

## Oak Bluffs Park Commissioners Minutes

May 19, 2008

Members present: Richard Combra, JR, Allan deBettencourt and Nancy Phillips

Meeting opened at 5:03 PM

### Town Beach

Temporary fixes are completed; need to decide whether NETCO should finish temporary stairs and concession stand evaluation.

Conservation Agent Liz Durkee explained to get State funding for sea wall survey, they had to pick from a list of five engineering firms. They chose a firm from Marion, Mass – Carlos Pena of CLE Engineering and he was going to start testing bank the following week.

Commissioner Phillips replied that she spoke with Department of Environmental Protection and they did not know anything about the engineer list and advised only needed a professional engineer who has done work in that area.

Agent Durkee answered it was Ken Mooney at the Department of Conservation & Recreation, where the \$200,000 came from. She added most of the emergency work is done except watering plants and fixing stairs. She said there was talk about forming a committee of various departments to work toward a longer term solution once the engineers report is done.

Commissioner Phillips wants to spread out the dredged sand there now on the area known as “The Inkwell” according to an engineer’s report on the slope.

Agent Durkee replied that the dredging is a large licensing process and will have to be done for every beach.

Commissioner Combra said the amount of sand there now is not enough for what needs to be done. He added there needs to be more discussion on the long term issues with the various parties involved (ConCom, BOS, engineers, etc) but he is more concerned about this season and the next few weeks.

Commissioner Phillips agrees that people need to work together and she has been speaking with Joan Taylor and there is \$400,000 for pre-mitigation funds from Federal Government.

Agent Durkee advised that there is a deadline in Oct/Nov and suggested getting the group together and get things accomplished with that date in mind.

Selectperson Kerry Scott said the BOS is committed to seeing project go forward and it is a two part project; identify funding sources and then identify a group to take it to next step.

Commissioner Phillips said many people wrote to Representative Delahunt.

Selectperson Scott continued that Mark De Forest was sent by Rep Delahunt; project includes transportation, Ocean Park effluent protection, Sengekontacket Pond, beaches and recreation. She continued it would be overseen by BOS but done collaboratively with a committee including Park Commission, MVC, transportation, etc and would work to get it done by October’s session.

Commissioner Combra said he was encouraged by the meeting and that there are plans to put together a committee to work on that beach area.

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Commissioner Phillips advised that Kent Healy and Thomas Worth were coming down on Wednesday to look at a site for a universal access ramp at end of Narragansett Ave.

There was a discussion of handicap access ramps to the beach.

Selectperson Scott said that the BOS was approached to provide universal access to the beach and during the (sea wall collapse) emergency it was recognized that it was an opportunity to do so and it was promised at three public meetings.

Commissioner Phillips felt that that design was taking 1/6 of the beach and did not get people into the water as previously requested at earlier meetings.

Commissioner Combra said he could see the benefits of it for this summer.

Gail Barmakian also voiced the same concerns as Commissioner Phillips but felt it could be revisited should any problems arise.

Commissioner Combra added that it is not permanent and in the long term fix maybe a different solution could be found. He asked if there were any other options for universal access.

Commissioner Phillips said she had no other option but she was stating her objection to the whole thing; she is totally for universal access but not by taking up so much of the available beach. She felt it could have been done differently.

Selectperson Scott explained that the discussion about universal access was made prior to Ms Phillips being elected to Park Commission. She added that Town boards aren't at liberty to make decisions without going through the Town Administrator.

Commissioner Combra said that it would move forward with Commissioners Phillips objection.

Conservation Agent Durkee added that it was being looked at and it may or may not stay there. She continued that NETCO is willing to put stairs in and walkway along dune area with materials they already have.

Commissioners agreed to stairway further down beach and requested to see the design.

### Concession Stand

Commissioner Combra advised that Kent Healy was going to give his opinion as well as Carlos Pena; it would have to wait until after evaluations. He recommended waiving the applicants the fee for concession stand usage.

Conservation Agent said her personal concern is opening it without approval from Carlos Pena as he is one of the engineers on the State's list.

Commissioner Combra said that if they get recommendations from both, they would feel comfortable about usage of the facility.

Bernie Crossland said that they don't mind waiting but should the building be unusable they wanted to have vending machines.

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Commissioner Phillips stated that the concession stand wall is a different material than the wall that collapsed.

Selectperson Scott asked that copies of the opinions for the concession stand should go to Town Administrator for insurance purposes.

### Lifeguards

Commissioner Combra said that Mike Joyce could not attend meeting but Commissioner Phillips had met with him to go over job descriptions, schedules, etc. He added that Mike wants to know definitely when they can hire lifeguards; they have advertised and received applications but they haven't offered employment to anyone. He added that until the over-ride passes they don't have funding for the lifeguards and he didn't know if the Commissioners wanted to go to the Finance Committee for Reserve funds.

Gail Barmakian wanted clarification as her niece was an applicant for a lifeguard position.

It was restated that there has been no formal hiring of lifeguards.

Commissioner Phillips advised that she had spoken with YMCA about possibility of swim lessons for summer campers; five hours shifts to cover beach from 8 AM to 6 PM; first aid and CPR certified plus AED trained. She said that there were two people that they hoped would be head lifeguards.

Commissioner Combra added besides those two returning people everyone else was new and he hoped they would more qualified and responsible. He said that Commissioner Phillips and Mike Joyce have been working on job descriptions and duties; are committed to better oversight and holding employees to higher standard as with accountability comes responsibility and lifeguards would be getting paid a higher rate to reflect this.

### Monster Shark Tournament

Commissioner Combra advised that a letter had been received from Boston Big Game (Steve James) requesting to use Washington Park for their banquet but he has since withdrawn that request as they have secured a private venue; they would like Sunset Park to be available for spectator parking during the weigh in hours only.

Commissioner deBettencourt had no problem with the parking request and coordinate with the Fire Department.

Commissioner Combra said that it is his understanding from Town Counsel that there is a deed restriction that no structure can be erected in Sunset Park but parking for events would be permissible.

Gail Barmakian stated it was a public safety issue with all the cars and it is the Park Commissioners decision.

Selectperson Scott raised the issue that the Monster Shark Tournament was a for profit event.

Commissioner Combra stated that the Commissioners would be reviewing the policies for use of Town parks.

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He reiterated that anything that has to do with the shark tournament should not take place on Town property and that it would be in the letter to Steve James.

Commissioner deBettencourt said that the Boston Area Roadsters have already paid \$300 to use Sunset Park.

### Wedding Applications

Two applications reviewed and approved; Mike McCarthy and Shauna Lindsey.

### Apostolic House of Prayer Service request

Commissioner Combra advised that he spoke with Town Administrator Dutton and he said that more research was required and was not sure if the Town should allowing church services in Town parks.

It was decided that the request would be revisited at next meeting.

### Shark Tournament refrigerator truck noise

Kathy Cowley asked about the noise from the refrigerated trucks.

Commissioner Combra said that it should not be in Sunset Park and would inform Steve James if it is but if it is parked on private property and making noise at night that would be a matter for the Police Department. He would make sure that the letter to Mr James would state that they cannot park their vehicles in Sunset Park.

### Other Business

Commissioner Combra said he had a copy of the Town of Wakefield's park policies which they could review for discussion at the next meeting.

They discussed the storage of park maps, etc from the upstairs office at Town garage.

Selectperson Scott said Town Administrator Dutton and Selectperson Ron D'Orio are planning workshops on policies, etc for committees and boards.

Meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,

Nicole L Morey  
Park Clerk