

MINUTES of a meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 5:30 PM at the Somerset County Park Commission Headquarters, 355 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ.

"In accordance with Public Law Chapter 231, the open public meeting notice requirements have been satisfied whereby the starting time and place of this meeting have been filed with a county newspaper and the County Clerk and posted in a public information area in this office."

President Fuerst called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Paul Consiglio
William Crosby
Dale Florio
Steven Fuerst
Helen Haines
Walter Hansen
Doug Ludwig
Christopher Paladino
Dot Paluck

ABSENT

Patricia Walsh, Freeholder Liaison

Other staff members present were:

Raymond Brown, Secretary-Director
Joanne Steinruck, Executive Assistant
Jim Avens, Manager Horticulture
Mike Ballow, Manager Park Maint.
Tom Boccino, Principal Planner/Land Acq.
Dave Dendler, Manager, Park Rangers
Betsy Flanagan, Counsel
Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Dir. Park Maint.
Don Korbobo, Property Mgmt. Coordinator
Dan Livak, Deputy Dir. Business Admin.

Darrell Marcinek, Director Golf Maint.
Margie Margentino, Manager Stable
Alex Mathew, Manager Info. Mgmt.
Karren Newman, Manager Recreation
Cathy Schrein, Manager, Envir. Science
Adam Slutsky, Principal Engineer
Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director
Dina Trunzo, Manager TR
Donna Umgelter, Manager HR

Also in attendance: Brian Newman, Yvonne Childress, and Rich Reitman

OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment from the public.

SERVICE AWARDS

President Fuerst presented a 20 year service award to Secy.-Director Brown.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

President Fuerst called for the approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting held January 29, 2013. MOVED BY: Commissioner Crosby; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Fuerst, Haines, Hansen, Ludwig,

Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Florio. ABSENT: None.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Resolution R13-013 - Payment of Claims

Resolution authorizing payment of bills for \$2,361,247.12 comprising of check numbers 228754-228760, 229989-229992, 228382-228446, 228688-228753, 228770-228846, 229498-229562, and 229739-229816. MOVED BY: Commissioner Consiglio; seconded by: Commissioner Paladino. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Haines, Hansen, Ludwig, Paladino, and Paluck. NAYES: None. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Florio and President Fuerst. ABSENT: None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brown submitted a report for the month of January 2013.

COMMISSIONER CORRESPONDENCE

1. E-mail from Assemblyman Ciattarelli thanking the Park Commission for adopting, at the October 2012 meeting, Resolution R12-063 for supporting sustainable state funding for preservation and stewardship of open space, parks, farmland, and historic sites.
2. Copy of Franklin Township's Resolution supporting sustainable state funding for preservation and stewardship of open space, parks, farmland, and historic sites in New Jersey.
3. E-mail from a resident regarding the speed limit on East Mountain Road, specifically regarding vehicular accidents with wildlife. He is proposing that the speed limit be reduced to 25 and asked if the Park Commission would write a letter to support a proposal, adopt a resolution, and/or attend a town meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were MOVED BY: Commissioner Hansen; seconded by: Commissioner Consiglio. YEAS: Commissioners Consiglio, Crosby, Florio, Haines, Hansen, Ludwig, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: None.

Resolution R13-014 – Designation of Petty Cash Custodians for 2013

Resolution establishes the amounts for petty cash for specific departments.

Resolution R13-015 – Designation of Bank Depositories for 2013

Resolution designates the 2013 bank depositories.

Resolution R13-016 – Award of Second and Final Year for Golf Course Accessories

Resolution awards a second and final year contract to Grass Roots, Inc. The cost is not to exceed \$11,000.00.

Resolution R13-017 – Award of Second and Final Year for Irrigation Repair Parts
Resolution awards a second and final year contract to John Deere Landscapes and Storr Tractor Company.

Resolution R13-018 – Award of Contract for Computerized Club Fitting
Resolution awards a contract to Callaway Golf Sales from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017.

Resolution R13-019 – Award of First Year of a Five-Year Contract for Golf Shop Resale Merchandise
Resolution awards a contract to Callaway Golf, Nike Golf, Horungs Golf Products, Sundog Eyewear, Bridgestone Golf, Inc., Lee Wayne Corporation, Perry Ellis International/Supreme International/Callaway Apparel, Green Grass One, Callaway, So Ho Office, Recreational Marketing, Inc., Cobra Golf/Puma North America, and HA Sheldon Canada LTD.

Resolution R13-020 – Award of Third Year of a Three-Year Contract for Electrical Services
Resolution awards a third-year contract to MTB Electric, LLC as the primary vendor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner Florio, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of January 2013.

Commissioner Florio reported that the Finance Committee met with senior staff last week regarding the proposed 2013 budget. The Committee also met with the County's Finance Committee to present the Commission's draft budget. The final budget will be discussed in detail at the March 14 Work Session. The recommended budget will be ready to adopt at the March 21 Park Commission meeting.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Commissioner Consiglio, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of January 2013.

Donna Umgelter, Manager, Human Resources reported that the spring hiring season has begun. Preparations have also begun for this year's safety training with assistance from the County and the Joint Insurance Fund.

LEISURE SERVICES

Commissioner Ludwig, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of January 2013.

Cindie Sullivan, Deputy Director reported that she has met with Commissioner Ludwig to update him on the department and events. Cindie and Pierce will be providing

Commissioner Ludwig a tour of the facilities in April and invited anyone else that wishes to attend. In Dina's absence Cindie reported that registration for Camp Okee Sunokee was held and 30 of the 40 openings are booked. Before a new camper attends Dina completes an assessment to evaluate their functional ability in areas including, but not limited to, social skills, behavior, and recreation/leisure skills. Each year there are approximately 10 to 12 new children.

Karren Newman, Manager Recreation reported that Yoga is full and the walkers continue. The walkers will be attending a tour at Duke Farms. Today was the opening of bids for pyrotechnic display and no bids were received. Karren mentioned that it might be due to new regulations which require a blast permit. Karren will discuss this further with the local Fire Marshall and discuss further at the March Work Session.

Cathy Schrein, Manager Environmental Science reported that there is a cross-over of program participants from the paddling programs to other adult oriented programs. Cathy commented that many of the previous campers from the TR programs are now enrolling in the EEC camp programs. Maple sugaring continues on Saturday and Sunday for the next three weekends.

Marge Margentino, Manager Stable reported that the second half of the winter session was pushed back due to the extreme cold weather. Summer workshops are planned and registration will be held on March 16. Dina Trunzo has provided orientation for the volunteers for the T.R.A.I.L.S. program. Several riders have been mainstreamed into the regular rider programs. Clean up from Super Storm Sandy continues and one structure is still in need of repairs. Due to the pavilion needing repairs, the pony parties have been downsized to one a weekend. Staff has participated in educational training and a grant from the Park Foundation has allowed the Stable to purchase a harness and a wheelchair accessible carriage for a therapeutic driving program.

GOLF MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Paluck, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of January 2013.

Darrell Marcinek, Director of Golf Maintenance reported that Quail Brook and Spooky Brook Golf Courses will open on Friday, March 1. Warrenbrook will open on March 29 weather dependent. The golf rounds in February are slightly below last year's number. Maintenance work continues on storm clean up. Warrenbrook trees are 75% cleared away.

Commissioner Paluck reported that the USGA is retiring the U.S. Men's Amateur Public Links and U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links championships after the completion of the 2014 championships. The USGA was formed as an association of member clubs in 1895; therefore, when they started holding national championships, entry into them was by being a member of a member club. In 1922, with the growth of public golf, they initiated a Public Links Championship for men and followed in 1976 with a Women's Public Links Championship. In 1979, with the exception of the Public Links

Championships, all USGA championships are open to all golfers who meet the gender, age, and handicap requirements. In the past 20 years there has been a huge growth in semi-private and private, with some public play, etc. thus making the Public Links Championships very difficult to administer. In 2014, the USGA will initiate two new Four-Ball Championships for men and women.

The Golf Committee would like to host a USGA men's championship. The Committee will give a report in April on what championship they would like to apply for. Secretary-Director Brown also asked the Commissioners to allow the golf staff to put together a proposal to host the Men's Open Sectional Qualifier which requires two golf courses. The Park Commission would continue to work with the USGA and partner with another private course to be considered for such a championship. Commissioner Paluck stated that the WAPL went well and everyone at Neshanic Valley Golf Course did a great job. President Fuerst urged Dot to let the Golf Committee know that they should proceed with applying for a future USGA championship.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Hansen, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of January 2013.

Alex Mathew, Manager Information Management reported that the wireless connection between Colonial Park Horticulture and the maintenance building is completed. The Somerset County Park Foundation website is now available through the Park Commission's website. Alex thanked Maryann Zecca for her work on posting the webpage.

VISITOR SERVICES

Commissioner Crosby, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of January 2013.

Dave Dendler, Manager Park Rangers reported that staff continues to assist the Stable with tree removal. Applications for seasonals continue to be reviewed. This is a good time of the year for staff to check the equipment for safety. CPR and first aid classes continue.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Crosby, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of January 2013.

Don Korbobo, Property Management Coordinator reported that tree work with staff continues. Don continues to get calls regarding trees down on neighboring properties from Super Storm Sandy. The Carrier Clinic farm bid will be advertised tomorrow which is for 140 acres of farm land.

PLANNING AND LAND ACQUISITION

Commissioner Haines, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of January 2013.

Tom Boccino, Parks Section Principal Planner, Land Acquisition reported that the Open Space Advisory Committee Annual Report was distributed. The total land acquired in 2012 was 302 acres for a total of 13,300 acres. Tom continues to work on acquisitions and with Adam on design of projects.

CAPITAL FACILITIES – CONSTRUCTION and ENGINEERING

Commissioner Paladino, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of January 2013.

Commissioner Paladino reported that the next Capital Facilities meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 25 at 8:00 a.m.

Adam Slutsky, Principal Engineer, reported that construction on the Howe All-Purpose Fields are 70% completed. The dredging on the Colonial Park pond is more than half completed and the Raritan River Greenway bikeway will be completed shortly after the fabricated bridges are installed. Demolition of certain structures acquired through the open space program also continues.

Commissioner Florio questioned what is in the pond that is being dredged. Adam reported that an outside firm is doing the dredging and handling the disposal of the materials. These two ponds have not been dredged in many years and sediment has built up greatly reducing water depths.

PARK MAINTENANCE & HORTICULTURE

Commissioner Consiglio, Chair of the Committee submitted a report for the month of January 2013.

Jim Avens, Manager Horticulture reported that Buck Garden Art and Photography Exhibit has 25 artists displaying their work. The Rose Pruning workshop will be held on March 9. Buck Garden and Colonial Park garden were part of the New Jersey Flower and Garden Show held last week. Approximately 30,000 people attended.

Mike Ballow, Manager Park Maintenance reported that staff has been busy with Super Storm Sandy clean up. Out of 178 stumps, 117 have been ground down. Staff continues to do safety pruning at Skillman Park. The poles and wires have been removed. A temporary storage trailer has been made available.

Pierce Frauenheim, Deputy Director Park Maintenance reported that staff worked with Manville on obtaining a trailer to be used at Skillman for the maintenance staff. FEMA staff offered the trailer for \$1.00 to be used as a locker room. President Fuerst commented that this is another example of shared services.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

No report this month.

FREEHOLDER'S REPORT

No report this month.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

President Fuerst reported that work has been underway through Counsel Flanagan in soliciting for the new golf course concession RFPs. Steven reminded those responsible that it is essential that these RFPs be posted and completed as soon as possible since they are crucial to the Commission's 2013 revenues.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. was made by Commissioner Crosby and seconded by Commissioner Hansen. YEAS: Commissioners Crosby, Florio, Haines, Hansen, Ludwig, Paladino, Paluck, and President Fuerst. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Consiglio.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Brown
Director

Joanne Steinruck
Executive Assistant