

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 Maxine Postal Legislative Auditorium of the Evans K. Griffing Building, 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York on August 31, 2016 at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Legislator Bill Lindsay III - Chairman
Legislator Kara Hahn - Vice-Chair
Legislator Leslie Kennedy
Legislator Kevin McCaffrey
Legislator Steve Stern

Also in Attendance:

Legislator Al Krupski - District No. 1
Legislator Kate Browning - District No. 3
Sarah Simpson - Counsel/Suffolk County Legislature
Amy Ellis - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Laura Halloran - Budget Review Office
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory
Katie Horst - County Executive's Office
Greg Dawson - Commissioner/Suffolk County Department of Parks
Kenneth Densieski - Hampton Surf and Fishing Club
Kathleen Giamo - Appointee/Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission
Craig Burkhardt - Suffolk County Resident
William Graham - Suffolk County Resident
Susan Reeve - Suffolk County Resident
John Bottke - Suffolk County Resident
Daniel Murphy
Paul Dobiecki
Vince Calvosa
Bryan Mastrangelo
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer

Minutes Transcribed By:

Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary

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

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

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

*(*Salutation*)*

Thank you for coming to the Parks and Recreation meeting. We will begin the Public Portion of the meeting. We have one comment card. Anyone else from the public that would like to speak, you just have to fill out one of these yellow cards and you'll have three minutes. So our first speaker is Kenneth Densieski. Good afternoon, Mr. Densieski. Thank you for coming to the meeting.

MR. DENSIESKI:

Good afternoon, members of the board. I was here on May 4th with a list of items that I was concerned about. I still haven't received any response to any of those concerns. My issue now is I understand Smith Point is being closed at ten o'clock at night. Pretty much that rules out the emergency service workers, firearm, police, ambulance corps members and people like me who work at night. I get in my truck, I go to the beach after work. So now that's gone. I understand they just reopened Smith Point a couple weeks ago, the Burma Road access. I know there's supposed to be a meeting with Fish and Wildlife regarding the closures because of the birds.

Also, at Cupsogue, and all the parks, I'm wondering why we're still using metal stakes to rebuild the dunes? Everyplace else we use wood. Those metal stakes, when they get uprooted by storms, they end up in the sand, they end up in the surf. How long until someone gets impaled on one of those stakes?

The other issue is with this limited access, the people that it's discriminating against are the handicapped, the disabled and those with physical disabilities. And last Saturday's Newsday, on August 20th, Better Access at Smith Point. "I recently went to Smith Point County Park to enjoy a day at the beach. Unfortunately, I'm a senior with heart problems which prevented me from walking up the steep grade to the boardwalk. Although there are handicapped parking spaces close to the boardwalk, I would have to get there very early to find one. It would be a great service to have golf carts to shuttle the seniors and people with disabilities to the top to access the boardwalk and the beach". Nick Franzi of Holbrook.

Also, the outer beach access, that is another way for people with disabilities to access the beach. However, our access has been limited. It's been cut-off all summer. There's other areas I'm sure where there's no birds where we can accommodate this.

September 15th I'm hoping to get all of Cupsogue open. Once the beach is closed and all the lifeguards stands are gone, there should be no problem with us driving, especially me, I'm a Southampton Town resident. If I have both stickers to go into Southampton and the County, why can I not drive through into Cupsogue. The reason why I can't drive through there now is for the past four years, ever since Sandy, there is a snow fence the length of the beach from the berm all the way to the waterline. Once that gets washed away they're driving these metal fence posts into the sand, bare. Legislator Bridget Fleming has pictures of those stakes sticking up out of the sand. Again, they're ending up in the surf and laying on the beach. I don't understand it. You are supposed to be protecting the environment, not ruining it. On either side of that fence it was cupped out this past spring at least 50 feet. There's another snow fence buried under that snow fence with the metal post sticking out of the ground six inches. Again, it's an accident waiting to happen. My other thought is, is there a community advisory board? How do we be heard with these issues?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Obviously this is one place you can be heard.

MR. DENSIESKI:

That's why I'm here, sir.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay, and that's why we're listening. We've also -- I know my office has fielded some calls from you and we've responded with information. Our Parks Trustees, you can address the issues with them as well, and we'll be happy to furnish you with a schedule as to when they meet and how to correspond with them. And I know some of the other Legislators here you've also contacted and they've responded as well. What I will do is, your time is up, I'll see if anyone has any questions for you. Legislator Browning I see would like to ask you a question.

LEG. BROWNING:

Thank you, Bill. You know, I'm not on the committee so I appreciate you giving me the time. I was notified by some of my constituents, business owners, that were going to be here today. I don't think they showed.

MR. DENSIESKI:

Unfortunately they were told September 6th.

LEG. BROWNING:

No, no, no. That's the Wednesday meeting. We told them that --

MR. DENSIESKI:

I spoke with Craig at Smith Point Bait and Tackle yesterday --

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay.

MR. DENSIESKI:

-- and that's what he was told. He doesn't know the Parks and Recreation committee is today.

LEG. BROWNING:

Right. He was given the information about today's meeting but time wise it was not working for him, so next Wednesday I would expect we're going to see a few more of them.

MR. DENSIESKI:

That's the General Legislative meeting?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

MR. DENSIESKI:

Okay.

LEG. BROWNING:

So I just wanted to know, are you aware that we are scheduling a meeting with the Congressman and Fish and Wildlife this month?

MR. DENSIESKI:

Yes. I did speak with Congressman Zeldin's office with Bill Doyle.

LEG. BROWNING:

And you're aware that the issue with the park is not that Suffolk County wants to close it. Suffolk County Parks wants to keep it open. It's Fish and Wildlife that continually imposes this on us. I agree, it's getting worse. And, you know, Legislator Calarco represents the beach, but many of my constituents use it. So I'm hoping that we will have some kind of a resolution come September's meeting.

I personally I'm not very sure that they're going to come up with an agreement with us. Last year we met with them and when we talked about relocating their habitat they would not agree to that. So, you know, I know the Parks Commissioner is here. I would like maybe if we could give him some time to respond to what's going on down there, because the time that we're having at Smith Point and the outer beach is just -- it's getting ridiculous. People are paying for an outer beach pass but they're not getting to use it and the timeline is getting worse.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I'll invite the Commissioner to come up as soon as -- I know some other Legislators had some questions as well, but just in regards to some of the issues that were brought up in terms of driving the whole length from Smith's Point to Cupsogue. We have people even after September 15th that still use the beach and that was a concern with vehicles operating on the beach and kids running around on the beach at the same time. It's not as of September 15th people stop going to the beach. They still utilize the beach.

LEG. BROWNING:

Well, it's the Piping Plover is the issue.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Always, yeah, and that's -- unfortunately they have more power than we do.

LEG. BROWNING:

Absolutely they do.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

That's been the way. Legislator Krupski, I know you had a question as well.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thanks.

MR. DENSIESKI:

Could I just respond to what was just said first real quickly? After September 15th all the beach bathing, all of the lifeguard stands are down. There's way more people on the beach at Shinnecock East than there will ever be at Cupsogue in front of that pavilion with the campers on the beach.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I understand that too, but the people still have the right to use the beach.

MR. DENSIESKI:

Don't we have a right with our four wheel drive also?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

You do, but you don't -- you know, there's got to be a balance that you'd be able to drive the whole length from one beach to the other because we -- as you come in and you voice your concerns, we have people who come and walk the beach and pick up seashells and do different things, and they come in and voice the same concerns that there's trucks going by.

MR. DENSIESKI:

But why can't we open up at least, once the plovers are done, from the campground to the inlet. There's an access road right opposite the campground. And if you want to increase the capacity of your campers, there's plenty of room in the beach out front where they just dredged last winter and built up the beach right there directly in front of the campground. It's wider than it is at Shinnecock East.

Ms. Browning, also, are you aware of the letters that were written and on -- this is my response as of February 6th of 2007 when we vehemently opposed the closing of the Burma Road through the campground.

LEG. BROWNING:

I know this has been an issue every year. Our Parks Commissioner is here to address that. A lot of the issues has got to do with the Piping Plover and the Fish and Wildlife not wanting any vehicles on the beach, and that's where our problem is. And they will not agree, and like I said, I've had the meeting last year and they would not agree to considering relocating the habitat.

MR. DENSIESKI:

How about once the Plovers are done?

LEG. BROWNING:

But that's the issue, is once they go the Parks will reopen it, but Fish and Wildlife, the Parks Commissioner can tell you how difficult it is to deal with them.

MR. DENSIESKI:

Okay, so that's why I'm asking why can't we have a small section at Cupsogue from the campground to the inlet to be able to drive on.

LEG. BROWNING:

I'm not familiar with Cupsogue like I am Smith Point. We'll have the Parks Commissioner respond to some of those questions, okay?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Let me just let Legislator Krupski get to his question and then we'll bring up Commissioner Dawson.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Kenny, for bringing that up because public access, and we all believe in, you know, public access to water is really critically important. That's why we live here. We pay, whether it's Suffolk County Parks or an individual park district, we pay money to keep that access open and to maintain it and it should be opened for the public.

You brought the issue up with the metal stakes and that's something that I would like to ask when the Commissioner comes up, through the Chair, if we could ask the Commissioner why we're still using those metal stakes, and I've been through this many times in town. And they surface because they were used historically all over the place, on every beach, sound, bay, creek, whatever. Someone's got to go immediately and pull them out. I mean, that's a real accident waiting to happen and you're not worried about a popped tire, you're worried about somebody falling on them and actually getting hurt.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. We can address that with the Commissioner. Any other questions for the speaker?

MR. DENSIESKI:

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

You're welcome. Thank you, sir. Is there anyone else from the public that would like to speak? Yes, ma'am. You can come forward and we'll fill it out for you. If you could just state your name for the record.

MS. REEVE:

My name is Susan Reeve. I'm a lifelong resident of Sound Avenue. I'm in the house that I grew up in because I just inherited it a few years ago. I have been fishing since I was three years old. Last year I went to Cupsogue and there was the line with the metal stakes down. Some of the guys from the Southampton side -- and I know it wasn't Kenny because I was there when they did it, took some of the stakes out so that they could access the other part. The next time I went down there, there were three lines. Somebody had a hissy fit and put three lines of metal stakes with the snow fence on it. That's ridiculous.

Once these birds are through nesting, open it up to the people like me. I have all kinds of physical problems. I'm going to have a knee replacement soon after fishing season. I want to get on the beach. That's how I get my head straight. I fish. If there's no fish there, which there has been no fish than fish since the past, I like to sit and just hang out and look at the birds and everything. If you want more Piping Plovers, get more fish, get more bait for them to eat, but give us an access, too, because we've been doing it since we were little kids. Kenny learned how to fish on my parents' beach on Long Island Sound. The metal stakes have got to go. Something's got to go to give us access.

Mr. Krupski is correct, and it really makes me mad when I hear all this stuff about well, the Piping Plovers, the Piper Plovers. It seems like Riverhead is the only one who gives a damn about the Piping Plover as much as we do, and I'm not saying that's a bad thing, but come on. Look into some of the other problems, too. Give us access to the beach so people who can't walk, like me, can get down there once in a while, because that's all we do. I've done it all my life. I'm 65 now. I'm retired. I want to go look at the beach once in a while without having to be hassled because I drove over there and I can't get to the beach because I can't walk over the sand. Anyway, thank you. That's all I got to say.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

You're welcome. Anybody have any questions for the speaker? Thank you, ma'am. Anyone else in the audience that would like to speak? Yes, sir. If you could state your name for the record and we'll have you fill out the card after you're done speaking.

MR. GRAHAM:

My name is Bill Graham. I'm a resident of Eastport and I'm a surf caster. I'm a surf caster since 1986. Some of the issues brought up about us not having access to Cupsogue because after September 15th, there may be a few people on the beach. Well, we don't run into that problem in Southampton. We drive across Rogers Beach. There's people out sunbathing with their kids. The truck drivers are very respectful. We go slow, we give them a wide berth. I'm not going to stop and fish when people are swimming. They go past and go to the next section.

It's very frustrating when the middle of October, November, it's cold out there, the fish are blitzing, you're following them down the beach, and then you come to an arbitrary line in the sand and you can't go any further, because now you've got the County park. I came from the Southampton side and all of a sudden you can't play here. There's nobody on the beach swimming or walking, it's just fishermen, and it's just frustrating as a fisherman to run into that, you know.

The beach is why I live here. If you took away my surf casting, I'm retired, my house is for sale and I'm going to go somewhere else. And it's like golf courses, you know. If you come up to a golf

course and say, nope, I'm not going to let you play on the golf course because it's a County or whatever. It's just -- these rules just seem arbitrary. We all understand about the Piping Plovers, but they're gone now. We're generally talking about our fall fishing season, from now until Christmas.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Can you give us specific areas, you know, different than what we may have already heard that are of concern? Rather than just speaking in general terms, but is there a specific part that you feel you don't have access to that you do want to have access to?

MR. GRAHAM:

Well, Cupsogue for one.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay.

MR. GRAHAM:

There's a perfect spot to have access after the parking lot to get over the dunes. There's no lifeguards down there, it's not a bathing spot. We could also go to the inlet and come back down the beach, but they put a snow fence up 30 feet -- 30 yards from the inlet and for some arbitrary reason we can't drive there anymore.

Another issue is about five years ago I was the Assistant Chief in the Eastport Fire Department. We had three drownings, three people in the water, a water rescue going on. I go down there with my Expedition and I can't get on the beach. I'm running over the dunes with a handheld radio trying to hopefully I could reach my repeater back in my truck. And for safety-wise you have to have vehicle access to get on the beach if you need an ambulance or fire. But I really wish you would consider opening up Cupsogue to us at least in fall, let us drive on it. And like Kenny said, I have a Southampton permit, I have a Suffolk County permit, I should be able to drive from Moriches Inlet to Shinnecock Inlet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you, sir. Sir, can you just fill out a card? Thank you. To the gentleman in the hat, if you want to speak and then we could have you fill out a card when you're done speaking.

MR. BURKHARDT:

Hello, everybody. How are you today?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Good. Good afternoon. Thanks for coming. If you could just state your name and town that you live in just for the record.

MR. BURKHARDT:

My name is Craig Burkhardt, born and raised in Mastic Beach. My business resides in Shirley. I own Smith Point Bait and Tackle. So of course this beach closure drastically affects my business. It drastically affects all the businesses around me. I mean, everybody I go and speak to. You know, I talk to the 7-Eleven, the surf shop, beer distributor, deli across the street. The closure is really putting a hurting on these small businesses. You know, it's amazing the difference when the beach is open and when the beach is closed how financially it impacts me. And I have three young children, a beautiful wife and, you know, it's tough when you have to support them and, you know, you're being so restricted by this beach access.

And I have lived here my whole life. I've never had this issue. The past three years, four years, it's been getting worse and worse and worse. And it's for everybody. I mean, the recreation part destroys me, too. I love to go down there with my kids. It's our favorite thing to do, get up in the morning, some PB and J sandwiches, Grandpa's going to open, Daddy's got a couple hours to go on the beach for a little bit, you know? You're taking away the whole summer. My kids are going, "Where's the beach, Dad?" You know? I'm sure there's a lot of other kids out there that feel the same way.

I was born and raised on this Island, this is why I stay here. Smith Point Beach is very, very important to me. It means my livelihood, it means my family. Sometimes it feels like I'm fighting a losing battle, you know? I have nothing else to say.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you, sir, for coming in. We appreciate you being so candid and we're certainly going to get a full report from the Commissioner. We have a new Commissioner who is coming in and I'm making notes here as well to make sure that we follow-up with the new Commissioner, who will be coming in next month, to see what we can do to try to get some more access. Obviously our beaches are one of the greatest resources we have here throughout all of Suffolk County and we want to make them as accessible as possible to the public. We do have some restrictions, as we've discussed, with the Federal Government and the Fish, Game and Wildlife Department, but I promise you we'll try to do everything we can to open up as much access as possible, but then there are the restrictions that we're forced to adhere to. Thank you.

MR. BURKHARDT:

That's the other thing, too, that's confusing, is our access. Our restraints are so much different than other places on the Island. I mean, with have this -- such a capacity of birds we're supposed to maintain and the distances we're supposed to maintain. That's the other thing I don't understand, is why is the different between {inaudible} and Smith Point Beach, where they're 150 feet from the birds and we're 1500 feet. I mean, that is all stuff I'm learning. It's a real big learning process for me, too, about what goes on and what constraints fall under what jurisdiction. And, you know, it's kind of silly that in one place you got 150 feet, you know, and this is Long Island, it's not like we're talking about we're going down to North Carolina or something.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Right. And honestly we deal with the same frustration on a lot of different levels with all the different levels of government on different issues. Unfortunately we see so many different hands in the pot and regulations that we're constantly trying to circumnavigate all that red tape.

MR. BURKHARDT:

Right.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I know Legislator Browning had a question for you as well.

LEG. BROWNING:

Hi. And I have to say, you know, a lot of local -- a lot of your patrons, because of the impact on his business, had a fundraiser event at his business and purchased a lot of items just to help him this year, so I know the impact on him.

But I'm just curious, you know, because every year, I know this year seemed to be where the outer beach was closed much longer than previous years. Do you remember -- I know being a local resident -- when, you know, when that all started with the outer beach and at what point in time did you see it closing. And I know last year it was like July, it was opened all of August.

MR. BURKHARDT:

Right. I would say about six years, seven years ago they started making us use Burma Road much more often, you know, and that's when we weren't allowed access. There was a lot of time led us to {inaudible}, and then route us on to Burma, and then Burma, which was supposed to be rebuilt apparently when they did the Beach Replenishment Project, but route us on to Burma Road at cut two and then we were allowed access to the inlet. This way we circumnavigated the bird and, you know, the bird didn't bother us, we didn't bother it. That's the way it was. And then gradually it became a whole beach closure. I would say about four, three or four years ago we started dealing with this full beach closure. A lot of time it all the way to cut two and then -- after Sandy, yeah correct, after Sandy was when we really started getting, you know, a lot more closure time.

LEG. BROWNING:

Where are most of your customers coming from -- or a lot of your customers coming from?

MR. BURKHARDT:

All over the Island. I mean, of course a lot of locals but, you know, it's all over the Island. I got guys that come from Long Beach, you know. And thank goodness for them, thank goodness for my regulars. I mean, the business has been there since 1952. You're going to put it out. It's crazy. It's good, good friends from all over the Island. You know, I mean, you saw, Mrs. Browning, when we were there, how many, you know, many guys I have. They have become friends, you know. They have become family some of them.

LEG. BROWNING:

Right.

MR. BURKHARDT:

So it's a really good customer base, you know. I mean, and if it wasn't for the loyal part of the customer base I'd probably be done already. Unfortunately, it's what I have to deal with for now and, you know, I'll hang in and hopefully things will get better. I mean, I noticed a drastic increase. As soon as that beach opened we went from -- it increased 50 percent. We have six and a half months to make it, six months to make it, and you have to worry about storms coming in the fall and taking away the prime part of the spring, you know, you're losing 50 percent of your best months. From six months now you're down to making it four, three. Virtually impossible.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. I appreciate it and, you know, and I think it's important that when we meet with Fish and Wildlife and the Congressman that he sees the impact on our local economy. Like you said, your business, the delis, and I'm sure if they could all be here they'd be happy to be here.

MR. BURKHARDT:

Yeah, well, they would have to do what I did. I'm closed right now. A lot of people can't do that. I just shut it down because I wanted to come speak to everybody and let them know how I felt, as I'll do next Wednesday.

LEG. BROWNING:

Thank you for coming.

MR. BURKHARDT:

Absolutely. Thank you for having me. I appreciate it.

LEG. BROWNING:

We'll see you Wednesday?

MR. BURKHARDT:

Absolutely.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you, sir.

MR. BURKHARDT:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Oh, I'm sorry, sir. Legislator Krupski --

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Oh, no, not a question for you, just a comment. And I want to thank everyone here because I know everyone's -- the committee meetings being in Riverhead were a hot topic. I just want to thank everyone here for supporting that, and you can see, you know, this is a real local issue here out on the East End and people were able to come to Riverhead to voice their concern. I mean, this gentleman had to close his business but he came because it's so important. I just want to thank everyone for making that effort. I do appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

On Mapquest I'll have to see if Hauppauge is closer than Riverhead. We'll table that for another day.

Commissioner Dawson, if we could ask you to come up for the last time. Congratulations on your soon-to-be retirement.

(Applause)

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Thank you very much. Thank you. Much appreciated.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

So obviously you heard some of the concerns. We've had multiple conversations about some of these issues over the past eight, nine months, but if you could speak to what our opportunities are to help improve access and maybe what some of those obstacles are as well.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Okay. And I know they might not believe this, but agree with mostly what everybody -- all the speakers. We discussed about getting as much access as we can for the County beaches. Unfortunately, we have to deal with our Federal regulations from the Fish and Wildlife. Access did start to get reduced back about three years ago right after Sandy. What happened was the dune system was breached at three separate spots at Smith Point. They only repaired Burma Road this past winter. So we now have access from Burma Road, from the campground straight out to the inlet. Unfortunately, there's no dune system on either side of it, so the birds can still -- when they nest, when they're fledging they can still go from the bay side to the ocean side. We've been spending an awful lot of time, and we will continue to do this, putting up snow fence on both sides of Burma Road so that we can have continual access throughout the summer. It didn't happen this year. Usually with can get around the birds.

In years past -- you have to remember, Smith's Point is over six miles long and there are three cuts. And we have Burma Road and the outer beach, you can kind of use those cuts to get in and around where the birds are nesting. We didn't have that opportunity this year unfortunately. As we continue to build the dune system the birds will either stay ocean side or they will stay bayside and it should give us additional access.

You know, as far as the snow fencing, I understand the metal snow fencing. Why we use it, I don't know if it's a financial reason or ease of installing the stakes. I will certainly look into, you know, future -- a different way of getting them in. I don't know if there is any way of actually pulling those stakes out. You'd be disrupting the dune system. But theoretically they get put in, the sand that creeps along at the snow fence gets covered and then we put continual rows in front of it or above it to build the height of the dune and the width of the dune. Unfortunately, when you have storms they do get exposed. That's not ideal, but it generally only happens in storm events. But remember, we put up almost six miles of snow fence at Smith's Point, well, it's probably more than that because it's zigzagging it out, so it's probably seven or eight miles of snow fence annually to try to build up that dune system.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

We understand it by the dunes, but what about the fencing that we heard that's coming down from the dune line all the way to the water.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Well, that is -- and that's a separate issue. That's where we -- Mr. Densieski, you know, we somewhat disagree. We opened up Cupsogue Beach. Once the birds are gone Burma Road goes from, again, from the campground to Burma Road out to the inlet. While the birds are there we cut access off to the inlet. Once the birds are gone we open that back up. We allow access out to the inlet for fishing, because most of the time that's where the good fishing is.

In October we open the beach up. We let patrons come down about, I would say about 1000 feet down the beach so that they park and they can fish the inlet. We stop them from going -- transversing across the campground and the pavilion area for the reasons that you cited, you know, there are people that do want to walk the beach and not have to worry about four by fours coming by. I understand that four by fours have a right to drive on the beach, we sell them permits, but the general public has a right to sit on the beach and not have to see four by fours go by. That's just in our policy. There are many, many other locations for people to use these four by four access, you know, Shinnecock, Shinnecock East, Shinnecock West, Montauk, Cedar Point. There are a number of opportunities for people to use their four by -- Smith's Point you have six miles. We do cut off this section at Cupsogue, as we do at Smith's Point. We don't allow vehicles to go across the pavilion there either. It's a policy decision. We've been pretty much standing by that for the last couple of years.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And I understand that, especially during the summer and the busier months for the beach goers. Have we looked at the possibility of opening that up a little bit further and giving it a little bit more room in the off-seasons?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We can certainly look at it. Again, we do come back about 1000 feet. I think, and they call it an arbitrary line, if we went 1100 feet or 1200 feet, I think what the gentleman in the back wants is complete access to the Southampton side to drive back and forth from Cupsogue to Southampton and we're not going to allow that, so.

MS. REEVE:

He's got to spend all his money on gasoline.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I'm sorry, you had your opportunity to speak. This is our chance to ask some of those questions here. The other question that had come up was the access was cut-off at ten o'clock at Smith's Point.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

As long as you have an outer beach -- a night fishing permit you can be out there 24-7. We do close the outer beach, and you have to remember, at a place like Smith's Point we put 1500 cars out there on any given weekend day. We do close the beach at ten o'clock. Outer beach fishermen are allowed access all the way to the inlet in any one of our locations.

MR. BURKHARDT:

They were not when it was open in the spring.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

But they do need to be actively fishing. They need to have a pole. I mean, there are certain requirements.

MR. BURKHARDT:

It's not true.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I'm sorry, what's not true?

MR. BURKHARDT:

It's not what you did this spring.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Well, because the beach was closed because of the Plover. It's open now.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. So what we're hearing is that the beach was closed because of the Plovers after 10, and now you have access.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Right. And it was closed -- the other reason it was closed in the spring is because the Army Corps of Engineers was still working in there up until right around -- I don't know if it was Memorial Day, prior to Memorial Day, but the Army Corps was actually actively in there working. We could not have access on to the beach and have construction vehicles back and forth. So he is correct, it was closed. It won't be closed this -- it will not be closed this upcoming spring because there will be no construction. Does that answer your question?

MR. BURKHARDT:

Yes, absolutely. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Legislator Krupski, I know you had a question.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you. I wasn't clear on, and I'm not clear on the area by Cupsogue, and there was discussion

about it not being opened to Southampton. Why would that be blocked?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Because there are people who go to the pavilion area, who go to the campground area, that actually want to walk the beach and not have to worry about four by fours coming back and forth.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Is there four by four access on the Southampton side?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

And then four by four access on the County side.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

So why wouldn't you allow that to continue, especially -- and I understand that Southampton is protective of their residency rights and everything. Why wouldn't you open that up to -- why wouldn't you keep that open? If there's four by four access on both sides, and I know Southampton is very -- the residents there are very protective of their right to drive on the beach, so why wouldn't you keep that open?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Because I firmly believe that people who don't want to see -- who don't want to have traffic going back and forth while they're walking also have that right to do that. I mean, the four by fours have their --

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I think the issue, Legislator Krupski, is in between those two points. There's Cupsogue Beach and people want to have access to the pavilion and the beach. We've had a number of people come in and voice that concern.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I'm not familiar really with that.

LEG. HAHN:

Can I make a point of request for the Clerk? Like is it possible that we have aerials of all of our parks on the T drive so that we can have access to them at committees when we need to show maps?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

You might be able to just bring up Google Earth.

MS. ELLIS:

We can definitely, you know, discuss that.

LEG. HAHN:

Yeah, because I think it would be good when things like this come up we could point, you know, we could point out on the map, on the screen or on our laptops some issues.

MS. ELLIS:

Certainly.

LEG. HAHN:

And I think if we could get an aerial of every park that would be good.

MS. ELLIS:

Sure.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Any other questions for the Commissioner? I know this is going to be an issue that your successor is going to have to address as well and, you know, it's one of the first issues that we'll bring up once we meet with him, once he comes on board.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

As my predecessor did as well. I mean, this is ongoing.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I think, you know, in all fairness to the folks that are here, it's just trying to find that healthy balance between all the interested parties.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Agreed. And I can't say it more, we push as much access as we can. I don't know that there's an appreciation from the beach buggy side about, you know, about the resistance that we get from the Fish and Wildlife. So we're kind of pushed in the middle. The four by four access people think that we do way too much, and the Fish and Wildlife think that we're not doing enough, so it's a balance. But it's actually easier for us to have the beach open than it is to close it. We need no resources on the beach to keep it closed than we do to keep it open. We want it open, it's just we're under -- and I just wanted to make one other point to Mr. Densieski. They do have a voice. We do have -- we have a committee that meets quarterly that has representative of LIBBA, Beach Buggy Association, Camping Association, Horseback Riding Association and they meet quarterly. And they have a representative on that board. They meet with Nick Gibbons on my staff. The Sportsmen's Advisory Board.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Would you mind just providing Mr. Densieski and the committee that information of when they meet and the times and places.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Absolutely. And it's a standard committee meeting. They meet, they take minutes, but there's a voice for hunters, and a voice for fishermen and a voice for campers and whatnot. That was established a year ago.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. All right. Any other questions for the Commissioner? Legislator Browning?

LEG. BROWNING:

Just, yeah. Park Rangers. How often are the Park Rangers going down the outer beach?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Well, again, when the outer beach is closed we don't even -- the Park Rangers aren't -- I wouldn't say they're not allowed to go down. In an emergency they will, but we've been criticized because we didn't have Park Rangers out there patrolling when boats are actually landing on the bayside and

walking over. I can show you e-mails from Fish and Wildlife from last year, a couple years ago.

LEG. BROWNING:

And I'm just curious, because I know people, you know, they keep looking at you, looking at our Parks Commissioner and our Parks employees and saying, you know, why can't you open. What would happen, let's say they're in their nesting stage, the Plover is in their nesting stage and they're hatching and something was to happen because we did not close. What would the Fish and Wildlife do?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

They -- I believe that I'm, because I oversee the beach, I might be personally responsible for a \$25,000 fine and six months and jail, pursuant to --

LEG. BROWNING:

How much the fine?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Twenty-five thousand dollars.

LEG. BROWNING:

Twenty-five thousand dollar fine.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Or six months in jail. Or both.

LEG. BROWNING:

Each incident.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yes. It's called a take. If we allow -- if we don't do our due diligence in protecting the birds -- like if I went out there and I just arbitrarily opened up the beach we would -- I be liable. Whoever opened up the beach would be liable.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. And I know that Friday's your last day, today's only Wednesday, but the issue with the disabled parking at Smith Point, you know that's been an ongoing issue. So our new to be Commissioner, I hope we can continue that conversation with him. And we had also an issue, which I appreciate your work, and a lot of people who want to go down, who like to look at the night sky and the only good place you can do it is at the beach, and generally the park being closed at ten o'clock they can't go. But we did accommodate them this year and I think that's a conversation we need to have to accommodate them in the future when there is, you know, a meteor shower coming and they want to go down and see it. We shouldn't stop them from being able to do it. Clearly I think the Rangers can be present when there are people on the beach and that's something that we can look into.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Okay.

LEG. BROWNING:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Any other questions? Well, thanks, Commissioner. All the best in your retirement.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Hopefully we'll see you on the beach.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Anybody else that has any other comment that they want to make from the public? I'm sorry, sir, you only get one opportunity to speak. Yes, sir. If you could just state your name and what town you live in just for the record and we'll have you fill out a comment card when you're done.

MR. BOTTKE:

John Bottke, West Hampton, lifelong resident. I have been driving on the beach since 1955 with my parents. There's been multiple accesses on the beach that have been closed due to residents. They are claiming that the entire beach is theirs from Cupsogue all the way to West Hampton -- all the way to Southampton. There's always been one lane driving down the middle of the beach. All the local residents just stay out of that lane; there's was no problems. If they choose to put their chairs and beach blankets right in the W ditch, they are looking to incite problems with the beach drivers. All the other accesses along the beach, every -- I think every ten houses there's public access to beach. They're all closed because local residents have locked it out.

The Piping Plovers, fishermen and hunters and everything else, are the reason of Conservation Department. They are the biggest conservationists there are. Without the Piping Plovers the whole ecosystem shuts down. We're watching it at -- local residents, they might have a Piping Plover nest right in front of their house. It's wired off. At night they do whatever they want there, they chase away the birds, those do anything else. Those local residents aren't hindered by the Federal Government.

There used to be -- both sides of the pavilion you used to be able to get to the beach. You could drive out. Fifty years ago there were swing sets there and everything else. Going to Pikes and driving out. For my entire life I've either driven to Westhampton, my father built most of the houses on Dune Road back in the 60's. Beach access has always been a major thing and the people that are driving on the beach to go fishing are more worried about preserving the beach than the local residents are.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you, sir. Not seeing other speakers, we're going to close the public portion and move on to the agenda.

LEG. BROWNING:

Thank you, Bill.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

You're welcome.

Tabled Resolutions

We'll start with Resolution 1371 of our Tabled Resolutions. **1371 - Appropriating funds in connection with the Historic Restoration and Preservation Fund for the Cedar Island Lighthouse (CP 7510)(Fleming).**

At the request of the sponsor I'm going to make a motion to table. Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion is tabled. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**

Tabled Resolution **1589 - Appointing Kathleen Giamo as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 13)(Pres.Off.).**

Miss Giamo, if you wouldn't mind just coming forward. I guess you could stand at the podium. We're a little tight on space right now at the table. Thank you for being here. If you could just briefly tell us why you'd like to serve on the Vanderbilt Museum Board and what qualifications you feel -- and expertise you feel you would bring to the board.

MS. GIAMO:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I have 30 years, over 30 years of experience in the development field across Long Island, Nassau and Suffolk County. I believe that I can bring to the Vanderbilt Board not only the experience that I have in development, but the people that I've met through that career, both in corporate and in residential areas.

I think the Vanderbilt Museum is one of the major assets of Long Island, both Nassau and Suffolk County, and there's a tremendous amount opportunity there for growth and for development of programs. And with the -- I feel personally there's a tremendous amount of conversation regarding youth leaving Long Island. I think one of the reasons they're leaving is because we don't offer enough opportunities for recreation. Having toured that grounds and museum, I think that what we need to do is get them engaged in it and understand what they have here and what they offer for their children and future generations. So this is why I feel honored to have the opportunity to work there.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you, Miss Giamo. We appreciate your willingness to serve on this board. It's been a difficult time for the museum. They've had some challenges which they've been very successful in meeting those challenges, and it's important for them to have an active, involved board to assist, so we appreciate your willingness to serve.

MS. GIAMO:

I'm very excited about it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I'll just open it up to the rest of the committee. If you could wait just a moment, Ms. Giamo, to see if anybody has any questions. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

I just wanted to ask her real quickly. Welcome. You reside where?

MS. GIAMO:

In Wainscott.

LEG. STERN:

In Wainscott. Okay. I know that the board would, based on your background experience and many leadership positions, will benefit greatly from your involvement and we thank you for your willingness to serve.

MS. GIAMO:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you very motion. Did we have a motion? I'll make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**. Congratulations.

Ms. Giamo, just to explain to you the process, now this will go before the full Legislature next week, next Wednesday. You don't have to appear, you're more than welcome to but you don't have to appear, and will be voted on by the full Legislature. Thank you again for your willingness to serve. Moving on to our Introductory Resolutions.

Introductory Resolutions

We have **1663 - Authorizing the use of Smith Point County Park, Cathedral Pines County Park and Smith Point Marina by the Long Island 2 Day Walk to Fight Breast Cancer, Inc., for Breast Cancer Walk in 2017 (Browning)**.

Commissioner Dawson, we okay with the paperwork on this?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yes, all the paperwork is in place.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Second by Legislator Kennedy. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**

1682 - Authorizing use of Cedar Beach County Park for Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program Taste and Tour Fundraiser (Krupski).

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

This is a fundraiser as well and all the paperwork is in order.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay, paperwork's is in order. Okay. Legislator Krupski I know has a question.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

When we're done, not on this.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. I'll make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Kennedy. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**.

1689 - Authorizing Navy SEAL Museum at West Sayville (Lindsay).

Dan Murphy, I know you're here. How are you, Dan?

MR. MURPHY:

Mr. Chairman, it's always a pleasure to see you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

It's a pleasure to see you as well.

MR. MURPHY:

I am honored to be here. Kara, it's great -- Kate I see has left already. Legislator Stern, we've met a bunch of times with Mr. Bellone's Veterans Committee with Mr. McCaffrey.

This is basically, I just want to introduce, we have the architect here, Paul Dobiecki. The GC is basically Vince Calvosa, who has a construction company, and Brian was the former XO of the Sea Cadets and is part of the building committee. There's about 13 of us.

This is really just a name change. This was agreed to in concept a few months ago or maybe about a year ago, and what happened was it was originally set up with a Lieutenant Michael Murphy Sea Cadet Division. It would own the building, there would be a Navy SEAL museum. It turns out that the National United States Sea Cadets don't allow their divisions to own buildings or property, obviously for those of you who are lawyers there, as I am, the reason being liability. So we have basically it's the same concept. It will be a building which will house the Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Navy SEAL Museum, which is basically a Navy SEAL museum, not a Michael Murphy museum, and a Sea Cadet training facility.

Paul has some pictures if you'd like to see it. But this is really just a name change that now puts the Navy SEAL Museum as the corporation that will run the building and build it, and then it will have both this Navy SEAL Museum and the Sea Cadet Division.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

The only thing I'd like to add to that, Dan, just for the record, is that this is being funded 100% privately. There's no public money.

MR. MURPHY:

That's correct.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And that the reason for the agreement is that we're allowing the museum to be built on County museum property.

MR. MURPHY:

That's correct. If you'd like to see, Paul has their pictures.

MR. DOBIECKI:

I have got some of what the rendering will look like and also if you want to go over the floor plans and space allocations.

MR. MURPHY:

I will let Paul or Vince talk about that. Just a quick thing is that we went before the Trustees, I guess, who approved the concept, and when we were showing the structures Vince had gone to get some of the materials at Riverhead Building Supply, and while he was there he met the authorized representative from Anderson Windows, who when they heard about this concept is donating all the windows. Now, I'm not sure they know when they see the front of the building of all the windows that are going to be there --

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

That's a lot of glass.

MR. MURPHY:

-- but they were happy to do that. I expect funding not to be a problem. Just we've already looked at areas where we're going to go, besides my friend Justice Cohalan's Gardiner Foundation and Senator Croci's support, there will also be the Navy SEAL Foundation. And then they -- those who built the U.S.S. Michael Murphy, i.e. Bath Ironworks, Northrup Grumman, all those, which we will be reaching out to to get the support for the building. Actually, Paul and Vince can tell you a lot more about the concept of the building. I'm just kind of like the general guy, just because it's my son.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

If you could stand by the mic. Thanks, Paul.

MR. DOBIECKI:

I'm not sure if everybody's aware of the location. It's at the Maritime Museum in West Sayville. Basically, as you know, the Maritime Museum is closer to the water, Montauk Highway being north where the maintenance facility is for the area. We're probably about a 1,000 feet from the maintenance facility, several hundred to 1000 feet. It's an area -- we've worked with Parks for the past year and a half meeting with them and the Museum to pick the location. They have moved from the apple orchard, which is an historic site, up to an abandoned area that they're not using and would like to see improved, so they're actually improving the site for the Maritime Museum.

Also, we worked with them for the master plan. They have a proposed master plan where right now the traffic comes in and out all the way down on West Avenue through the two white gates down all the way down the block. Their plan was to eventually move an entrance further north towards Montauk Highway and then create a one-way traffic flow where you come in up closer to Montauk Highway, come down one way and then out through that area. We're accomplishing that goal for them by the location of the museum. I have some site plans that I will pass around.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Also, just for the education of the members of the committee, this has already been approved by the Parks Trustees. They've gone through the screening of the Historical Society to make sure that it conforms with the spirit of the property in continuum. And just, for those of you who haven't been out to the Maritime Museum, it probably -- it has some of the greatest opportunities of all of our museums for different projects, not just this project, but there's a marina right now that's inoperable that needs to be repaired, it needs to be dredged. The Navy SEAL Museum we feel is going to drive a lot more traffic to the Maritime Museum and hopefully give us some of the funding sources that we'll need to try to reopen the marina and restore it. And it's a beautiful property, especially this time of the year when the weather is really nice. So I encourage all of you to go out and take a look at it and I would be more than happy to arrange a tour of the property itself. This is going to be a great asset to the County at no cost to the County at a time when we're struggling with some financial issues. It will only help enhance what we already have there on the property as well.

MR. MURPHY:

And just more point if I can make is that you'll note that that incoming road is actually going to be called the Avenue of Heroes, which will not only have trees planted for those 19 men that were lost in Operation Red Wings, but for all of your constituents we're going to the concept is to allow those of your constituents who have fallen heroes to purchase a tree so that they'll each have a tree with a plaque on it that will honor their fallen heroes. Whether it's Dawn Esposito for her son Michael, or for the Police Officer that was killed in Iraq. Their families will be able to purchase a tree and basically plant them along that roadway, which will be called the Avenue of Heroes.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you. I do have a couple of questions for these gentlemen here, but I wonder if there isn't a conflict here with the Chairman. Legislator Lindsay, is there conflict -- because I notice the driving range is awfully close to the facility. Is that going to be a problem for you?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

No, it won't be a problem for me. I hook, I don't slice. And it's a little bit deceiving, too. There's plenty of room there where I don't think all those glass windows are in any kind of jeopardy.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Okay, because we were talking about windows.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yes, right.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

So as far as the -- there's two questions. I'm not sure whoever wants to answer. What is the terms of the lease and who's going to make sure the construction gets finalized, and is there a time frame on the construction, and is there a time frame on the lease, and then what kind of activities are going to be conducted there, and who's going to manage the facility and run the activities.

MR. DOBIECKI:

I can answer some of the questions. The time frame is -- we're hoping to break ground some time next spring, summer. That's contingent on you people sitting here with legislation approval. The quicker you can act, the quicker we can get done. Probably going to be about a 12 to 16 month construction period. And it's a Navy SEAL Museum. The Navy SEAL has a board set up and they will be responsible for the maintenance of the building. There's no -- we're not looking for the County to maintain anything expect for their parts of the museum. And basically the leasing agreements I'll leave with Dan, he's the attorney, but it will be a shared facility between the Navy SEAL Museum and the Michael Murphy Sea Cadets. So they will occupy approximately one-half of the building, the SEAL Museum will occupy the other half, and there's some joint space that can be shared by both.

MR. MURPHY:

Legislator Krupski, basically there's an 11 member board of trustees that have filed with the State for the Museum Charter. We're just waiting for that to be approved. We expect to get that around November. They will run the building. We are leasing for one dollar a year for 99 years to the Sea Cadets, the Lieutenant Michael Murphy Sea Cadet Division, to have their training facility there. If you saw the design you'll notice that it's -- the training facility is going to be very much like the Navy SEAT train out in Coronado. There's a Navy SEAL grinder, which Senator Croci thought was a great idea and made the suggestion of this paved area which will have the feet prints from Coronado where they will train outside.

There will be a period -- there will be area inside, an assembly area where they can train inside. And there's going to be some shared space because we have been in touch with the Navy SEAL Museum down in Fort Pierce and the one out in Coronado, so there will be an exchanges of exhibits going forward, things like the RIB boats that the SEALs train in. It will be brought into that building in that assembly area for people to see. So there will be a shared responsibility -- it is the first Navy SEAL Museum in the northeast. There's actually only two others; one on the west coast out at Coronado where they train, and the one in Fort Pierce, Florida.

MR. DOBIECKI:

There's only one other thing that I would like to add to that. There was quite an issue with the tower, which is a monument to the Navy SEALs. It's a triangular shaped tower basically representing the three acronyms for the Navy SEALs, the air, sea and land. The height issue was addressed and approved by the Parks. The average canopy height in the surrounding area is about 110 feet. Our monument is at 70 feet. It was also addressed as an attractive nuisance, that somebody might be able to climb that tower, which we handled with a porcelain -- custom porcelain tile of the American flag, wrapping it to about a high height of 15 feet to negate that, somebody trying to climb it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

One other thing I just would like to add, as Mr. Murphy spoke, they want to start doing fundraising but it's difficult to do that without having the commitment from the County, so it's a cart before the horse situation. And having been involved in this project from the start, I think we all feel confident in their ability to raise the funds that would be necessary to build the building. And seeing the Sea Cadets and what they do and the values that they instill in a lot of our young boys and girls throughout the County. Bryan, what do you have, 90? How many kids do you have at this point in the program?

MR. MASTRANGELO:

There's currently about 42, but they're outgrowing the museum, which is -- the Maritime Museum, who's been great to us, and they're outgrowing it, so we're kind of asking for a new home.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Sure. Okay. It's a great program. We had a young lady in earlier today -- earlier in the year who she just got accepted into the Coast Guard Academy. She went through the program so it's a fantastic program. It really is an asset to a lot of the young boys and girls throughout the County.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

What is the program and who can participate?

MR. MASTRANGELO:

I can speak about the program. It's kind of like the Boy Scouts of America and we're a local -- it's a national organization, the Sea Cadets, Naval Sea Cadets, and we're the local Michael Murphy Division out of West Sayville. There are four divisions on Long Island. There's Northport V.A., there's the Coast Guard Station, there's a division there, and there's one in Farmingdale.

So we're out of West Sayville. It's a program that -- I guess you can call it a military youth program, but it's not exactly -- you know, all we're doing is affording the children the opportunity to see what it's like to serve in any service. It's 11 to 17 years old. We drill. It's usually, you know, we call it drill, one weekend a month like if you were reserve, and then they have opportunities to go around the country for advanced trainings. We just created an advanced training here out of the Boy Scout camp. There was a Seabee training and they built like a garage, but they have Navy SEAL training, first aid training, that you can go out. There's certain trainings to get advanced, to get promoted. You can work your way all the way up to Chief. It's similar to like making Eagle Scout. We're a nonprofit. We raise money just to operate. It's what the parents make of it, so it will afford us to make something better of the program.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And it's open anybody, Legislator Krupski. It's not -- there's no pre-qualifications to become part of the program or to join.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

What are the age -- what ages?

MR. MASTRANGELO:

Navy Leaguer, which is at 11 and 12, and then when you turn 13 you can become a Sea Cadet -- or if you come in at 14 or 15 you're a Sea Cadet automatically. You go to recruit training, so that's when you can take off your recruit hat and put on your Navy Sea Cadet hat. You know, they can get pulled all different directions. Color Guards, opening ceremonies, and we also -- we have award ceremonies, you know, when they get promoted or graduation ceremonies where the Navy SEAL Foundation hands out scholarships to the graduating cadets. So it's what we make of it. Christmas holiday parties.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Very good. Are any of you gentlemen Navy SEALS?

MR. MASTRANGELO:

Can't take credit for that.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Legislator McCaffrey has a question.

LEG. MCCAFFREY:

Thank you. I just want to add to that, you know, I had the opportunity, it was about a year and a half ago or probably two years ago we went to the Maritime Museum and we first announced the plans for there. I had a chance to meet Mr. Murphy and the family there. I think it's just a great idea. We met the Sea Cadets, we saw what they did and the opportunity for expansion there. It was just wonderful to see that. I think it's going to be great and we can't ask a better person to be named after, so I'm sure we'll be supporting that.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you. Just obviously with some of the financial constraints that we're under, I think we're going to, especially this committee itself, we're going to be charged with the challenge of trying to figure out financially how to maintain some of our museum properties and parklands while at the same time dealing within the fiscal constraints that we're forced to face. I firmly believe we're probably -- more than likely going to have to try to seek out more of these public-private partnerships to try to overcome some of those financial constraints, while at the same time providing the public with this parks space and maintaining the park space and the museum space that we have now, so.

MR. MURPHY:

Mr. Chairman, I agree, and just a quick point. We've talked about a concept of allowing the Long Island Maritime Museum or some of the other community based organizations who want to use the space to hold some sort of fundraisers, including the Maritime Museum, to do that. And I think, like you had indicated earlier, with this museum there being more or less being, you know, present history as opposed to past, you'll see a lot of traffic come in that will benefit the Long Island Maritime Museum at the same time.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Absolutely. And we've, you know, we've already talked about a plan on how do we connect the museum with the new -- with the Navy SEAL Museum, how do we connect the Village of Sayville

with that, the marina. There's a lot of talk about trying to bring all the interested parties involved between the public and private to make not only the museum a great success, but do some economic revitalization to that whole area as well.

LEG. MCCAFFREY:

Right, and even under those constraints I think we need to find a way to support a museum that's named after a man of honor when they're from Long Island, so.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Absolutely. Not seeing any other questions, thank you everyone for coming in today and providing this information. I'd like to make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator McCaffrey. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**

MR. MURPHY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and it's always a pleasure to see all of you. I hope to see you again.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thanks, Dan. Our last Introductory Resolution **1745 - Authorizing use of West Hills County Park by India Association of Long Island, Inc., for its India Fest Fundraiser (Co. Exec.)**. That was **withdrawn**. That was our last item on the agenda. We are adjourned.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

No, wait. I just --

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I'm sorry. We're not adjourned. Legislator Krupski had a couple of questions for Commissioner Dawson, if you could come back up.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you. I'm sure he's got time for these things.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Apologies, Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you. It's not four o'clock yet.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Four-thirty Friday, but who's counting.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

There's a couple of things, and I wanted to ask you because you're knowledgeable of them. So there's the issue, and I'm sure you saw them with the cesspools being exposed on Long Island Sound at Goldsmith County Park.

CHAIRMAN DAWSON:

I needed to reach out to find exactly where they were on the property, because I couldn't -- just looking at the picture we only got them I think on Monday, so we kind of assess where they are.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

So if you are at the town beach looking east across the inlet, they're right there.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Okay.

LEG. KRUPSKI :

Right on the western edge of the County park. I got another e-mail today saying that if they're broken up the concern is the kids who play there are just going to take them and build a dam across the inlet because the kids there are -- they really should just be buried. You know, when we dredge it and the dredging is, of course, another long process there, but they could just be covered with sand and just to make sure that they really are I'm sure fun to play in and on, so if they could be --

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Just so you know, I looked at those pictures with the incoming Commissioner and Public Works so we're on it. But like I said, we only got it on Monday.

LEG. KRUPSKI :

Thank you. The other thing is the North Fork Preserve drainage. You know, we had a nice meeting out there a month or so ago. We had a five inch rainstorm a week and a half ago and I asked some of the residents, but it was so dry that the rain, most of it got absorbed into the soil. But what's the -- I know you were going to work with DPW on a long-term plan there.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I have not had the chance to sit down with Gil. I think that's more of a question for -- it's more we're going to work with them, so you might want to check with --

LEG. KRUPSKI :

And then the final thing is you know we're going to be out of compliance with the North Fork Preserve, the farmland parcel that we bought. The RFP has been issued, I think it was July or something.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I got a draft copy of the RFP that Sarah did in the beginning of August. We've been looking at it. We need to make some changes to it because it doesn't comply with the way we send out our RFPs. I had a meeting on it yesterday afternoon. We hope to get it out in the next couple of weeks.

LEG. KRUPSKI :

We're going to be out of compliance, plus we have -- actually have someone who's an interested farmer, so we want to -- if we could get that, you know, rented out. Get the RFP out, see if there's any other interest, and then we'll be in compliance with Chapter 8.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

And the RFP actually was specific to an equestrian center. We wanted to make it a little broader so that it would include any kind of agricultural use so that we can it out there to as many people as we could, understanding that, you know, somebody might not take an equestrian use there.

LEG. KRUPSKI :

Thank you. And I do realize that you're retiring, but you obviously have time to take care of those things.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

By lunch I'll have it done.

LEG. KRUPSKI :

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Legislator Krupski, obviously putting the meeting here in Riverhead gives you an opportunity to extend our meetings which usually don't go this long, but that would definitely be future consideration for how many meetings we have next year. I know I have some support here on the left side of the horseshoe. With no other business, we are adjourned. Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m. *)