



PINE BARRENS LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL

Assist. Chief Michael Smith, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Chair
Arthur Pendzick, Suffolk County Park Rangers, Co-Vice Chair
Capt. Thomas Gadomski, NYS DEC Co-Vice Chair



Minutes of November 6, 2025 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Commission Staff and Others present

Judy Jakobsen, Catherine Drew, Julie Hargrave, Alena Lawston from the Central Pine Barrens Commission.

The pledge of allegiance was performed, followed by a moment of silence.

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Minutes

The minutes of the September 18th, 2025, meeting were approved by Fabio Daino and seconded by Michael Smith.

Maria Z. Moore
Member

Committee Updates

Daniel J. Panico
Member

Pine Barrens Commission

A Day in the Life

Ms. Jakobsen reported that the Day in the Life program has completed for the year. The program reaches 13 water bodies and includes 10 schools and approximately 1,000 students across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Activities take place at various rivers and water bodies where students collect water quality data alongside experts from DEC, FWS, and USGS. The collected data is then compiled and analyzed.

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Nature Center Feasibility Study & Public Engagement

Ms. Judy Jakobsen reported that an overall feasibility presentation will be delivered by Marvel Design on November 19th at the Commission meeting at Brookhaven Town Hall. The final document will be presented on December 17th. The next steps will include finding a site and seeking funding.

Protected Lands Council Meeting

The Protected Lands Council meeting was held on October 22nd at Wertheim Refuge. The meeting updated agencies and stakeholders on forest health and a presentation was given on wildlife crossings in Brookhaven and bird safety provisions.

Science and Stewardship

Jason Smith is working on the Conservation Plan and working with a local expert to acquire bio acoustic and remote sensing equipment for monitoring pre and post prescribed fire.

624 Old Riverhead Road
Westhampton Beach, NY
11978

Wildfire Task Force Meeting will be held November 19th at 6PM at the Riverhead Fire House. The schedule for the NYWIMA December classes was distributed to members.

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www.pb.state.ny.us

Judy Jakobsen reported she will be retiring on December 19th from the Central Pine Barrens Commission.

Compliance and Enforcement

Compliance Division Report

Ms. Alena Lawston reported that the Commission's Compliance Division has received 61 complaints related to dumping, encroachment, and clearing for September and October. Dumped materials commonly included landscaping debris, furniture, household garbage, and construction and demolition (C&D) waste.

Twelve incidents were captured on surveillance cameras. There has been a notable increase in mattress dumping, with three incidents caught on camera and referred to law enforcement. Additional surveillance-captured cases involved containers of used motor oil, C&D debris, landscaping debris, and household garbage.

ATV Task Force Operations

Mr. Pendzick provided an update on recent multi-agency ATV Task Force operations. Since the last meeting, four enforcement details have been conducted:

- September 27: 7 ATVs impounded, 18 summonses issued
- October 5: 1 ATV impounded, 5 summonses issued, 1 off-road vehicle apprehended
- October 26: 0 ATVs impounded, 0 summonses issued, 0 off-road vehicle apprehended, 0 miscellaneous summonses
- November 2: 0 ATVs impounded, 0 summonses issued, 2 off-road vehicles apprehended

Joe Savaggio reported on the revisions of County Legislation 822. This addresses issues with side by side and electric bikes. Copies are available at the front table. A meeting will be held on November 25th and he recommended that law enforcement attend.

Roundtable

- Thomas Gadowski (NYS DEC DLE) reported that water fowl season will start later this month.
- James Canale from Brookhaven Town reported that signs were approved and will be installed soon.

Next Meeting

December 11, 2025

A motion to adjourn was made by Todd Spencer (Southampton Town Department) and seconded by Jeff Campo (SCPR).

1. Sign in sheet
2. Multi-Task Force Newsletters



PINE BARRENS LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL

Assist. Chief Michael Smith, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Chair
Arthur Pendzick, Suffolk County Park Rangers, Co-Vice Chair
Capt. Thomas Gadomski, NYS DEC Co-Vice Chair



Final Approved Minutes of the January 16, 2025 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Member Attendance

Art Pendzick, James Shields, Hamdy Hassan, Dominick Messina, Edward King, Jeffrey Campo, Joe Savaglio, and Michael Sasek from Suffolk County Park Rangers, William Weick, Richard Tedesco and Brian Butler from Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Chris Amato from NYS DEC DLE, Diana Lynch and Alex Caporale from Suffolk County Parks, Adriana Noyola from Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Gino O'Leary and Fabio Daino from NYS Police, Josh Parsons, Patrick Boyles, Thomas Smith from Suffolk County Police Department, Todd Spencer from Southampton Town Police Department.

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Commission Staff and Others present

Judy Jakobsen, Alena Lawston, Edwin Ward and Catherine Drew from the Central Pine Barrens Commission. James Canale from Town of Brookhaven.

Maria Z. Moore
Member

The pledge of allegiance was performed followed by a moment of silence.

Daniel J. Panico
Member

Minutes

The minutes from the December 16, 2024, meeting were approved by Fabio Daino from NYSP and seconded by Richard Tedesco from Suffolk County Sheriff's Office.

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Committee Updates

Pine Barrens Commission

Ms. Jakobsen reported that the commission is working with Marvel Design to start the process of preparing a feasibility study for creating a nature center.

Ms. Jakobsen also reported that Commission staff is working on preparing the Annual Report and it will be available next month. This report will be distributed to New York and Suffolk County legislators and local town elected officials.

The Annual Cooperator's Meeting will be held June 6th at the Hyatt East End.

The US Forest Service has awarded the Commission a \$185,000 grant to prepare a community wildfire protection plan for 29,000 acres of publicly owned core land in the Town of Southampton. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan involves the preparation of a wildfire risk map and provides recommendations and strategies on how to reduce wildfire risk in this area. The first task will be hiring a contractor to prepare the plan.

The prescribed fire season starts in March and runs through the end of May. The Commission will hire a 5 member fire squad which will assist DEC with burns on DEC lands. Most of the burns will take place in Sarnoff, Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest and Currans Field.

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Compliance and Enforcement

Alena Lawston reported that the Commission's Compliance Division has investigated 55 more cases this year than the previous year. Most cases include dumping, clearing and encroachment. Edwin Ward also introduced himself to the Council as the newest member of the Central Pine Barrens Enforcement Officer team.

Recent Enforcement Activities

Mr. Pendzick reported on recent field enforcement details. There have been 3 Multi Agency ATV Task Force details since the last meeting. On December 28, this detail resulted in an apprehension of 1 utility quad. Another detail on December 29th, yielded 2 impounds (electric impounds) and 6 summons, and 1 ORV apprehended. The first detail of 2025 included 4 ATVs impounded, 10 summonses issued, 2 ORVs apprehended, and 10 miscellaneous tickets issued.

The total statistics for 2024 for 27 details included 83 illegal ATV impounds with 376 ATV related summonses, 59 ORVs with 66 related summonses, and 120 vehicle and traffic tickets issued, including 7 misdemeanors. Several physical arrests and dumping summons were issued under the Pine Barrens Law in 2024.

Roundtable

Chris Amato from NYS DEC reported that 10 new recruits have been assigned to Long Island for their field training.

Chief Smith reported on recent changes to Brookhaven Town law that will not allow commercial dumping. This may lead to more dumping cases in the area. The Sheriff's Office also reported that Brookhaven Town has over 200 FLOC cameras in the area that might not be monitored. There should be a more collaborative effort on these camera locations to ensure they are more effective.

Art Pendzick requested the nomination forms for LEC Awards for the Annual Cooperators Meeting be in by the February meeting. The completed forms can be submitted to Mr. Pendzick or Catherine Drew. Each agency is given the opportunity to nominate an officer.

Todd Spencer reported that Southampton Town will be raising their dumping fees and that agencies should be aware of an increase in dumping in the area.

Donna Giordano from Suffolk County Police Department alerted the Council that if they have any equipment needs (cameras, surveillance equipment etc) please let her know.

Next Meeting February 20, 2025

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Todd Spencer of SHPD and seconded by Jeff Campo from SC Park Rangers which was unanimously approved.

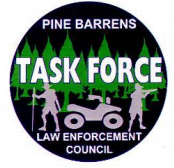
Attachments:

1. Sign in sheet
2. Multi-Task Force Newsletters



PINE BARRENS LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL

Assist. Chief Michael Smith, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Chair
Arthur Pendzick, Suffolk County Park Rangers, Co-Vice Chair
Capt. Thomas Gadomski, NYS DEC Co-Vice Chair



Minutes of the July 17, 2025 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Member Attendance

Art Pendzick, Christopher Angell, Jim Shields, Edward King, Jeffrey Campo, Steve Brozyna, Dom Messina and Michael Sasek from Suffolk County Park Rangers, Tony Trotta from Suffolk County Parks, Captain Thomas Gadomski from NYS DEC DLE, Robert Kerr from Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Gino O'Leary and Michael Rhoads from NYS Police, Patrick Boyles, Thomas Smith, from Suffolk County Police Department DA Squad, Diana Lynch from Suffolk County Parks.

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Commission Staff and Others present

Judy Jakobsen, Catherine Drew, Edwin Ward from the Central Pine Barrens Commission. Larry Hynes.

Maria Z. Moore
Member

The pledge of allegiance was performed, followed by a moment of silence.

Daniel J. Panico
Member

Minutes

The minutes of the April 17th, 2025, meeting were approved by Gino O'Leary and seconded by Larry Hynes.

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Committee Updates

Pine Barrens Commission

Nature Center Feasibility Study & Public Engagement

Ms. Judy Jakobsen reported that a feasibility study is being conducted by the Marvel Design Team. The team is reaching out to public landowners, Pine Barrens Society environmental educators, and other organizations to evaluate potential locations for the proposed Nature Center. A public engagement session is scheduled for July 29th at Wertheim Wildlife Refuge from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, with another session planned for the fall.

Southampton Town Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Ms. Jakobsen announced that the Commission received \$174,000 in grant funding through the U.S. Forest Service to hire a contractor to prepare a Southampton Town Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The plan will bring together stakeholders including public landowners, fire departments, emergency personnel, and the public. It will include maps showing fuels, community services, and the wildland-urban interface. The plan will identify high-risk areas and outline mitigation strategies to reduce wildfire risk. Once completed, the document will allow landowners to apply for federal funding to implement recommended actions.

Community Meeting – Westhampton Pines

Suffolk County FRES will host a meeting with residents of Westhampton Pines to address concerns following the March wildfire along County Road 31.

Fire Danger Rating

The Fire Danger Rating remains at Moderate, supported by high humidity levels.

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Compliance and Enforcement

Compliance Division Report

Mr. Edwin Ward reported that the Commission's Compliance Division has received 134 cases year-to-date, with 50 new complaints during this reporting period. Complaints included dumping, encroachment, and unauthorized clearing. The majority of dumping cases involved furniture, household trash, and landscaping debris. Eleven incidents were captured on surveillance cameras and referred to cooperating agencies, three of which involved repeat offenders.

ATV Task Force Operations

Mr. Pendzick reported on recent multi-agency ATV Task Force operations. Since the last meeting, seven enforcement details were conducted:

- April 27: 3 ATVs impounded, 35 summons issued
- May 4: 2 ATVs impounded, 11 summons issued, 2 off-road vehicles apprehended
- May 18: 1 ATV apprehended (not impounded), 9 summons issued
- May 31: 17 ATVs impounded, 13 summons issued
- June 14: 3 ATVs apprehended, 19 summons issued
- June 29: 3 ATVs impounded, 17 summons issued
- July 13: 3 ATVs impounded, 16 summons issued

Mr. Pendzick also distributed a report on ATV fatalities from 2018–2020, covering 3- and 4-wheel vehicles. The report shows that New York State ranks in the top 10 nationally, with 89 fatalities recorded. Fatalities were also broken down by age group, highlighting the risks associated with ATV use.

Camera Tampering Concerns

Captain Tom Gadomski informed the Council that a group has been promoting tampering with FLOC cameras. Agencies were asked to remain alert for any suspicious activity near these cameras.

LEC Equipment Purchases

Ms. Jakobsen reported that ATVs for Suffolk County Parks and the Sheriff's Office have been approved and will be ordered through the SCWA purchasing process.

Roundtable

- Mr. Pendzick noted that the ATV redemption fee is \$1,000, with an additional \$300 for towing and storage. Proposed legislation would require ATVs to be retrieved within 120 days, after which they would be surrendered.
- NYS Police representative Gino O'Leary reported that the State Police are handling five dumping complaints in the Pine Barrens.
- James Canale, from Councilman Loguercio's office, reported that "No Dumping" signs along North Street in Brookhaven have been approved and will be installed by the Highway Department.

Next Meeting September 18, 2025

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gino O'Leary of NYSP and seconded by Dominic Messina from SCPR.

Attachments:

1. Sign in sheet
2. Multi-Task Force Newsletters



PINE BARRENS LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL

Assist. Chief Michael Smith, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Chair
Arthur Pendzick, Suffolk County Park Rangers, Co-Vice Chair
Capt. Thomas Gadomski, NYS DEC Co-Vice Chair



Minutes of the February 20, 2025 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Member Attendance

Art Pendzick, John Cuddy, James Shields, Edward King, Jeffrey Campo, Joe Savaglio, and Michael Sasek from Suffolk County Park Rangers, Tony Trotta from Suffolk County Parks, Assist. Chief Michael Smith and Robin Kuebler from Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Captain Thomas Gadomski, Robert Kauflerr, Mitchell Seabury from NYS DEC DLE, Adriana Noyola from Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Fabio Daino from NYS Police, Patrick Boyles, Thomas Smith, Christopher Gahn from Suffolk County Police Department, Todd Spencer from Southampton Town Police Department.

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Commission Staff and Others present

Judy Jakobsen, Alena Lawston, Edwin Ward from the Central Pine Barrens Commission. James Canale from Town of Brookhaven.

Maria Z. Moore
Member

The pledge of allegiance was performed, followed by a moment of silence.

Daniel J. Panico
Member

Minutes

The minutes of the January 16, 2025 meeting was approved.

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Committee Updates

Pine Barrens Commission

Ms. Jakobsen reported that Commission staff has distributed the Annual Report and she circulated a copy at the meeting. If anyone would like a copy please reach out to Ms. Jakobsen. This report will be distributed to New York and Suffolk County legislators and local town elected officials.

The Annual Cooperator's Meeting will be held June 6th at the Hyatt East End. The shield plaque will be distributed to the LEC awardees. The theme for the Cooperators Meeting is The Water that Connects Us.

The prescribed fire season has started, and two crew members have already started working with the DEC to prepare for burns. The remaining crew members will start next month and commence burning. Notifications are sent to communities near the burn areas.

Ms. Jakobsen reported that the Commission is working with Marvel Architects to start the process of preparing a feasibility study for creating a nature center. The first meeting will address finding a location for the nature center.

The US Forest Service has been awarded a \$185,000 grant to prepare a community wildfire protection plan. The plan involves the preparation of a wildfire risk map and provides recommendations and strategies on how to reduce wildfire risk in Southampton Town. The first task will be hiring a contractor to prepare the plan.

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The New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy will be holding 3 classes in February at Suffolk County Fire Academy. They include Introduction to Wildland Firefighting and Heavy Equipment Boss. The next training will be held in October.

Compliance and Enforcement

Edwin Ward reported that the Commission's Compliance Division received 10 complaints this period for dumping, encroachment and clearing. The dumping was consistent, being primarily furniture, household trash and landscaping debris.

He also reported that a new Enforcement Officer will be starting at the end of February. The new officer will assist with patrols and focus on UAS pilot training.

Mr. Ward added that the Compliance Division is utilizing social media to highlight the importance of citizen stewardship to assist in protecting the Central Pine Barrens. The 1-877-BARRENS phone number, which is staffed on a 24/7 basis by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, is provided to assist in the reporting of dumping in the Pine Barrens.

Recent Enforcement Activities

Mr. Pendzick reported on recent field enforcement details. There have been 2 Multi Agency ATV Task Force details since the last meeting. On January 19, this detail resulted in 1 ATV impound, 4 summons issued, 1 off-road vehicle apprehended and 2 ATV apprehensions without being impounded, 3 additional summons were issued. Another detail on February 9, 1 ATV was impounded and 3 summons issued, 5 ORV's were apprehended, 3 issued summons and 2 miscellaneous summonses.

Roundtable

Adriana Noyola reported that a case worked on by Suffolk County and NYS Police and other agencies resulted in one of the defendants pleading guilty, resulting in a \$7500 fine.

Art Pendzick reported that most of the nomination forms for LEC Awards for the Annual Cooperators Meeting are in. He also distributed certificates of appreciation to all officers who participated in the details. Eighty one officers participated in the details resulting in 83 illegal ATV impounds over the course of 2024.

Suffolk County is working on legislation to address the side by side ATV's, and electric bikes, etc. Changes in legislation need to be made for these vehicles to be restricted.

Art Pendzick acknowledged the contributions of Josh Parsons to the Law Enforcement Council. He will be recognized at the Cooperators Meeting.

Adriana Noyola from the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office recommended that if you have any questions regarding charges for different cases please reach out to them for assistance.

Judy Jakobsen thanked all the officers for their participation in assisting with protecting the Pine Barrens.

Art Pendzick would like to request an ATV purchase for the Suffolk County Park Rangers. A request was also made to discuss the addition of adding tires for the ATV's from the fund. A motion was made to approve the request by Fabio Daino and seconded by Robyn Kuebler

Next Meeting April 17, 2025

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Todd Spencer of SHPD and seconded by Fabio Daino from NYSP.

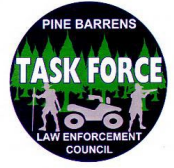
Attachments:

1. Sign in sheet
2. Multi-Task Force Newsletters



PINE BARRENS LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL

Assist. Chief Michael Smith, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Chair
Arthur Pendzick, Suffolk County Park Rangers, Co-Vice Chair
Capt. Thomas Gadomski, NYS DEC Co-Vice Chair



Minutes of the April 17, 2025 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Member Attendance

Art Pendzick, John Cuddy, Edward King, Jeffrey Campo, Steve Brozyna, Dom Messina and Michael Sasek from Suffolk County Park Rangers, Tony Trotta from Suffolk County Parks, Assist. Chief Michael Smith and Robyn Kuebler, Patrice Silvestri from Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Captain Thomas Gadomski, Stephanie Anderson, Mitchell Seabury from NYS DEC DLE, Adriana Noyola from Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, John Dolezal from NYS Police, Patrick Boyles, Thomas Smith, Christopher Gahn and Daniel Breck from Suffolk County Police Department,

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Commission Staff and Others present

Judy Jakobsen, Catherine Drew, Christopher Hansen, Edwin Ward from the Central Pine Barrens Commission. James Canale from Town of Brookhaven.

Maria Z. Moore
Member

The pledge of allegiance was performed, followed by a moment of silence.

Daniel J. Panico
Member

Minutes

The minutes of the February 20th, 2025, meeting were approved by John Dolezal and seconded by Robyn Kuebler.

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Committee Updates

Pine Barrens Commission

Ms. Judy Jakobsen introduced Chris Hansen as the newest Central Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Officer.

She also announced that the Annual Cooperator's Meeting will be held on June 6th at the Hyatt East End. This year's theme is "The Water That Connects Us", with Charles Lefkowitz, Ty Fuller, and Dr. Chris Gobler scheduled as guest speakers. A video presentation on vernal pools will also be part of the agenda.

Ms. Jakobsen reported that the prescribed fire crew arrived on March 8 and immediately began supporting suppression efforts on the Westhampton Pines Fire. The team assisted local partners, firefighters, and first responders with mop-up operations and hotspot mitigation to help bring the wildfire under control.

The crew will remain through the end of May to conduct prescribed burns in grasslands and woodlands. Scheduled burns will occur in forested areas near the Rocky Point, David A. Sarnoff, and Otis Pike Pine Barrens State Forests.

The Fire Danger Rating reports have started to be released starting in March. This regional-scale rating represents the relative difficulty of fire suppression if a wildfire were to occur. Anyone wishing to receive this report should contact Catherine Drew to be added to the distribution list.

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11978

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Compliance and Enforcement

Edwin Ward reported that the Commission's Compliance Division has received 72 cases year-to-date, with 49 new complaints during this reporting period. Complaints included dumping, encroachment, and unauthorized clearing. The majority of dumping involved furniture, household trash, and landscaping debris. Four incidents were captured on surveillance cameras and have been referred to cooperating agencies.

Recent Enforcement Activities

Mr. Pendzick reported on recent multi-agency ATV Task Force operations. Since the last meeting, five enforcement details were conducted:

- February 22: 3 ATVs impounded, 7 summons issued, 1 off-road vehicle apprehended, and 1 additional summons issued.
- March 2: No impounds.
- March 16: 3 ATVs impounded, 7 summons issued, 1 off-road vehicle apprehended, 1 additional summons issued.
- March 30: 2 ATVs impounded, 19 summons issued.

Mr. Pendzick requested the purchase of a new ATV and tires for the Park Rangers. Michael Smith also requested an ATV for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office. A motion was made and approved for the purchase of the new ATV.

Mr. Pendzick also announced the recipients of the 2025 Law Enforcement Officers of the Year Award and the LEC Award.

Roundtable

- Stephanie Anderson reported that 10 new Environmental Conservation Officers have graduated and are now assigned to the region. She also reminded everyone that the statewide burn ban remains in effect until May 14th.
- The Suffolk County Park Rangers announced that Sgt. Jeff Campo was promoted to Lieutenant.
- John Dolezal of the New York State Police reported that the agency now has a full-time drone operator available to assist other agencies upon request.
- James Canale, from Councilman Loguercio's office, thanked all officers for their service as part of the Law Enforcement Council.
Michael Smith requested "No Dumping" signs along North Street in Brookhaven, and Mr. Canale offered to help facilitate the installation.

Next Meeting July 17, 2025

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeff Campo of SCPR and seconded by Robyn Kuebler from SCSO.

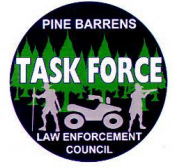
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Minutes of September 18, 2025 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Member Attendance

Art Pendzick, Christopher Angell, Jim Shields, Edward King, Jeffrey Campo, Steve Brozyna, Dom Messina and Michael Sasek from Suffolk County Park Rangers, Michael Smith, Brian Butler, Robin Kuebler and Kenneth Suhovsky from Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Johnathan Deveraux from Riverhead Police Department, Captain Thomas Gadomski from NYS DEC DLE, Patrick Boyles, Thomas Smith, from Suffolk County Police Department DA Squad, Diana Lynch from Suffolk County Parks.

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Commission Staff and Others present

Judy Jakobsen, Catherine Drew, Edwin Ward and Alena Lawston from the Central Pine Barrens Commission.

Maria Z. Moore
Member

The pledge of allegiance was performed, followed by a moment of silence.

Daniel J. Panico
Member

Minutes

The minutes of the July 17th, 2025, meeting were approved by Kenneth Suhovsky and seconded by Brian Butler.

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Committee Updates

Pine Barrens Commission

A Day in the Life

Ms. Jakobsen reported that the Day in the Life program has commenced. The program reaches 10 schools and approximately 1,000–2,000 students across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Activities take place at various rivers and water bodies where students collect water quality data alongside experts from DEC, FWS, and USGS. The collected data is then compiled and analyzed.

Nature Center Feasibility Study & Public Engagement

Ms. Judy Jakobsen reported that a second public engagement session for the proposed Nature Center will be held. This interactive session will evaluate potential locations for the center and gather input on programs and activities that the public would like to see offered. The session is scheduled for October 28th at the Ridge Fire Department from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Southampton Town Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Ms. Jakobsen announced that the Commission has begun meeting with the consultant hired to assist in preparing the Southampton Town Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Commission received \$174,000 in grant funding through the U.S. Forest Service for this initiative.

The plan will bring together stakeholders—including public landowners, fire departments, emergency personnel, and the public—to assess wildfire risks and develop mitigation strategies. It will include maps depicting fuels, community services, and the wildland–urban interface. Once completed, the plan will identify high-risk areas and outline actions to reduce wildfire risk. The finalized document will also enable landowners to apply for federal funding to implement recommended measures.

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Additional Items

- Ms. Jakobsen reported that the announcement for the hiring of the Prescribed Fire Crew will occur in October. Five crew members will be hired. Additional information is available on the SCWA website.
- The Central Pine Barrens Commission is also hiring a full-time Law Enforcement Officer, pending Suffolk County Water Authority Board approval.
- Protected Lands Council Meeting: October 22nd, 1:00–2:30 PM at Wertheim Refuge
- Wildfire Task Force Meeting: November 25th, dinner at 6:00 PM, meeting at 7:00 PM (location TBD)

Compliance and Enforcement

Compliance Division Report

Ms. Alena Lawston reported that the Commission's Compliance Division has received 198 cases year-to-date. Complaints included dumping, encroachment, and unauthorized clearing. The majority of dumping cases involved furniture, household trash, and landscaping debris. Fifteen incidents were captured on surveillance cameras and referred to cooperating agencies.

Ms. Lawston added that some of the dumped landscaping debris contained invasive species, including bamboo, which poses a risk of spreading through root systems into the Pine Barrens.

ATV Task Force Operations

Mr. Pendzick provided an update on recent multi-agency ATV Task Force operations. Since the last meeting, four enforcement details have been conducted:

- July 26: 4 ATVs impounded, 11 summonses issued, 1 off-road vehicle apprehended, 5 miscellaneous summonses
- August 3: 5 ATVs impounded, 13 summonses issued, 2 off-road vehicles apprehended
- August 17: 5 ATVs impounded, 13 summonses issued, 1 off-road vehicle apprehended, 4 miscellaneous summonses
- September 6: 7 ATVs impounded, 13 summonses issued, 1 off-road vehicle apprehended, 2 miscellaneous summonses

Roundtable

- Thomas Gadomski (NYS DEC DLE) reported that fall fishing and deer hunting seasons are underway. Recent state legislation now allows crossbow hunting on Long Island, and setback regulations have also been updated.
- Diana Lynch reported that Suffolk County Parks has opened Seatuck, Pine Meadow, and Suffolk Hills (North and South) to crossbow hunting with a 500-foot setback. A map was distributed, and additional information is available on the Suffolk County Parks website.
- Joseph Savaggio expressed concern regarding the setback distance and noted that Suffolk County Code 822 has been submitted to the legislature to include electric vehicles.
- Deputy Sheriff Ken Zuhoski has been assigned to the BEAST Unit.

Next Meeting

November 6, 2025

A motion to adjourn was made by John Deveraux (Riverhead Police Department) and seconded by Ed King (SCPR).

1. Sign in sheet
2. Multi-Task Force Newsletters