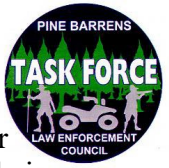




PINE BARRENS LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL

Captain Michael Smith, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Chair
Deputy Director Arthur Pendzick, Suffolk County Park Rangers, Co-vice Chair
Captain Thomas Gadomski, NYS Environmental Conservation Police, Co-vice Chair



Draft Minutes of the January 18, 2024 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Member Attendance

Thomas Gadomski and Tim Day from NYS DEC DLE; Fabio Daino from NYS Police; Donna Giordano, Jed Painter and Robert Kerr from the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office; Arthur Pendzick, Patti Duenzl, Steve Brozyna, Jeff Campo, Steve Laton, Hassan Hamay, Edward King, James Shields from the Suffolk County Park Rangers; Joshua Parsons from the Suffolk County Police Department; Robyn Kuebler, Dustin DeFilippo, Brian Butler, William Weick, Patrice Silvestri, Michael Smith from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office; Patryk Loszewski and Danielle Willsey from the Riverhead Police Department; Tony Trotta from Suffolk County Parks.

Robert T. Calarco
Chairman

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Maria Z. Moore
Member

Daniel J. Panico
Member

Commission Staff and Others present

Frank Carbone, Enforcement Officer from the Central Pine Barrens Commission; Judy Jakobsen and Catherine Drew from the Central Pine Barrens Commission; Councilman Mike Loguercio, Victoria Molloy and James Canale III from the Town of Brookhaven.

The pledge of allegiance was performed followed by a moment of silence. Mr. Pendzick proceeded to ask those present today to introduce themselves and state the agency they are representing.

Minutes of the December 14, 2023 Meeting

The motion to approve the December 14, 2023 minutes was made by Fabio Daino, from the New York State Police and seconded by Jed Painter, from the SC District Attorney's Office that was unanimously approved.

Committee Updates

Pine Barrens Commission

Judy Jakobsen reported that the Central Pine Barrens Commission approved the purchase for a new ATV for Suffolk County Police Department on January 17th.

Ms. Jakobsen also stated that Alena Lawston was hired as an Enforcement Officer with the Pine Barrens, she previously worked for the DEC.

The Science and Stewardship Division is gearing up for the prescribed fire season which runs from March to the end of May. The Commission will hire 5 seasonal fire crew members which have specific training to perform prescribed fires. The division has been actively working on pile burning. This helps improve safety conditions in the area and helps reduce the fuel load in the forest. The division is also working on a mammal study and a tick monitoring program in conjunction with SUNY ESF.

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Other commission activities include the preparation of the Annual Report and the Annual Cooperators Meeting. Ms. Jakobsen requested that any nominations for the LEC Awards be submitted by the February meeting.

The New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy will be held October 17-27, 2024 at Brookhaven National Lab. Ms. Jakobsen invited any members of the Law Enforcement Council who are looking for any specific training classes to add to the next Academy to please reach out to her.

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. The December 30th detail resulted in no impounds, 3 ORV summons and 2 miscellaneous summons. He reported that Trooper Daino made a dumping arrest on Dec 17th from a case in August and which will go to court in February.

The year end report will be out soon, but a summary is provided below:

78 Illegal ATV Impounds
253 ATV Related Summons
2 Stolen ATVs Recovered
37 Illegal ORV Apprehended
42 Summons Issued
76 Vehicle and Traffic Violations, Including 5 Misdemeanors

Mr. Pendzick discussed the January 14th detail in the Edgewood Preserve. The weather was poor, but they did get 2 ATV impounds and issued 5 summons. Mr. Pendzick also reported that a Suffolk County Officer was injured on this detail. He was hit by a car and sustained a broken ankle and a concussion. He was released from the hospital and is recovering.

ECO Tim Day gave an update on hunting season. He stated that traditional bow hunting season has slowed down, January shot gun season is in effect, recreational fishing has been slow. Waterfowl season has picked up recently. They are also involved in dumping cases as well. The ENCON officers stressed if any agencies encounter environmental issues to please give them a call, especially related to hunting and fishing regulations.

Brookhaven Councilman Michael Loguercio addressed the LEC regarding dumping in Brookhaven Town and ATV use. He would like to coordinate with the Law Enforcement Council and the Town to address these issues and would like to see if the town cameras can hook up to the feed for other police departments to share information.

LEC Equipment Purchases

A motion was made to purchase an ATV for the DEC. Ms. Jakobsen informed the Council that 3 quotes are required and the LEC needs to approve the purchase. Mike Smith raised the motion to approve the purchase of the ATV for the DEC. An ATV was already approved for the County. Ms. Jakobsen reported that all new purchases must go through the PBC Violation Fund. There is a limit of two ATVs purchased a year. Ms. Jakobsen also emphasized that basic equipment can be provided by the Central Pine Barrens Commission but not maintenance or expendables.

Compliance and Enforcement

Frank Carbone reported that the Pine Barrens has seen a lot of activity off Red Creek Road in Hampton Bays recently. Working with Trooper Danio, they have resolved 6 cases for a total of \$6,000 in penalties and fines. He noted the new FLOC camera should be placed in the next few weeks.

Mr. Carbone recapped the work the Enforcement Officers have done throughout the year. They have pursued 127 cases, which is more than previous years. They are operating 4 cellular cameras and 20 standard cameras in 14 locations. One additional officer, Alena Lawston, has been added to the staff.

Robyn Kuebler from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office reported that there have been several dumping cases in the Manorville area. Campbell Drive in Shirley has had more dumping as of recently. She noted that Brookhaven Town has put up cameras on lampposts and is working on accessing them.

Jed Painter informed the LEC that the legislation at the County level will increase rewards for information for illegal dumping to \$8,000 and if it is reported through crime stoppers there could be an additional \$5,000 reward. He also stressed the importance of using the crime strategy division for information and to utilize the DA's office for surveillance equipment. Requests can be made to Donna Giordano.

Captain Michael Smith informed the LEC that he is being promoted and is unsure if he can continue to sit on the Board of the LEC.

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.

Roundtable

No items were discussed.

Next Meeting February 15th

The motion to dismiss was made by Fabio Danio from NYSP and was seconded by William Weick, from Suffolk County Sheriff's Office.

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 15, 2024 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Member Attendance

Arthur Pendzick, Stephen Laton, John Cuddy, Jeff Campo from the Suffolk County Park Rangers, Walter Justincic, Thomas Smith from Suffolk County Polica Department/DAO, Robert Kerr, Adriana Noyola, Brooke Salvatore, Jeremy Williams and Jed Painter from Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Ed Frost, Eric Cohen and Patryk Loszewski from Riverhead Police Department, Fabio Daino from New York State Police, Lt. Todd Spencer from Southampton Town Police Department, Thomas Gadomski and ECO Connor Paschke from NYS DEC DLE, and James Canale from Brookhaven Town Council.

Robert T. Calarco
Chairman

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Commission Staff and Others present

Frank Carbone, Enforcement Officer from the Central Pine Barrens Commission; Judy Jakobsen from the Central Pine Barrens Commission.

Maria Z. Moore
Member

Daniel J. Panico
Member

The pledge of allegiance was performed followed by a moment of silence. Mr. Pendzick proceeded to ask those present today to introduce themselves and state the agency they are representing.

Minutes of the January 18, 2024 Meeting

The motion to approve the January 18, 2024 minutes was made by Fabio Daino, from the New York State Police and seconded by Tom Smith from SCPD/DAO

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Committee Updates

Pine Barrens Commission

Judy Jakobsen reported that the Central Pine Barrens Commission approved the purchase for a new ATV for Suffolk County Police Department on January 17th.

Judy Jakobsen discussed the Riverside Sewage Treatment Plant that is before the Commission. At the February 21st meeting, a hearing will be held to discuss this project that will be sized to handle 800,000 gallons of waste a day. This is a key component to a much larger revitalization plan for the Riverside community. A hardship is being sought for more clearing than is typically allowed.

The Commission Staff continues to work with the DEC, in the Sarnoff State Forest, on pile burns. This burning will help with forest health, safety for those entering the forest, and will provide an ecological benefit to the forest.

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The Commission is participating in the Long Island mammal study in conjunction with Seatuck. They launched a multi-year campaign to address this gap and map the distribution of some 27 terrestrial and semi-aquatic wild mammals thought to exist on the island. The Commission staff has set up cameras in specific locations to help track animals.

The Wildfire Task Force will meet at Westhampton Beach Fire House on March 27th. Presentations from the National Weather Service will give a weather outlook for the season and address the concerns of fire weather.

From March 1st to the end of May, the Commission has hired 5 seasonal fire fighters to help with the prescribed fire program. They will work with the cooperation of NYS DEC Rangers and other agencies to burn on DEC lands.

The Daily Fire Danger report will be sent out starting the beginning of March. The Fire Danger level (low, moderate, high) relates to how difficult the fire would be to manage if an ignition occurred. This information will be distributed to Suffolk County FRES who dispatches this information out to agencies and land managers. If you would like to be included in the daily fire danger report, please see Judy Jakobsen.

The Cooperators Meeting is on June 7th at the East End Hyatt. LEC award nominations are due today. This year the Commission recognizes the 30 years of the LEC. County Executive Ed Romaine has agreed to be the keynote speaker for the event.

The Commission is looking for instructors for the Blood born pathogen and Stop the Bleed training. Please reach out to Judy Jakobsen if you have any information on potential trainers. Training is needed for the prescribed fire crew.

Compliance and Enforcement

Frank Carbone reported that Ridge Fire Department is working with Commission staff to use their facility for drone training.

Obtaining the FLOC camera is still in progress. The location of the camera will be on Red Creek Road. This location has been hit more than any other spot in the past year. Additionally, Commission Law Enforcement officers have been experimenting with trail cameras by adding them to less traveled roads. This change has been successful in picking up dumping activity without draining the cameras.

In 2024, the LEC has seen over 30 cases so far. The activity has been significant relative to previous years.

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. The January 28th detail did not yield any impounds, as the weather was brutal that day. Mr. Pendzick did inform the Council about activity on January 27th in the Manorville Hills area, 15 ATV's were reported in the area. The Forest Rangers and NYS Police and the DEC were able to issue 15 summons for riding on state land. On February 11th, 3 ATV's were impounded near Sequoia Drive in Coram with 17 summons issued and 3 ORV's were apprehended as well. The next detail will be Sunday, February 18th.

Jed Painter reported that there has been some success working in conjunction with other agencies to find common offenders. The coordination and communication among agencies have led to solving some of these crimes. Please reach out to Donna Giordano to log an offense and it will be shared with the other agencies.

The Sheriff's Office, Jed Painter and Suffolk County Police Department will be working on a deployment strategy for cameras in the areas outside of the Pine Barrens. This will prevent having similar technology in the same area.

James Canale, Legislative Aide for Councilman Loguercio, District 4, addressed the LEC. He said there has been no new ATV complaints since the last meeting, and that Councilman Loguercio expressed his thanks for the LEC members for their efforts with the prosecution of the boat dumping case in the Pine Barrens.

Art Pendzick said that the Nomination forms for the Cooperators Meeting are due today. All agencies will be notified with the details. Certificates of Appreciation were given to all officers who worked and participated in the multi-agency ATV/ORV Task Force details. The result of these details in 2023 have led to 78 illegal ATV impounds and 253 ATV related summons issued as well as 37 ORV impounds and 42 summons.

Tom Gadomski said if any agency is interested in ATV training please reach out to Mike Smith.

Roundtable

No items were discussed.

Next Meeting April 18th

The motion to dismiss was made by Fabio Danio from NYSP and was seconded by Stephen Laton, from Suffolk County Park Rangers.

Attachments:

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



PINE BARRENS LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL



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

Minutes of the April 18, 2024 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Member Attendance

Arthur Pendzick, Stephen Laton, Jeff Campo, Hamay Hassan, Richard Pennino, and Evelyn Collado from the Suffolk County Park Rangers, Walter Justincic, Donna Giordano from Suffolk County Police Department/DAO, Robert Kerr, Adriana Noyola, and Jed Painter from Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, John Deveraux and Eric Cohen from Riverhead Police Department, Assist. Chief Michael Smith, Robyn Kuebler and Brian Butler from Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Christopher Amato from NYS DEC DLE, James Canale from Brookhaven Town Council, and Tony Trotta from Suffolk County Parks.

Robert T. Calarco
Chairman

Commission Staff and Others present

Frank Carbone and Alena Lawston Enforcement Officer from the Central Pine Barrens Commission; Judy Jakobsen and Catherine Drew from the Central Pine Barrens Commission.

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

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

Maria Z. Moore
Member

Minutes of the February 15, 2024 Meeting

The motion to approve the February 15, 2024 minutes was made by Assist. Chief Michael Smith, from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office and seconded by Art Pendzick from the Suffolk County Park Rangers.

Daniel J. Panico
Member

Committee Updates

Pine Barrens Commission

Judy Jakobsen reported that the 12-year litigation case concerning illegal clearing and grading of the site referred to as Affatato on County Road 111 has been settled. The NYS Attorney General's office represented the Commission and held a press conference on the settlement of this case. The civil portion of the penalty is \$100,000. The settlement requires the site to be restored to its natural state.

Tara Murphy was hired by the Central Pine Barrens Commission as the environmental planner. She will be involved in reviewing development projects and other land use planning initiatives.

Martin Steiger and Polly Weigand have left their positions. Their positions will be posted on the Suffolk County Water Authority website.

The Fall 2024 NYWIMA will be October 17-27 at Brookhaven National Laboratory. Classes will be offered in wildland firefighting, all hazard classes and ICS classes. Please send any class suggestions or requests to nywima@pb.state.ny.us.

The Commission staff continues to work with the DEC, in the Sarnoff State Forest, on pile burns. Over 30 acres of forest area has been burned and 98 acres of grasslands. This burning will help with forest health, and safety for those entering the forest, and will provide an ecological benefit to the forest.

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Compliance and Enforcement

Mr. Carbone is still working with FLOCK to get the camera installed. Additionally, there had been a case with a U-Haul truck dumping furniture on North Street. By using the sheriff's footage there has been success identifying dumping violators.

Recent Enforcement Activities

Mr. Pendzick reported on recent field enforcement details. There have been 5 Multi Agency ATV Task force details since the last meeting. The February 18th did yield 3 ATV impounds and 37 summons. On March 3rd, there were 3 ATVs impounded and 5 summons issued. Additionally, there were 2 ORV impounds and 26 miscellaneous summonses issued. March 24th resulted in 12 ATV impounds and 14 summons issued. 2 ORVs were impounded, and 1 miscellaneous summons issued. March 30th, no ATVs were impounded and 2 ORVs were apprehended. On April 14th, 4 ATVs were impounded and 20 summons issued. 3 ORVs were impounded. Mr. Pendzick also updated the Council on recent ATV law changes, including a safety course for ATV operators. The State passed the law as a result of a study of ATV fatalities.

Robin Kuebler reported the upcoming Spring ATV training session is fully booked.

Jed Painter notified the Council that the Legislation was passed to increase the fines to \$15,000 for dumping in the Pine Barrens. If any agency has camera requests, please reach out to Sgt. Giordano. If cameras are used and they are not up to your standard they can be adjusted, or additional cameras added.

Mr. Pendzick proposed changes to the LEC by-laws. These changes would include increasing the LEC purchases to \$20,000, adding also that agencies would only be eligible for an equipment purchase after 3 years. A bylaw would be added related to awards to include any person whose agency is included in the Council not just officers. Nomination forms will be distributed in December and voted on the first quarter of the year. Judy Jakobsen will check to see what the process is for the changes to the bylaws.

Roundtable

Mr. Pendzick asked for any agencies to update him on any work done outside of the ATV details, including dumping, illegal activity etc. These updates will be added to his reports.

Annual reports are available for all members to review.

Motion to close the meeting was made by Jed Painter and a second by Rich Pennino.

Roundtable

No items were discussed.

Next Meeting June 20, 2024

The motion to dismiss was made by Jed Painter from SC District Attorney's Office and was seconded by Rich Pennino, from Suffolk County Park Rangers.

Attachments:

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



PINE BARRENS LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL



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

Minutes of the June 20, 2024 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Member Attendance

Art Pendzick, Joseph Savaglio, Richard Penino and Jeff Campo from Suffolk County Park Rangers, Richard Tedesco from Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Jonathan Deveraux from Riverhead Police Department, Fabio Danio from New York State Police, Captain Thomas Gadomski NYS DEC DLE, Adriana Noyola and Jed Painter from Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Donna Giordano from Suffolk County Police Department

Robert T. Calarco
Chairman

Commission Staff and Others present

Frank Carbone and Alena Lawston Enforcement Officer from the Central Pine Barrens Commission; Judy Jakobsen and Catherine Drew from the Central Pine Barrens Commission.

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

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

Minutes of the April 18, 2024 Meeting

Maria Z. Moore
Member

The motion to approve the April 18, 2024 minutes was made by Fabio Danio from the NYS Police, and seconded by Richard Pennino from the Suffolk County Park Rangers.

Committee Updates

Pine Barrens Commission

Judy Jakobsen reported that the Cooperator's Meeting, held on June 7th, honoring 30 years of the LEC, was well attended. Ms. Jakobsen acknowledged Jed Painter as keynote speaker at the event. A plaque was presented to the LEC to acknowledge all of the enforcement efforts by its members who have cooperatively worked together through the years to protect the pine barrens.

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Ms. Jakobsen also discussed the progress of the Pine Barrens Interpretive Nature Center. There was a request for proposal released to hire a consultant to prepare a business plan to determine the feasibility of creating a center.

The prescribed Spring fire season has wrapped up for 2024, 31 prescribed fires were conducted that resulted in 330 acres of grasslands and 51 acres of woodlands burned.

Polly Weigand has left her position at the Commission and therefore the Commission has an opening for a science and stewardship manager. Additional vacant positions are for an Enforcement Officer and Ecologist.

Wildfire Task Force Meeting has been postponed until the end of August.

The Barrens to Bay Camp will start July 1st at Wertheim Wildlife Refuge.

The New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy will be held October 17-27. 19 classes will be offered. In addition to NWCG Classes all Hazard classes are offered as well. More information will be available at the July meeting.

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Compliance and Enforcement

Mr. Carbone stated the FLOCK camera has been installed on Red Creek Road off of 24. A request has been sent out to access other cameras.

Mr. Pendzick said that the changes to the bylaws will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting.

Recent Enforcement Activities

Mr. Pendzick reported on recent field enforcement details. There have been 5 Multi Agency ATV Task Force details since the last meeting. The April 28th detail did yield 7 ATV impounds and 27 summons, 1 ORV and 5 miscellaneous summonses. On May 18th, there was 1 ATV impounded and 8 summons issued. The June 2nd detail resulted in 6 ATV impounds and 40 summons issued. 2 ORVs were impounded, and 1 miscellaneous summons issued. June 9th, 3 ATVs were impounded, and 32 summonses issued. The totals for the details resulted in 26 ATV impounds, 169 summonses issued, and 4 ATVs apprehended, not impounded.

Roundtable

Captain Gadomski informed the Council that the DEC Academy has started. There were 45 recruits at the start of the Academy, 37 currently remain. Graduation is slated for the second week of December, with the hope that the vacant spots will be filled and will be fully staffed by the beginning of next year. He also informed the council that four officers in the area will not be available during the summer months. Captain Gadomski also reported the commercial and recreation fishing season is busy right now. Connecticut fishermen are coming into New York waters to fish and returning with their catches to Connecticut. This is in violation of NY regulations.

Mr. Pendzick encouraged all members of the LEC to watch the informative video on the history and activities of the LEC that was produced by the Commission and is available to view on the Commission's website pb.state.ny.us.

Jed Painter requested that if anyone has any needs for Pine Barrens cleanup, please let his office know. He stressed he has corporations available that are willing to help with community service to avoid large fines and jail time. Please reach out to him with any ideas.

Frank Carbone notified the Council that they are seeing a large amount of license plate covers that are obstructing the ability to read the license plates that are captured through the cameras.

Roundtable

No items were discussed.

Next Meeting July 18, 2024

The motion to dismiss was made by Adriana Noyola from SC District Attorney's Office and was seconded by Johnathan Deveraux from Riverhead Police Department.

Attachments:

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



PINE BARRENS LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL



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

Minutes of the September 19, 2024 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Member Attendance

Art Pendzick, Joseph Savaglio, Jeffrey Campo, Dominick Messina, Chris Angell and Steve Brozyna from Suffolk County Park Rangers, Robyn Kuebler and Brian Butler from Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Brian Clements from Riverhead Police Department, Captain Thomas Gadowski and Robert Kaufherr NYS DEC DLE, Thomas Smith from Suffolk County Police Department, Jed Painter from Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Donna Giordano from Suffolk County Police Department DAO

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Commission Staff and Others present

James Canale from Brookhaven Town Councilman Loguercio's Office, Alena Lawston Enforcement Officer from the Central Pine Barrens Commission; Judy Jakobsen and Catherine Drew from the Central Pine Barrens Commission.

Maria Z. Moore
Member

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

Daniel J. Panico
Member

Minutes of the July 18th, 2024 Meeting

The motion to approve the July 18, 2024 minutes was made by Donna Giordano from the SCPD DAO, and seconded by Tom Smith from the Suffolk County Police Department.

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Committee Updates

Pine Barrens Commission

Judy Jakobsen reported that the Board approved Edwin Ward as the new Law Enforcement Officer and Alena Lawston as the Chief Enforcement Officer. She also informed the Council that there is still an opening for an enforcement officer and details can be found on the Suffolk County Water Authority website.

The New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (NYWIMA) is being held October 19-25th at Brookhaven National Laboratory. Nineteen classes will be offered. In addition to NWCG classes, all hazard classes will be offered. Information and registration is available online at www.nywima.com. December will have more training opportunities, including a saws class.

Ms. Jakobsen also discussed the progress of the Pine Barrens Interpretive Nature Center. There was a request for proposal released to hire a consultant to prepare a business plan to determine the feasibility of creating a center. Five responses were received, and one will be selected in October.

Compliance and Enforcement

Miss. Lawston gave an update on the dumping and enforcement activities in the Pine Barrens. There have been 102 cases opened this year, mostly encroachment, clearing and dumping. She also informed the Council that she will be taking the UAS class through NYWIMA this October.

Mr. Pendzick discussed the proposed changes to the LEC By-Laws. He distributed the By-Laws with the new provisions for review. Some changes include stipulations to the nominations for the

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Cooperator's Meeting as well as changes for purchasing equipment from the VFA Fund. The recommendations will have to be accepted by the Pine Barrens Commission.

Recent Enforcement Activities

Mr. Pendzick reported on recent field enforcement details. There have been 4 Multi Agency ATV Task Force details since the last meeting. On July 20th there was a detail near the Edgewood Preserve, this detail did not result in any impounds or summons issued. Another detail on July 28th, this detail did yield 5 ATV impounds and 22 summons, 2 ORV apprehended. On August 18th, 2 ATV impounded issued 6 summonses including 2 miscellaneous tickets were issued. On September 7th, 2 ATV's confiscated and 6 summonses issued.

Roundtable

Captain Gadowski informed the Council that there are 28 candidates in the Academy currently. Graduation is slated for the second week of December. He also alerted that the DEC is busy doing security details in the NYC area for the UN and elected officials.

James Canale from Councilman Loguercio's Office relayed his thanks for all the Law Enforcement officers and the work they do.

Jed Painter asked the Council to please take pictures when officers encounter sealed bags on dumping cases. He is requesting to see the contents of the bags in pictures, some contents can upgrade the charges to a felony charge. He also stressed the importance of wearing body worn cameras. Mr. Painter also asked that in cases involving substantial dumping to please charge at the county level rather than the town level.

Donna Giordano said that the SCPD does have body worn cameras available for departments to use, these would be especially useful during the ATV details.

The DEC DLE office stated that they currently have 8 dumping cases they are prosecuting through the Sheriff's Office. Any cases that have settled had to pay fines of \$1300. Please be conscious that fishing and hunting season has started and please keep them notified of any unusual activity.

Next Meeting November 7th

The motion to dismiss was made by Donna Giordano of the SCPD DAO.

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 Gadowski, NYS DEC Co-Vice Chair



Minutes of the November 7, 2024 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Member Attendance

Art Pendzick, Joseph Savaglio, Jeffrey Campo, and Tony Trotta from Suffolk County Park Rangers, Assist Chief Michael Smith, Robyn Kuebler and Brian Butler from Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Peter Anderson from Riverhead Police Department, Captain Thomas Gadowski from NYS DEC DLE, Todd Spencer from Southampton Town Police Department from Suffolk County Police Department, Robert Kerr from Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Gino O'Leary from NYS Police.

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Commission Staff and Others present

Jason Smith, from Science & Stewardship at the Central Pine Barrens; Judy Jakobsen and Catherine Drew from the Central Pine Barrens Commission.

Maria Z. Moore
Member

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

Daniel J. Panico
Member

Minutes of the September 19th, 2024 Meeting

The motion to approve the September 19, 2024 minutes was made by Jeff Campo from the SC Park Rangers and seconded by Brian Butler from SCSO.

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Committee Updates

Pine Barrens Commission

Judy Jakobsen introduced Jason Smith as Science and Stewardship Manager for the Central Pine Barrens Commission. He brings a wealth of knowledge of land conservation and planning.

Ms. Jakobsen also discussed the progress of the Pine Barrens Interpretive Nature Center. Last month the Commission approved the hiring of Marvel Architects, who will prepare a feasibility study of creating a nature center. Location of the center has not been determined yet. Additionally, this center will help provide connections to other nature centers and refuges as well.

The Commission also approved a proposal from the MTA to build a new railroad platform in Yaphank. The existing station will close.

The Education and Outreach Division has completed the Day in the of Life Rivers and Estuaries Program for the fall. This program connects students with agency experts. Students help collect water samples and other data that provides an assessment of water body health. This program encompasses 14 waterbodies all over Long Island and includes 100 teachers and over 2000 students from 40 schools participating. This program helps connect students with the environment and help them become better stewards of the environment.

Ms. Jakobsen also alerted the LEC about the moderate and high current fire danger rating. The soils are very dry and a good potential for fire. She asked the Council to be mindful of that when they are in the field or when they are working with equipment that could spark.

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The New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (NYWIMA) was held in October at Brookhaven National Laboratory. 176 students were trained throughout the week. Additional classes will be held in December and information can be found at www.nywima.com.

The LEC holiday luncheon will be held at the next meeting on December 12th.

Compliance and Enforcement

Judy Jakobsen gave an update on the dumping and enforcement activities in the Pine Barrens. There have been 29 complaints in September and October this year, mostly dumping (landscape debris, furniture and household garbage). There have been a total of 131 dumping cases this year. Both Alena Lawston and Edwin Ward recently attended the drone training as part of NYWIMA.

Mr. Pendzick discussed the proposed changes to the LEC by-laws. He distributed the by-laws with the new provisions for review. Some changes related to the LEC annual award nomination process to align with the Commission's annual cooperator's meeting is held in June now, in addition to changes to provisions related to purchasing equipment from the VFA Fund. A motion was made to approve the changes to the by-laws that was unanimously approved. The recommendations will have to be accepted by the Pine Barrens Commission board at their next meeting.

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 September 29, this detail resulted in 1 impound and 3 summons issued. Another detail on October 6th, this detail did yield 2 ATV impounds and 6 summons, 1 ORV apprehended. On October 19, 2 ATV impounded issued 5 summonses including 2 ORV's were issued.

Roundtable

Captain Gadomski informed the Council of a situation in DEC region 8 concerning an unpermitted wildlife rehab center.

Next Meeting December 12, 2024

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
3. LEC By-Law Changes



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 December 12, 2024 Meeting At Southaven County Park, Yaphank 1:00 pm

Member Attendance

Art Pendzick, James Shields, Hamdy Hassan, Dominick Messina, Edward King, Jeffrey Campo, Steve Brozyna, and Michael Sasek from Suffolk County Park Rangers, Assist Chief Michael Smith, Robyn Kuebler and Brian Butler from Suffolk County Sherriff's Office, Captain Thomas Gadomski and Robert Kaufherr from NYS DEC DLE, Adriana Noyola, Jed Painter, Robert Kerr, Walter Justincic, Donna Giordano from Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Gino O'Leary and John Dolezal from NYS Police.

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Commission Staff and Others present

Judy Jakobsen and Alena Lawston from the Central Pine Barrens Commission. James Canale from Town of Brookhaven and Michael Cain from Colonial Woods Condo.

Maria Z. Moore
Member

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

Daniel J. Panico
Member

Minutes from November 2024

Motion to approve minutes was made by Brian Butler from Suffolk County Sherriff's Office and seconded by John Dolezal from the New York State Police.

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Committee Updates

Pine Barrens Commission

Ms. Jakobsen reported that starting in January the feasibility study will begin for the Central Pine Barrens Nature Center. A working group of agency reps and other individuals will help with information needs and assist in the identification and evaluation of locations of public lands for a potential site.

The New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (NYWIMA) is holding a smaller Academy this week at Suffolk County Fire Academy. About 80 Students will be attending to take the S-130/190 and S-212 classes. There is potential for a February training session. Information will be on the website at www.nywima.com.

Judy Jakobsen said that an annual report for the is being compiled and will be completed in February. Distribution will be at a future meeting. She also stated that the changes to the Law Enforcement Council's By-laws were presented at the Commission meeting and accepted at the December Meeting.

Finally, she reported that a new enforcement officer at the Central Pine Barrens should be starting in January.

Compliance and Enforcement

Alena Lawston gave an update on the dumping and enforcement activities in the Pine Barrens.

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She explained that 41 complaints have been received for dumping, encroachment and clearing. The dumping was consistent being primarily furniture, household trash and landscaping debris. 8 of the incidents were captured on surveillance cameras and referred to law enforcement partner agencies. Overall there have been 170 cases for 2024, which is 40 more than the previous year.

Ms. Lawston also reported that their division is beginning to utilize social media to highlight the importance of citizen stewardship to assist in protecting the Central Pine Barrens. They are providing the 1-877-BARRENS phone number which is staffed on a 24/7 basis by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office.

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 November 10, this detail resulted in 1 impound and 2 ORV's were apprehended and 9 summons issued. November 17th, this detail did yield ATV impounds and summons. On December 8, 2 ATV's were impounded issued 2 miscellaneous summonses including 2 ORV's were issued. In total 7 ATV's were impounded, 31 summons issued, 5 ORV'S apprehended and 8 miscellaneous tickets were written.

Captain Thomas Gadomski reported that the DEC LE K-9 dog for the area had passed away recently. The DEC Academy graduated this month, and 10 graduates will be coming to Long Island, 11 to NYC and 5 to Westchester.

Jed Painter asked that when law enforcement comes across a dumping, please note in the report where the closest no dumping sign is located.

Mr. Pendzick distributed a copy of the meeting schedule for 2025. He also distributed the nomination forms for the Officer of the Year. Forms must be returned by the February meeting to Arthur Pendzick or Judy Jakobsen.

Roundtable

Jeff Campo complemented the shared information among agencies that allows information related to dumping and ATV activities. With the cooperation of other agencies more resolutions are occurring.

Michael Cain from Colonial Woods, who is adjacent to Warbler Woods. He said there has been a drastic improvement in ATV activities recently. He questioned what is the best way to communicate with the LEC in regards to ATV activity? Mr. Pendzick explained that 911 should be called at the time of the activity. If there is a trend, 1-877-BARRENS can be called to discuss what the window of activity is.

Judy Jakobsen thanked the Council on behalf of the Commission for all their hard work this year.

Next Meeting January 16, 2025

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeff Campo SC Park Rangers and seconded by Jed Painter from SCDA which was unanimously approved.

Attachments:

1. Sign in sheet
2. Multi-Task Force Newsletters
3. LEC By-Law Changes

Minutes for the LEC

Agenda for the LEC

