



**Pine Barrens Commission Meeting Summary  
For Wednesday, July 17, 2013 (Final-Approved 8/21/13)  
Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge  
Visitor Center  
Shirley, NY**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Commission members present:** Mr. Scully (for New York State), Ms. Prusinowski (for Brookhaven), Mr. Walter and Mr. McCormick (for Riverhead), Mr. Shea and Mr. Collins (for Southampton), Ms. Longo and Mr. Freleng (for Suffolk County)

**Others present:** Staff counsel was Mr. Milazzo. Commission and other agency staff members included: Mr. Pavacic, Ms. Jakobsen, Ms. Hargrave, Mr. Hynes, and Ms. Ostrowski (from the Commission). Additional attendees are on the attached sign-in sheet.

Peter A. Scully  
Chair

Steven Bellone  
Member

Edward P. Romaine  
Member

Anna E. Throne-Holst  
Member

Sean M. Walter  
Member

Mr. Scully called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. with five members present, which constitutes a quorum. Mr. Scully noted that this month's meeting is being held at the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for the first time and he acknowledged the success of the Commission's growing partnership with Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in conducting activities such as the Discovery Day Event and the Commission's summer camp program, which is currently underway.

### **Administrative and Public Comment**

#### **Public Comments**

Summary: There were no public comments.

#### **Minutes for 6/19/13**

Summary: **A motion was made by Mr. Freleng and seconded by Mr. Shea to approve the 6/19/13 meeting summary. The motion was approved by a 5:0 vote.**

#### **Resolution to approve Auditor**

Summary: It was reported that at the May Commission meeting it was discussed that the Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) performed a cost analysis of the fee that they charge the Commission for administrative services. Their analysis indicated the fee they currently charge does not cover all of the SCWA's administrative costs and therefore they will likely seek an increased fee in their contract renewal with the Commission. At the May Commission meeting, the Commission members decided to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire an independent auditor to review SCWA's cost analysis before the Commission renews its contract with SCWA. Mr. Scully explained that price quotes from three auditors were received that differed by such a degree that they require further review. He stated that at the next Commission meeting he expects the Commission would be able to select an auditor to approve.

#### **Suffolk County Historical Society Pine Barrens related exhibit "Barren and Wasteland"**

Summary: Mr. Scully reported that on Monday July 15th, Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge hosted an event sponsored by the Long Island Pine Barrens Society in recognition of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Pine Barrens Protection Act. He then noted that the Commission plans to commemorate the

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signing of the Pine Barrens Protection Act on Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at a grand opening ceremony of a Pine Barrens exhibit at the Riverhead County Center.

Mr. Pavacic reported that the Commission, in conjunction with its co-sponsors, the Suffolk County Historical Society, which also developed the exhibit, and Suffolk County, will be observing the opening of the Society's renowned "Barren and Waste Land: Long Islanders and the Pine Barrens" exhibit that explores the rich past of Long Island's key wilderness area. Mr. Pavacic mentioned that the Commission members and their designated representatives were mailed invitations to the exhibit's grand opening ceremony.

The exhibit is open to the general public from July through September 30, 2013, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, in the lobby of the Evans K. Griffing building. The exhibit explores topics such as, the glacial origin of the Pine Barrens and the dry, acidic and nutrient-poor soils found in much of the area, which helped shape the types of habitats found there. Other exhibit subjects include the influence of humans on the evolution of the Pine Barrens over thousands of years, such as the harvesting of native wild berries, cultivation of cranberries, cordwood cutting, ice harvesting and brick making.

### **Science and Stewardship**

#### *Wildfire Response, Forest Management, Prescribed Fire & Response Action items*

Summary: Mr. Scully reiterated some of his previous remarks pertaining to progress with the action items developed in response to the April 2012 wildfires. He discussed his concerns that over time folks could lose sight of the fire danger issues in the Central Pine Barrens if long term planning was not actively pursued. It was mentioned that the Commission offered the course, "Assessing Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone" in June to government employees. It was noted that the public has the ability to significantly improve the ability of their homes to withstand the effects of a wildfire by implementing Firewise measures, and that a tutorial version of the Firewise course should be placed on the Commission's website and provided to libraries located within the Pine Barrens.

Mr. Scully mentioned the need to continue educating the public about Firewise concepts. He stated that the Town governments should be involved in the process in order to help identify communities that are at an increased risk from the effects of wildfire in order to advance the Commission's multi-pronged approach. Additional discussion points included, the Assessing Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone course was well attended by the staff from the Towns, Commission staff continues with their Firewise outreach effort and a presentation has been scheduled with Leisure Village, a community in Ridge.

Mr. Pavacic explained he and staff met with Mr. Urevich, the Wildfire Task Force (WTF) Chair, to discuss a strategy to update the 1999 Fire Management Plan. A decision was made to approach the update in increments over the course of the next year and finished sections would be released as the update progresses. The suggestion was made to develop portions of the fire management plan into a format that could be used by firefighters during fire incidents. Mr. Pavacic mentioned that he plans to meet with Mr. Urevich tomorrow to discuss concerns about dead oak trees in the wooded areas at EPCAL. The Riverhead Chief Fire Marshall has already provided input on this issue.

Ray Corwin Rocky Point-to-Yaphank Trail

Summary: Mr. Pavacic reported that Commission staff has met with the major stakeholders associated with the Ray Corwin Rocky Point-to-Yaphank trail including the hikers, the equestrians and the landowners. He explained that a draft map of the trail would be ready to submit to the Commission when additional information for the trail's design has been received from the equestrians and the land managers. He mentioned that a portion of the trail could be ready to open in the fall including an area that extends north from Whiskey Road and south to Longwood Road. He noted the hiking section of the trail could be ready to blaze by the end of this year.

Resolution to approve the purchase of an all terrain vehicle by the LEC for the NYS DEC Forest Rangers

Summary: Mr. Scully discussed the origin of the Environmental Benefit Fund (EBF) and he explained that it was formed from proceeds collected from an environmental enforcement matter. The funds collected were provided to the LEC to use to purchase equipment such as all terrain vehicles (ATVs) that are needed for enforcement purposes. Mr. Hynes explained that the attached draft resolution to purchase an All-Terrain Vehicle by the Law Enforcement Council pertains to an ATV that would be purchased for use by the NYS DEC Forest Rangers. He noted that the cost of the ATV was \$7,700 and that three price quotes were obtained.

**A motion was made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Ms. Prusinowski to approve the attached draft Resolution authorizing the LEC to purchase an ATV for use by the NYSDEC Forest Rangers. The motion was approved by a 5:0 vote.**

Mr. Walter asked about the name and location of the vendor that the LEC chose for the purchase of the ATV. It was noted that the LEC accepted the bid received from Long Island Yamaha, which was mentioned in the attached memo dated, July 2, 2013 that was prepared by Mr. Hynes.

### **Land Use**

Planning and Land Use

CLUP Amendments and Worksession

Summary: Mr. Scully reported that he thought progress has been made at the CLUP worksession's even though the amendments have been reviewed at a slower rate than what the schedule outlined.

NYS Legislation to add certain lands in the Carmans River Watershed to the Central Pine Barrens Area

Summary: Mr. Pavacic distributed and discussed copies of the attached NY State Senate's summary of legislation that pertains to legislation they passed to include certain lands in the Carmans River Watershed in the Core Preservation area and the Compatible Growth Area (CGA). Mr. Scully explained that last year the Town of Brookhaven had previously voted against a plan that was designed to protect the Carmans River, which would have also expanded the Core and CGA of the Central Pine Barrens. He explained that this year the Town decided to vote in favor of adding land in the Carmans River Watershed area to the Core and CGA, thereby expanding the Central Pine Barrens area. The legislation that passed is ready for the Governors signature.

Mr. Pavacic distributed and discussed the attached map of the Central Pine Barrens that illustrates the area affected by the new legislation expanding the boundaries of the Pine Barrens and he noted the map dated May 16, 2013, was

provided by Brookhaven Town. Mr. Pavacic discussed areas depicted on the map such as the expansion of the Core area and the CGA on both sides of the Carmans River and south of the Long Island Expressway (LIE). He pointed out the areas on the map that showed the expansion on both sides of Southaven County Park and Wertheim Wildlife Refuge, west of the William Floyd Parkway, and on the east and west sides of County Road 21 through the area of Yaphank up to Rocky Point. Mr. Pavacic further noted the expansion of the Pine Barrens included both private and public lands and that the expansion has the potential of adding new receiving sites for Pine Barrens Credits. It was noted that the bill would not take effect until the first of the next year after the Governor signs it.

Mr. Pavacic explained that this year's version of the legislation is different from the bill that was proposed last year because last year's bill included a plan to protect the Carmans River Watershed. This year's version of the law did not include a protection plan and only included a metes and bounds description of the expansion of the Central Pine Barrens, the Core and the CGA. He further explained that Brookhaven Town has been conducting a series of meetings with folks from the Town's communities to obtain input for a new plan to protect the Carmans River and when a new plan is completed, a hearing will be scheduled for further review and to receive comments on the draft plan. Additional points discussed included, Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Article 57 does not require the Commission to map the lands of the Central Pine Barrens and the Pine Barrens Protection Act contains a metes and bounds description of the Core and the CGA. Mr. Pavacic mentioned that questions from the public related to the location of the Central Pine Barrens, Core and CGA are answered by the Commission staff referring them to the metes and bounds description in ECL Article 57. It was further mentioned that no matter what the outcome of the Town's plan to protect the Carmans River Watershed, the Commission has jurisdiction over the expanded Pine Barrens area.

#### **Advisory Session and Adjournment**

**A motion was made by Mr. Freleng and seconded by Mr. Walter to enter into an Advisory Session to discuss a litigation matter and noted they would not return to public session. The motion was approved by a 5:0 vote.**

**The meeting concluded at 2:25 pm.**

#### **Attachments (in order of discussion):**

1. July 17, 2013 Commission Meeting Sign in Sheet (1 page)
2. Draft Commission Meeting Summary for June 19, 2013 (3 pages)
3. Draft Resolution for the Commission to Authorize the Purchase of One All Terrain Vehicle by the LEC, dated 7/17/13 (1 page)
4. Final approved Resolution for the Commission to Authorize the Purchase of One All Terrain Vehicle by the LEC, dated 7/17/13 (1 page)
5. NY State Assembly summary of legislation that expands certain lands in the Carmans River Watershed to the Central Pine Barrens Area (20 pages)
6. Brookhaven Town map depicting the Central Pine Barrens expanded areas, dated 5/16/13 (1 page)