

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2007
MEADOWEDGE, WEST SAYVILLE**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Aurelio Colina	Vice Chairman, Town of Southampton
Gregory Dawson	Trustee, Town of Islip
John Fritz	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
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

Ray Corwin	Chairman, Member at Large
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Vacant	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Tracey Bellone	Acting Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Senior Environmental Analyst
Tom Hroncich	Parks Foundation Director
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Dorothy Rosado	Secretary to the Acting Commissioner
Bill Sickles	Senior Parks Superintendent

GUESTS

Lynn Blasso	Long Island Maritime Museum
Charles Bellows	Town of Southampton
Josephine Chu	Department of Environment and Energy
Kea Eshghi	Donator of The Big Duck to Suffolk County
Stan Feldman	Long Island Maritime Museum
Karen Gaccionier	Long Island Maritime Museum
Dan Gulizio	Deputy Director, Planning Department
Tom Isles	Director, Planning Department
Janet Longo	Deputy Director, Real Property Acquisitions and Management
Terry Maccarrone	Director, C.E. Community Relations Unit
Russ Moran	Long Island Maritime Museum
Jefferson Murphree	Town of Southampton – Dept. of Land Mgmt.
Margo Myles	Town of Huntington - Planning & Environment

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Roger Podd Research Analyst - County Law Department
Joy Squires Town of Huntington – Open Space Comm.

Vice Chairman Colina called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 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 THE MARITIME MUSEUM

Russ Moran: The issue on the table is pretty clear. Presiding Officer Lindsay introduced a special resolution to the legislature (I.R. 1571-2007) to have the vacant 1700 sq. foot Gate House, which is located at the West Avenue entrance to the Maritime Museum property, be made available to the Maritime Museum. Although the County Executive directive says that vacant Parks property should be rented out at fair market value, we requested that this be an exception because we desperately need space. Our thinking is to move all our Administrative Staff, and the associated equipment, into that 1700 sq. ft. Gate House freeing up over 1,000 sq. ft. in space in the main building. Part of our proposal is the Maritime Museum would take over the utility bills of the Gate House so there would not be any additional cost to the County.

Acting Commissioner Bellone: At the last meeting I told you that a Deputy Sheriff was planning on moving into the Gate House on July 1st. After that meeting we spoke to the prospective tenant about the possibility of this being taken off the housing list. Since that time he has chosen to move and is living in the rental property at Timber Point Golf Course. The Gate House is vacant and there are no prospective tenants for that house.

The Maritime Museum is to respond to any alarms on the property as well as Park Police. If this resolution is approved, there has to be an amendment to the Maritime Museum contract to include use of that building and to include their commitment to pay utilities. We'll also have to work with DPW to access the building and make it code compliant for business use.

A motion to approve I.R. 1571-2007 was made by Trustee Borden and seconded by Trustee White. Approved by a vote of 9-0-1. Trustee Stebbins abstained.

PRESENTATION BY THE TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON RE MOVE OF THE BIG DUCK

Richard Martin: I'd like to give you a little background that brought us to this point. The Big Duck was donated to the County at the end of 1987 by Kea Eshghi and it is one of our most popular landmarks in Suffolk County. We accepted the donation and The Big Duck was moved down the road to Sears Bellows County Park where it is now. We've been running it as a very successful gift shop operation and tourist attraction. Because of the popularity of The Duck, the hamlet of Flanders was upset when The Duck was moved out of the what they consider the heart

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of their hamlet area and, since the move, have always wished The Duck could be moved back to its former location. In 2001 the Town of Southampton purchased the whole parcel and the former location is now town parkland. At that time the residents of Flanders started an active campaign with the Town of Southampton to ask to move The Duck back to its former location.

The Duck is a dedicated Historic Trust landmark for Suffolk County and is also now on the National Register and, in the guidelines for the gift, it was to remain in County hands and be administered by Historic Services. We did not want to see that changed at all. The proposal you are about to hear from the Town of Southampton does not change that. The County will always own The Big Duck and will always maintain the building. If the Duck is moved, it will have to come off the National Registry and we will have to reapply to New York State to get it back on the National Register. The Town is proposing to pay all the expenses associated with this move. A "List of Guidelines" for the relocation of the Big Duck, which was drawn up and reviewed yesterday by the Parks Department and CEQ, has been handed out for your review. The only hitch was that in the original stipulation it was to remain on County parkland. What's being proposed now is a 99 year license agreement that would be renewable to the County of Suffolk for the property immediately surrounding The Duck so we could control, in a sense, that space and that would be, for all intents and purposes, County parkland. The Town would actually maintain it.

Jefferson Murphree: Richard Martin gave an excellent summary of where we want to be. Our efforts began in 1987 with the Eshghi family being gracious enough to donate The Duck. The residents of Flanders believe this Duck is a symbol of the heart of their community and believe it should be back in its former location. We are going to have a license agreement between the County and the Town. This will be a 100 year license agreement that is renewable.

In terms of environmental, we prepared an Environmental Assessment Form and a Negative Declaration which we presented to the County CEQ yesterday. In terms of engineering, the Town has hired a consultant to help in the relocation of The Duck. They have examined the inside of The Duck and determined it is quite solid. The original mover of The Duck is still in business and on retainer with the Town to move The Duck. We have retained a design company to prepare a concept plan. We have a Park Advisory Committee and we officially appointed Richard Martin to be a part of that Committee. We have a draft concept plan which is not cast in stone. It has not yet been reviewed by the Town and I'd like to review with you. The concept plan we have for the park is that it will not be an active recreation park – it will be a passive park with hiking trails. We will use the existing buildings for interpretive and historic purposes. We plan on restoring the water views again and restore that area back to its original glory. We are going to be working with the County to implement a parking plan. This facility will be open to the public, not just the Town.

Charles Bellows, Chairman of the Landmark & Historic Committee, discussed his report on conditions of the buildings and surrounding parkland. He reported: About 6 years ago this wasn't a very nice site and the Supervisor called me in and said we had to do an on-site to determine what to do with this land which resulted in this report on conditions. When we started out, I reminded the Supervisor that this site was designated and if we were able to put the picture into the future together, we could make it into a significant historic site again. The Supervisor said that the Flanders Hamlet Study was about to begin and it would be good to include also the

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folks from the Hamlet area into the process. I attended all the meetings over the course of a year and The Big Duck was one of the many topics we discussed. In the meantime, we were at work at the site. We felt passive/recreational use would surely be the most suitable and desirable for that property. When we had the Hamlet Study the people joined us with that vision. This site offers an idyllic site for a park and will be a very special site when it's done.

A motion to approve the relocation of The Big Duck was made by Trustee Colina and seconded by Trustee Cardillo. Approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

Kea Eshghi commented on how pleased he was with how this project is moving forward and how much he appreciates the work everyone is doing.

PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE

Tom Isles proposed one acquisition:

Lewis Oliver Dairy -Town of Huntington Acquisition of 2.1 acres in the Incorporated Village of Northport, Town of Huntington – it is presently a small farm which includes a barn and a petting zoo. This will be acquired under the Suffolk County Open Space (SOS), Farmland Preservation and Hamlet Parks Fund – Hamlet Parks Component. An important part of the Hamlet Parks Program is that it has local partnerships. The arrangements drawn up at this point are that the Village of Northport would come into a three way partnership with the Town and the County. The proposal is that the County and the Town would join together in the acquisition on a 50/50 basis and the Village would then manage and maintain the property.

Margo Myles and Joy Squires (Town of Huntington) reviewed additional information related to the proposed acquisition and reported: This site is entirely loved and cherished by the community. We are only looking to make small recreational modifications to this property – the site would continue to be used for the animals and for farm education. We're hopeful that this can move forward – it has a lot of support in the community and we hope you will support the acquisition.

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

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

Chandler Estate Master Plan Overview Nick Gibbons: Three Trustees have toured the site, Ray

Corwin, Gary Olsen and Terry Pearsall. I'd like to have an endorsement or approval from the Board and take that to the CEQ and beyond. The CEQ will make a recommendation, first to Committee and then the full Legislature for adoption.

A motion to approve the Chandler Estate Adaptive Re-Use Study made by Trustee Stebbins and seconded by Trustee Olsen. Unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice Chairman Colina did not have anything to report.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Trustee White: The Third House Nature Center is very interested in relocating back into the facility. They were told the money has run out and there's no picture as to when the facility will be finished.

Acting Commissioner Bellone: The money has run out. We're trying to do some work in-house and possibly looking to use some '08 funding to do some of the work.

Trustee White asked about GATR site – he is being pressured by the Town of East Hampton Police Department and the Montauk Fire District. They are wondering why it's taking so long to get some emergency services.

Acting Commissioner Bellone: There are still some questions we need answered about alienation and the carriers. We can meet with Nick Gibbons after the Trustees meeting to discuss this.

Trustee Colina asked how the camping was going this year at Shinnecock East. I've been hearing some complaints.

Bill Sickles replied all 103 outer beach campsites went on the reservation system and now things seem to be working out O.K. Initially there were some concerns from users because people were accustomed to a first come, first serve basis for signing up for a campsite and getting the same site week after week. Now they're competing for camp sites, more fairly, on the reservation system.

Vice Chairman Colina announced the next Trustees meeting will be at Cupsogue Beach County Park in Westhampton Beach on August 16, 2007.

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

Minutes submitted by Ann Rothenberg.

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