

SUFFOLK COMMITTEE FOR CAMPING  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
February 5, 2025  
Henrietta Acampora Cottage

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President Edward O'Shaughnessy opened the General Membership meeting of Suffolk Committee for Camping at 7:30 PM. The salute to the flag was led by Ed followed by a moment of silence.

Board members in attendance: Steve Doner, Clare Gunning, Donna O'Shaughnessy, Edward O'Shaughnessy & Ken Weeks.

Clubs Represented: Pathfinders, Cruisers, LIBBA, Fishing Friends, Friends by Nature, Hooters, South Shore, Mallards, Drifters, LI Polecats, LI Wagoneers, The Long Islanders and Lindenhurst Campers.

No minutes read.

KickOff: Finally got the fees. Ed is working on getting the application together. The increase will be \$6. The electric will be \$8 more than that. On the application there will be a box if you want to go into the lottery for an electric site. On April 1<sup>st</sup> the names will be pulled and you will be notified right after that. The electric sites will not be for the clubs camping. There will be sites held for the board and the handicap campers. Ken will check on why the map has sites taken even though it says the park is closed. There are sheets up on the table. There are jobs that still need to be filled. Remember you can't participate in club sales if you haven't volunteered. The application will be posted by the end of the weekend.

Recommendation has been made for a band and board members will be going out to listen this weekend.

Yes Nassau County campers are welcome. All clubs must have roster and dues submitted.

This year Pancakes will be on Sunday and French Toast on Saturday.

Lines will be done in one day if we get enough volunteers. We will not be doing B field. We must use those sites as is.

Legislative: At the legislative parks committee meeting, we got the legislators attention. Ken spoke as well as other members. It was a very productive meeting for those members as well as the SCC. Ken had a meeting with the Parks Commissioner yesterday. Fees were addressed. He has been contacted by all the legislators. We need to be patient and give him a chance. Ken showed him a receipt from last year and a receipt from this year, he was shocked. He said no fees doubled over what was charged last year but Kens receipts show a 113% increase. They talked about group camping especially payment. New rules resulted, 10% of camping fee due within 5 days of getting the reservation, balance must be paid 30 days prior to check in date. The 7 day in and out rule with groups has been waived. But they will watch to make sure no one is abusing it and living in the park group areas for the summer. They said the group rules were originally changed because of last minute cancellations of groups and not being able to rent out the areas.

After an argument over fees, John Groves made a motion to remove Ken Weeks from the board. Ken seconded it. No vote was taken.

Member brought up the sites in the group areas that are too small for today's rigs. President Ed requested when you're in the group area send an email to him regarding those sites so he can get that to the parks department.

Still in effect that you must pay for all the sites in the group area.

A member thanked Ken for the great job he did at the legislature meeting.

At this point the relationship between SCC and the Commissioner has greatly improved since the legislators have been brought on board.

Ken asked for a new way to do the group reservations. It can't be done right now. If you are using the reservation system right now it is the old system. New system didn't happen. They are looking for a new vendor.

A member questioned why SCC is still having a KickOff if they want to protest and get the rules changed, that they shouldn't be having it and giving the county money. The member announced that the Long Islanders will not be camping in the Suffolk County campgrounds in 2025 in protest against the fees and rules.

Group lottery results are unknown at this time. There was a long, long, discussion that followed.

A member brought up what was available for groups at BattleRow in Nassau County. Dry camping but there's a building you don't have to pay for.

LIBBA: Putting down Christmas trees this month, the 15<sup>th</sup>, at Smith Point at 9am.

Next Parks Committee meeting is Feb 24<sup>th</sup>

Good and Welfare: Bill LeCluse's father passed away. Michael O'Connor had knee surgery. Someone had a blood clot and someone else is dealing with colon cancer. John Groves is a grandfather again.

Next meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made to close the meeting by John Groves. Second by Bill LeCluse.

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