old. He can't be trudging across the dunes anymore. This is why we have a recreational vehicle use permit. We pay \$100 for the year when we get to only use it two and a half months out of the year. Is there a citizen advisory committee? How does one get on to this committee? This affects all safety and all emergency issues that may arise.

For 375 years, the local boards of trustees of the local townships have controlled and took very good care of the beaches. Lately, they've been under pressure, enormous pressure from all branches and government and lawsuits. We need to open more areas up to alleviate these problems. Thank you.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Thank you Mr. Densieski.

*(\*Applause\*)*

Our next speaker is Herb Strobel with Bruce Kagan on deck.

### **MR. STROBEL:**

Hi. Good afternoon.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Good afternoon.

### **MR. STROBEL:**

My name is Herb Strobel. I'm the executive director of Hallockville Museum Farm, which is located just a few miles northeast of here.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Mr. Strobel, if you could just speak into the microphone or pull it up a little bit.

### **MR. STROBEL:**

Sorry about that.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Thank you.

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### **MR. STROBEL:**

Again, my name is Herb Strobel. I'm the executive director of Hallockville Museum Farm, which is located just a few miles east of here on Sound Avenue near the Riverhead/Southold town lines. First of all, I'd like to thank the committee for coming out to Riverhead. This provides a wonderful for local residents, especially here on the east end and eastern Brookhaven Town to engage with local government, and I also applaud Legislator Krupski for spearheading this initiative.

I just want to take a few minutes to thank the legislature for your support of Hallockville through funding that's provided through the Parks Department. The museum farm, as you might know, is a not-for-profit organization, which with a mission of connecting the community with our shared agricultural and heritage, and we do that in the context of a 28-acre site that we have on Sound Avenue that includes, as I said, 28 acres as well as 19 buildings, some of which date back 250 years. We hold school visits, have special events throughout the year. If you come back one Saturday from now, next weekend, we'll have our Long Island Fleece and Fiber Fair. We also do a variety of craft classes and other programming, and the museum farm is in fact supported by community members from across Long Island, but we also receive a modest amount of support through the county by the Parks Department; and, frankly, without that support, it would be very difficult for us to provide the wide variety of programming, educational programming, that we do, in fact, provide the community with. We're the only site and organization of our kind that celebrates the county's agricultural past and present, and so again I thank the legislature for your continued support of Hallockville. Thank you again.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Thank you, Mr. Strobel. Bruce Kagan. Good afternoon, sir.

### **MR. KAGAN:**

Good afternoon to each of you that are here. I again want to thank Legislator Krupski's office and Gwynn Schroeder for the, more or less, personal invitation to come and speak. I would like to just briefly talk to you about two recreational multi-use paths that I am currently involved with. One is involving the Town of Riverhead. I work with Councilwoman Giglio and other council members. I also work with Legislator Sarah Anker in some roundtable discussions on what we call the Tesla trail. It's a 11 -- it's a proposed 11-mile rails to trail recreational multi-use path from Wading River to Mount Sinai. There are numbers of blocks to the Tesla trail that are currently in the works with PSE&G. I do digital presentations on these trails. I have worked on the Tesla trail for 15 years. They, PSE&G, has admitted that they have arbitrarily come up with a decision that the trail cannot be any more than -- there must be 22 feet on either side of the power stanchions to start the trail.

This, in essence, will nullify the trail for most of the 11 miles. They've admitted it is an arbitrary number that they have come up with. I am communication with Rails to Trails central in Washington D.C. I do numbers of Rails to Trails, and this, indeed, is arbitrary and is a major roadblock. Anyway, I want to thank you, and I'm going to ask you for more support for this -- want to ask you for more support for these two trails. You've allotted \$200,000 to the Town of Riverhead head. Unfortunately it's not enough money to complete that trail on the EPCAL former Grumman property. Also, we need more support for this 11-mile Rails to Trail. I have given research that will be an economic boon to Suffolk County. It will get us off of Route 25A. Suffolk County is the number one most dangerous county for bicycle injuries and deaths in all of New York State. Please help us keep us safe. We can push baby carriages on these trails, we can walk to stores, schools, libraries. We can get off of 25A with our bicycles, we can even push wheelchairs, but we need to have you to be really forceful and visionary. I'm working with Sarah Anker. I just wanted to bring this to the forefront of your minds. We need more help and assistance. It will help generations. Thank you.

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**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Thank you, Mr. Kagan.

**MR. KAGAN:**

Any questions for me?

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

I just have a comment. I know the trails system is a big initiative for the County Exec's Office and a lot of us here on Legislature, so as a follow-up, we'll look into this issue with PSEG about the 22-foot rule and see where their logic is on that and see what pressure we can bring to bear to nullify that, so thank you for coming today.

**MR. KAGAN:**

And thank you for the venue here on eastern Long Island. This is a treasure. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Thank you. Our next speaker is Richard Wines.

**MR. WINES:**

Good afternoon. I live in Jamesport, and I want to thank all of you for coming out here. If you look at the map of Suffolk County and draw a line from the southwest corner to the tip of Orient Point and you draw another line from the northwest corner of the county to Montauk, guess where it crosses? Right here in the center of the county. So it's good to have you here.

Briefly, I just wanted to put in the a good word for the proposed park Sharper's Hill in the Village of -- Hamlet of Jamesport. I know it's still in the early stages of its -- the appraisal process, but I can't think of another place where Suffolk County can celebrate 5,000 years of its history, and so we as we will be able to in our parcel.

Secondly, I want to put in a word for the North Fork Preserve, which is also in our neighborhood. Many of us that were involved in the acquisition process from the towns point of view were delighted when the County stepped forward and, well, saved us from development and also result preservation of what's a beautiful parkland. But we're concerned about the southern half of the park. From the beginning, we knew it was going to be active recreation. What we assumed "active recreation" meant things jogging trails, maybe tennis courts, and baseball fields. But the preliminary plan that was put forward has an awful lot of what looks like more development with sewage hookups and cabins and stores and things like that. And we'd really like to see it used for active recreation, not for parking of home-like vehicles.

And then, finally, as a board member of Hallockville, I'd like to echo Mr. Strobel's thanks for the support you've given us. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

You're welcome. Thank you, sir. I don't have any other comment cards. If there's anyone else in the audience that wishes to speak, please come forward. I'm sorry, sir. You can't speak more than once. Apologies. Anybody else? Okay. Not seeing any other speak speakers, I'll close the Public Portion.

Mr. Commissioner, if you can please come forward before we move on to Introductory Resolutions. I think some of the issues that we just heard that were brought up here, I have a list, if we could just go through them with you. I understand you might not be prepared to give a lot of details on some of it, because these issues were just brought to bear, but if you could start with the North Fork Preserve and some of the -- some of the opportunities, so to speak, that we heard for some

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improvements there and if you could make some comments.

### **COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yes. As you're aware, we purchased the North Fork Preserve, I would say, about two years ago. We spent a little over \$18 million purchasing that parcel to make it one of the next great Suffolk County parks. When we did that, we went to CEQ with a conceptual plan, which included equestrian use, included camping, it included passive recreation and active recreation. About a year ago, Legislator Krupski put together a committee of a number of residents and vested -- people who had vested interest in the property to come up with -- assist us in developing our master plan for the place. They came back with those recommendations, I want to say, about a month ago, and we're still reviewing them so. But just to be clear, any development in that park will need to go through all the environmental studies and whatnot, and part of any master plan process is reaching out to local community and user groups to see -- to see how it will be developed.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

If I could make a suggestion to be helpful just for informational purposes for the folks that were here today and I'm sure there's others that have similar concerns, if you could forward those recommendations on to us and we'll make them public to the people that came in and spoke today, and I'm sure Legislator Krupski has other folks that are coming to his office asking similar questions, just so we could show them what those recommendations are. Obviously we're not necessarily bound to follow each and every one of those recommendations, but at least they can have an opportunity to see what is being discussed and what is being recommended by that board, and they can make comments as they see fit.

### **COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I certainly can. I'll also give to this body the conceptual plans, what we had envisioned when we purchased the property, so, you know, you kind of know what you're looking at to get a reference point.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. I'll offer to the people that were here today, if at some point they want to the set up a meeting to discuss those plans in more detail, we'll be more than happy to do that for them, and we'll try to coordinate that, since obviously it appears most of you are from this area, we'll do that through Legislator Krupski's office.

The second item that we have on that list was the Shinnecock East. If you could address some of the concerns that we just heard a few moments ago.

### **COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Sure. Roughly about three weeks ago, we had some severe erosion at Shinnecock East. Mr. Fry had alluded to it. It's -- we feel -- we felt that the need to close about 40 campsites. We listed on the website that if people wanted to cancel their reservations any time between now and June, we would do that, which would give them the opportunity to make reservations somewhere else in our park system.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Are those going to be closed for the season? Do we have a length of time in terms of how long?

### **COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We don't. Usually, sand degrades in the springtime, so we have no idea. I mean, hopefully sand will build back up, but at this time I can't say when we'll have it open. You know, Mr. Fry was asking, you know, how do we make that determination. We have staff out there on a daily basis. When we feel it's safe to open, we'll open it. You alluded to about two years ago, we did have some

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discussions with him and with Legislator Schneiderman. You know, some of the public felt that the facility could have been opened, but Parks staff felt that it wasn't safe. You know, some of these trails are 40 feet long, 30, 40 feet long. The trucks that pull them are 15 feet long. We didn't think it was safe enough to open. That was a decision made by the department, made by me based on recommendations from my staff and pretty much there was a disagreement on -- we thought it shouldn't be open, and some of the public thought it should be.

We'll continue to monitor it. Obviously, we want to keep as much of that beach open as we can. We don't enjoy telling people, you know, that their vacations have to be cancelled, and we'll get it open as quickly as we can, but we'll monitor it day by day.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Legislator Hahn has a question for you with regards to that.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So I'm hoping, you know -- I haven't been there since the erosion. I'm hoping if that's still -- when is our next Parks Committee?

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

June.

**LEG. HAHN:**

June -- end of May? Yeah. I mean if we're talking it's still closed, please come with photos, maps and an explanation, because I don't have a firm understanding right now of, you know, of exactly what it looks like, and exactly what kind of safety issues we're talking about.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I do have photos. Legislator Kennedy had requested yesterday, so I did send her pictures that were --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yeah. I just think it's appropriate. If you're coming here to explain it, we have public out looking at it, we should be looking at, you know, and getting a full explanation, and maps, and a full description and summary of, you know, measurements, and what we're talking about, and, you know, to explain to everyone and justify the closures.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Legislator Hahn, I agree with you. In all due fairness to the commissioner, I don't think he was prepared to speak to this issue today. But at the next committee meeting, Commissioner, if you could be prepared to give that information and discuss this.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Absolutely, and before the meeting, I'll be happy to send you photos of -- I mean the staff out there does document the conditions, so yeah I'd be happy to do that.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Legislator Kennedy.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Greg, I know we spoke before the meeting about this, but can I ask also that you do some kind -- come back with some kind of a plan for notification that's not just putting it on the website when things are closed? Is that humanly possible?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We can. We find that the best way to do that is through the website and the through social media: Facebook, Twitter, whatnot. That is what we do. I know we were criticized recently about not getting notification out there that the sites were closed. We're talking hundreds of reservations. We're going through the e-mails now. We're in the process of notifying the people who were camping, but in fairness to them, we want to give them as much time as possible, so we did post it on our website and on Facebook and on Twitter.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Legislator Hahn. Oh, one more for Legislator Kennedy. I'm sorry.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Is there a way to give priority for rebooking to the people that had a reservation and then their site washed away or they weren't able to get to their site?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Unfortunately, no. That's why we give people the option. We're not cancelling the reservation. We're giving the public the opportunity, if they want to hold the reservation, they can certainly hold the reservation. But if they do, it kind of prevents them from making another reservation somewhere else in our parks system. It's just the way the system works.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

It's a glitch in the system.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I wouldn't say it's a glitch in the system. You can make one reservation a week.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

But they should have some priority if their site washes away. Just see what you can do.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Okay.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Thanks.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So can you explain the reservation system that exists and why you couldn't just e-mail everyone that had a reservation all with, like, one touch? I don't get it. You're saying that you have to enter all the e-mails through --

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We have to extract -- keep in mind we have 12 campgrounds. We've got tens of thousands of bookings. So we have to cull out those, draft a letter, and send it out, which is what we're doing now.

**LEG. HAHN:**

I know. I just -- it should be more automated than that. Please talk to I.T. and maybe in three years we'll have something. But also, I mean, you should just have an ongoing, you know, interested park e-mail list of people who, you know, are park enthusiasts. I'm sure you'll have thousands of people sign up and --

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### **COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We do. We have a database of about 30- to 40-, maybe even 50,000 e-mail addresses of everybody who has a green key card. The problem is, and we're working with I.T. to address this, is that when we send out mass e-mails, we end up getting blacklisted, so we have to send them out in groups so that we don't get blacklisted and get listed as spam. So it is a real issue for us. Last year, when we had the Twitter account and the Facebook accounts and our own website, we found that was a better way. We do e-mail, but we can't send out these mass e-mail blasts, and we're working with I.T. to address that.

### **LEG. HAHN:**

Well, I mean, I know there are fairly inexpensive e-mail sites you can pay for to be able to send out more than 50 at a time or whatever. I should certainly recommend that. It would be worth the small expense to make sure we can communicate efficiently. It probably takes more staff time to sort through e-mails, as you were discussing, than what it might cost to purchase you know an e-mail, whatever they're called, software thing.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. Commissioner, if you could address the Cupsogue issue and some of the concerns --

### **COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yes.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

-- that were raised.

### **COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

What Mr. Densieski was referring to is we do -- we do close off the area in front of the beach pavilion for four-by-four access. He disagrees with that, with our policy on that we stand by it. People can drive out. When there are no birds, people can drive out through Burma Road to the inlet and they can come back towards the --

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

What's the logic for closing that area off?

### **COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Well, just as four-by-four enthusiasts should have the right to traverse our beaches, people should also have the right to sit on the beach and not have to worry about four-by-fours coming by. So we do have certain areas -- we don't let the four-by-fours go across the pavilion by Smiths Point. We don't allow it by Cupsogue. He alluded to last year, two years ago when we had the fire, and that's true: The whole park was closed, so there were no people sitting on the beach, and people do sit on the beach in November and December and when it's warm. So we reserve the right to not allow access to come back towards the pavilion area. We do that. Anybody who wants to fish can park on Burma Road and walk through the dune. It's probably 50 feet to 75 to the water the do you know probably 50 feet 75 feet to the water. That's a policy that we've established. It's an area that we don't want four-by-four's in front of the pavilion area.

### **AUDIENCE MEMBER:**

Burma Road is in Smiths Point.

### **CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Then what about their -- so their request is to do it after September 15th, then you're saying we still have pedestrians utilizing the beach.

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**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We have activity on the beach right up through -- past Columbus Day almost into Thanksgiving.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Commissioner, what about the Westhampton Dunes constables kicking people out of the county beach; how is that happening?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

You know, I'd have to look into that. There was an issue that we had last year where a car was ticketed in one of our parking lots. I don't know what their jurisdiction is. We have two parking lots over there, one is for beach use, the other one is an overflow for beach use, and we have the parking lot broken down into two separate areas. One is for people that want to go to the beach, and the other one is for people who want to go to the observatory looking for birds. I think it's a maximum of two-hour parking. If you park there for more than two hours, you can get ticketed.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

I was just having a side conversation with legislative counsel, and we'll look up to see what exactly their written jurisdiction is, and if they're in violation of that, I'll send a letter from my office asking them to cease and desist, that that's out of their scope.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Regardless, if it wasn't the town or the hamlet, it would be the park rangers issuing a summons.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Which is fine if it's coming from our park rangers or our police, that's one thing; but coming from a municipality's village constables --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Who's trying to keep us out.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Right.

**LEG. HAHN:**

I'd be very concerned about villages, constables trying to enforce our --

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yeah, I don't think that's the case. I think they're just trying to assist because the shortage in our staffing and getting down Dune Road in the summertime, it's a little bit difficult, but I see your point.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

In regards to the trail, it was mentioned PSEG having this 22-foot rule, that the trail has to be 22 feet wide on their easements. Do you know anything about that, Commissioner?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, I can't speak to that.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

We'll check. I'll have my office check with them and see exactly what it is that their issue -- what they're trying to accomplish. If it's really something just to try to eliminate access to their property, if that's what their ultimate goal is, we'll address it with them at that point.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Thanks, Commissioner. We're going to move to the agenda. Before I do so, I just want to make an announcement that Legislator Stern has an excused absence for today, and we'll move on to our Introductory Resolutions.

The first is **1324, Naming Suffolk County handicapped accessible playground in West Sayville as the "Betty Whitehouse Playground" (Lindsay)**. I am going to recommend that we discharge this without recommendation, as tomorrow the Naming Committee is meeting, and we expect that the trustees will vote in favor of that. So I have a second by Legislator Hahn. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries. **Discharged Without Recommendation (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Stern)**

**Introductory Resolution 1346, Authorizing use of Manorville Hills County Park by the Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference for its 15K Trail Race Fundraiser (County Exec.)** Motion by Legislator Hahn. I'll second it. Commissioner, are we all set with our paperwork and everything there?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

We have the application on file and the proper fees have been paid.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. Great. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Stern)**.

**Introductory Resolution 1347, Authorizing use of Indian Island and Meschutt Beach County Parks by the Suffolk Bicycle Riders Association for its Bike-Boat-Bike Fundraiser (County Executive)**. Motion by Legislator Hahn. Second by myself. Same thing there?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Again, yeah, fees have been paid.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Stern)**.

**Introductory Resolution 1348, Authorizing use of Cathedral Pines County Park by Long Island Abate for its Annual Campout Fundraiser (County Executive)**. All good there?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Again, yep.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. I'll make a motion. Second?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Second by Legislator Hahn. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Stern)**.

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Introductory Resolution 1349, Authorizing use of Indian Island County Park by Event Power for its Riverhead Rocks Run Fundraiser.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Again, we're all in good shape.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

What exactly is that one, just out of the curiosity?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I don't have it in front of me, Legislator.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Just the "rocks" part is what's throwing me off. Are they jumping over rocks while they're running?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, I believe it's a race.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. Just in the name.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Usually 5 and 10K races.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Rock music going while they're running, I guess. Okay.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I believe there's a 5K.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. I'll make a motion, and then Legislator Hahn has a question for you.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So just remind me: There's a set fee when they use this?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

There is a set fee. It's based on the number of participants.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

You want to second that motion, Legislator Hahn?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Sure.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Second by Legislator Hahn. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries.

**Approved (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Stern).**

**1350, Approving a license agreement for Justin S. Dzakonski to reside in Huntington (County Executive).** Can you give us a brief explanation on that, Commissioner?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Sure. This is one of our many rental properties that we have throughout the County. We went through the normal process. We have to advertise to all law enforcement and all Suffolk County employees.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Is this lease only six months?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

These leases are all month by month.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Month to month, okay. How much notification do we have to give them; is it 30 days?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Just 30 days.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Is this person law enforcement or parks employee? You know what? I have it here in my notes? It's a Suffolk County police officer.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

It usually goes to police officers and then goes to --

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Second by Legislator Hahn. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.

**Approved (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Stern).**

**Introductory resolution 1351, Authorizing a custodial license agreement with Bayport Heritage Association for Meadow Croft, Sayville (County Executive).** I'll make a motion.

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Second by Legislator McCaffrey.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

This is an extent. It's renewal of a current agreement that we have with the Bayport Heritage. They've been in the building for over 20 years. Their custodial agreement is up, so we're just looking to renew it. It'll be another 10-year with two five-year renewals.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Yeah, I'm very familiar with them. This is in my district. They do a great job with the property. I know they put a lot of man hours and volunteers going down and doing work on the property itself.

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All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Stern).**

Madam Deputy Clerk, if you could just add me as a cosponsor on that, please. Thank you.

**Introductory Resolution 1371, Appropriating funds in connection with the Historic Restoration and Preservation Fund for the Cedar Island Lighthouse (CP 7510)(Fleming).**

I'll make a motion to approve.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I thought we were going to table this one.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

I'm sorry. I'll make a motion to table.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

All those in favor? Opposed abstentions? Just for the record, I know we were just looking to make some changes there, and that was the reason why they're asking for us to table it. **Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Stern).**

**Introductory Resolution 1372, Amending Resolution No. 970-2014, in connection with construction of a handicapped accessible playground in West Sayville (CP 7157)**

**(Lindsay).** I'll make a motion to approve this, and then I'll let you give a description. I'll get a second from Legislator Hahn.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

As you recall, this money was first appropriated to put a skate park in over at Cherry Avenue playground. We amended the capital budget to change that from a skate park to a handicapped-accessible playground. When you design skate parks, you know, that's not my area of expertise so there was money included for planning. When we changed it over to a playground, that's more kind of in my wheelhouse. We designed that in-house, so we'd rather use the planning money for actual construction to do a nice job, so we did that.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

All right. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.

**Approved (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Stern).**

If we could back up for a second, Commissioner, Legislator Hahn had questions on 1371.

**LEG. HAHN:**

I know we tabled it, but I did say I would ask. Can you just explain about -- there was supposed to be an inspection on the lighthouse.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

There's a meeting -- Department of Public Works is going to go out there on -- I think it's June 3rd to take a look to see what -- to see whether we can do it with our annual requirements contracts or if we've got to out for full RFP. They'll be out there to take a look at the current conditions --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Why are we waiting until June 3rd?

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**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

That's the availability of the Commissioner and the engineers.

**LEG. HAHN:**

County Executive staff.

**MS. HORST:**

Hi. I was speaking with Commissioner Anderson earlier today. He knows that this is a priority for Legislator Fleming, so he wanted to make sure that he was there to be part of the inspection, so that was the first available day between all the DPW staff and the Commissioner that they were able to go.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. And does that put us past the next committee cycle?

**MS. HORST:**

I believe so.

**LEG. HAHN:**

All right. Please reach out to Legislator Fleming and invite her to the inspection possibly.

**MS. HORST:**

She was invited.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. Excellent. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Thank you, Commissioner, for coming in today. We'll move on. We don't have any procedural motions, so I will adjourn the meeting. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Thank you.

(The committee meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.)