

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF JUNE 21st, 2007
SMITHS POINT COUNTY PARK, SHIRLEY**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ray Corwin	Chairman, Member at Large
Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Gregory Dawson	Trustee, Town of Islip
John Fritz	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Gary Olsen	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
Todd Stebbins	Member of the Board
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Aurelio Colina	Vice Chairman, Town of Southampton
Vacant	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Tracey Bellone	Acting Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Senior Environmental Analyst
Tom Hroncich	Parks Foundation Director
Karen Summers-Solinas	Senior Accountant
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Kim Shaw	Department of Health Services – Ecology Division
Roger Podd	Research Analyst -County Law Department

Chairman Corwin called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2007

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Fritz. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

PUBLIC PORTION

There were no members of the public present.

PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE

Lauretta Fischer proposed two acquisitions and mentioned the Lewis Oliver Dairy in the Town of Huntington was being tabled until the next meeting.

Pheasant Meadow – Town of Brookhaven Acquisition of 30.7 acres in East Moriches, Town of Brookhaven. This is a 50/50 partnership with the Town of Brookhaven. This will be acquired under the Land Preservation Partnership Program and Suffolk County Multifaceted Land Preservation Program.

A motion to approve the proposed acquisition was made by Trustee Olsen and seconded by Trustee Borden. Unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

Bayport County Wetlands Addition – Farley Property Acquisition of .69 acres in the Hamlet of Bayport, Town of Islip. This will be acquired under the Suffolk County Multifaceted Land Preservation Program – Open Space Preservation Program.

A motion to approve the proposed acquisition was made by Trustee Pearsall and seconded by Trustee Dawson. Unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Acting Commissioner Bellone turned over the meeting to Nick Gibbons to review the Chandler Estate Master Plan Overview.

Chandler Estate Master Plan Overview Nick Gibbons: We have handed out copies of the Chandler Estate Master Plan Overview for your review. We will discuss it briefly and then, hopefully next month we can take a closer look at it and answer any questions you may have. My preference is to get either a sense from the Board or a resolution outright before I go to CEQ so I can take that additional endorsement with me. The Chandler Estate is located in Mount Sinai in the Town of Brookhaven. The Estate was purchased in September 2000 by Suffolk County with funds from the Community Greenways Fund and the Town of Brookhaven. The main feature of this property is its topography.

We contracted with a consultant, the RBA Group, to see how we could better improve the current access situation and make this more of a real park to visit and enjoy. Our current access is through the parking lot of a church located on North Country Road, past a cemetery (which is not affiliated with the church). We have an informal agreement with the cemetery for the one or two people we get up there. They park to the side out of everyone’s way. Our preferred alternative is to establish a parking area off Pipe Stave Hollow Road which is located on the eastern boundary of the property. On page 8 of the Master Plan Overview are cost estimates for all the different features that they propose. These were all things that were discussed at length between DPW, Bill Sickles, myself and others. We’d like to see all these things happen but our main priority is the parking. We had a public meeting at the church where the neighboring community came out in great numbers. Once we acquired this property, they were very

opposed

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to any public access at this site; which is still the status quo right now. This scaled capital improvement would take several years to actually fulfill.

If anyone is interested in seeing the Chandler Estate please contact me and we can put together a tour date.

2008 Operating Budget Acting Commissioner Bellone: I'd like to introduce Karen Summers-Solinas who will be taking over as head of the Accounting Department in September and was solely responsible for putting this budget together and did an amazing job. Our instructions were to present a 0% budget and a -2% budget so it's very similar to our 2006/2007 adopted budget. The only real change you will see in there is we anticipate having a police academy class in September. Currently we have 15 vacancies so we expect to put through 15 cadets which is resulting in large increases on a lot of the police lines for their uniforms and supplies. Otherwise it's a very tight budget similar to what we actually spent in 2006. The -2% was taken from a lot of the utility lines. There was no place else to take the money from without hurting the Parks operation. We do need your review of this budget and a vote from you.

A motion to approve the proposed 2008 Operating Budget was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Borden. Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0. (Note: This vote reflects the addition of Trustee Todd Stebbins).

Golf Professional at Bergen Point The golf professional at Bergen Point Golf Course, Victor Romano, has been replaced by Global Golf. The golf pros name is Robert Miller.

Parks Golf Superintendent Our golf superintendent, Tom D'Angelo, has just been made permanent. He replaced Will Maxwell.

I. R. 1571-2007 This resolution authorizes additional space for the Long Island Maritime Museum. The Maritime Museum went to Presiding Officer Lindsay looking for more office space to expand their museum space. They are requesting that the gate house be taken off the housing list to enable them to move their office space in there which would allow them to expand their museum collection at the Maritime Museum. This was presented at the Parks Committee meeting yesterday and although it went through, we do need a position from the Board. At the Parks Committee meeting the Parks Department took a position that this request goes against Housing Resolution 1250-2002 which asks us to establish fair market value so that the County can get the most revenue from those people renting houses for the tax payers. Another concern for the Parks Department was we had an open house in April to fill all our vacant houses. Resolution 12502002 sets a priority on how we have to fill houses. The first offer we have to make is to any Deputy Sheriff or Suffolk County Police Officer. We actually had a Deputy Sheriff who was interested in that house and we were in contract negotiations. He was planning to move his family into there on July 1st. The Maritime Museum heard about that and went to the Presiding Officer and they put in this resolution. It is our opinion that the resolution was premature and we could actually put the Deputy Sheriff into the house while we go through contract amendments

that are needed to make office space for the Maritime Museum. We also have to look at the house with DPW because it's not code compliant. It's zoned for residence; it is not zoned for business or public assembly. It could be a year from now before we get all the approvals and contract amendments and we could be collecting revenue.

Yesterday, the Parks Committee passed this on to the full Legislature. Legislature Vilorio-Fisher was very concerned that the Trustees has not commented on it and the County Attorney's office has issued an opinion and the Trustees need to offer an opinion because it would be a permanent change to a use of a house on Parks property.

Chairman Corwin: Would the Maritime Museum pay rent for the use of the space?

Acting Commissioner Bellone: They would not pay rent. They have offered to pay utilities, however, the contract that we now have with the Maritime Museum says that we pay all utilities, so this would be one property out of seven buildings that they say they will be paying utilities on.

A question was asked about the fair market rent for this property. Acting Commissioner Bellone responded that at full fair market value the rent will be \$1,900 (which does not include utilities).

Trustee Pearsall made a motion to approve the request of the Maritime Museum.

General discussion ensued and Tom Hroncich suggested the Maritime Museum make a presentation to the Board at the July Trustees meeting.

Chairman Corwin suggested the Trustees revisit this next month after the presentation. In the meantime, Acting Commissioner Bellone should explain the risk to the prospective tenant if they move in and have to move out in a year.

Acting Commissioner Bellone informed the Board she would call the prospective tenant when she returned to the office.

Chairman Corwin suggested the Board wait, at least until next month, to vote on I.R. 1571-2007.

A motion to table any action on I.R. 1571-2007 until next month was made by Trustee Borden and seconded by Trustee Hilary. Approved by a vote of 10-1-0. Trustee Frtiz opposed.

Ward Melville Heritage Letter re Chain Link Fence at Forsythe Meadow Preserve

Acting Commissioner Bellone reviewed the letter (distributed to Trustees) from Gloria Rocchio, Ward Melville Heritage, informing us they were beginning work on the fence.

Display Cages at the Wildlife Rescue Center of the Hamptons

Acting Commissioner Bellone reviewed a letter from the Wildlife Rescue Center requesting display cages at their Wildlife Center and Bill Sickles' response was that they are temporary cages and not considered permanent (copies of correspondence were distributed to Trustees).

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Corwin did not have anything to report.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Trustee McKay discussed the Lewis Oliver Dairy acquisition, which was tabled this month. He informed the Trustees that yesterday the CEO heard a presentation from the Town of Huntington and had a number of questions about the use of the site which involves a kiddies' animal farm and the environmental assessment (which has not been done yet).

Chairman Corwin announced the next Trustees meeting will be at Meadowedge in West Sayville instead of Cupsogue Beach County Park.

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Stebbins. Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

Minutes submitted by Ann Rothenberg.

