

SUFFOLK COMMITTEE FOR CAMPING
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Date: March 1, 2017
HOLTSVILLE ECOLOGY SITE
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President David Lipman opened the General Membership meeting of Suffolk Committee for Camping at 7:30 PM.

Board members in attendance: Bob Colwell, Clare Gunning, Joe Kukral, Todd Lavender, David Lipman, Sharynn Lipman, Carmella Masem and Steve Stengel.

Clubs Represented: Castaways, Pathfinders, Tailgaters, Polecats, Mallards, Happy Campers FB Group, LIBBA, Friends by Nature, Allegros, Cruisers, Getaways, Hooters, LI Campers, Goonies and FNA.

The salute to the flag was led by Dave Lipman followed by a moment of silence.

Minutes from the last meeting were read. Correction made to include the Hooters in Clubs represented last month. Motion to accept as corrected by Christine Rodriguez, second by Russ Clock.

Dave introduced the guests from the Suffolk County Parks Department, Adina Beedenbender and Emily Lauri. They were here to explain and answer. A lengthy discussion was held. The major points were:

- The pipes on Burma Road will not happen. It's against Federal regs.
- Outer Beach stickers cannot go on the windshield per the DMV.
- Enforcement of the rules is big on Adina's agenda. Twelve new park rangers have been added and another ten more coming. Three more beach vehicles have been added, at least two of which will be assigned to Smith Point. Air downs and equipment checks will be added to the enforcement list. Training of outer beach campers was discussed. Porta Potties are not allowed on the beach and that's been the rule for a while.
- Electric bill at Smith Point was over \$44k a month last season. Using the word amenities in the fee schedule was a mistake it should have said utilities. The ala carte fees will give the County the latitude to raise the utilities fee as needed. They don't have to raise everything if just the electric goes up. They used the motel/hotel model for the set-up of fees.
- The fees on the outer beach went up because there is a lot of maintenance involved, a lot environmental concerns, and a ton of environmental work.
- The holiday campout weekend extends over the entire weekend before and after if it falls during the week. It has always been.
- They are looking to put group camping on the reservation system.
- The minimum requirement of camping units in group area must be met on the first night listed in the permit in order to get your refundable deposit. Anything before or after your permit dates, you pay at the office and regular rates will be applied.
- They are going to have a discussion with the legislature about disabled veteran camping fees. There may be a compromise down the line. There's free sites for Disabled Veterans at Cathedral Pines and Sears Bellows. But their base fee is always free at every county campground.

- Parking lot work order in place for Montauk may include entrance road grading.
- There will be a meeting of reps from SCC, LIBBA, Parks Department and Legislators.
- The legislature decided to raise fees on December 20th to be in effect for January 1st.
- Out east campgrounds have a budget for staff but can't get anyone to work. Applications were passed out.
- Every comment card turned in at a campground is read by Adina. The top complaints are garbage pickup and bathrooms getting cleaned. Every bathroom will have inspected cards hanging on the walls to account for when they are cleaned. The staff is going to be held accountable. If you see the bathrooms aren't cleaned and noted on the cards, report it.
- Reservation system changed from 7 days to 2 days out.
- The park office cannot put anyone into a group site without the groups' permission. If the group wants people to be added to their group area, the front desk should allow and not say no.
- Adina has made up one set of rules for park office. No more land of No when in doubt.
- Adina said that she will have discussion about the building fee at Cathedral Pine.
- The County made more money from the Girl Scouts than they would have made from campers at Smith Point. The Girl Scouts paid all of the expenses for the light show and left the sites in better shape than they found them. Adina said crews have been on the sites doing the grading and RCA since they left.
- There will be increased patrols going through Smith Point overnight.

Legislative: Joe Kukral spoke with Leg. Hahn about having a target meeting with Legislative, Parks Department, County Exec, David, Joe, and LIBBA in the evening. Leg. McCaffrey also said he is interested in attending this meeting. He reminded everyone that the new fees and rates were set and voted on by the legislature.

Park Liaison: Dave had the opportunity to go through Smith Point. It is in fantastic shape. It's now up to us to help keep it clean. He drove through Cathedral Pines, Blydenburgh, Indian Island and Sears Bellows and they all are ready for the season.

Dave thanked Adina and Emily for coming to our meeting. He also thanked Joe Kukral for the job he's doing as our new legislative chair and welcomed him back on the board.

Kick Off: Job forms on the table.

Scholarship: No applications have been received.

Next meeting: April 5th

A motion to close the meeting made by Russ Clock second by John Groves.

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