



New York State Council of Parks

DRAFT

587th Meeting Minutes

Virtual

Thursday, June 2, 2022

Call to Order

Chair Bryan Erwin called the 587th meeting of the State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to order at 11:30am. This meeting occurred via Cisco WebEx.

Roll Call

Chair/Long Island:	Bryan Erwin/ George Gorman
Allegany:	Wendy Myers Brand/Jay Bailey
Central:	Neil Murphy
Finger Lakes:	Dave Banfield/Fred Bonn
Genesee:	Nate Coogan/Art Briley
Taconic:	Edgar Masters/Linda Cooper
Niagara:	Mark Mistretta
NYC:	Leisle Lin
Palisades:	Jeanette Redden/Joshua Laird
Saratoga/Capital:	Heather Mabee/Alane Chinian
Thousand Islands:	Peyton Taylor
OPRHP:	Erik Kulleseid, Commissioner
SHPO:	Daniel MacKay
DEC:	Laura DiBetta

Staff

Sally Drake
Megan Haggerty
Randy Simons
Meagan Fitzgerald
Andy Fyfe
Ron Rausch
Molly Reilley
Fred Bonn
Rey Muniz
Yolanda Bostic Williams
Mindy Scott
Marc Talluto
Dan Keefe

Tom Alworth
Marc Talluto
Meagan Fitzgerald

Partners

Will Cote, PTNY
Kathy Moser, OSI

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the 586th meeting. Edgar Masters proposed an amendment to the previous minutes, to add the Taconic report. This was an oversight; the Taconic report will be added to previous minutes. The motion to approve amended minutes was approved.

Chair's Remarks

Acting Chair Bryan Erwin began his remarks by thanking the SCOP for their attendance and for submitting their regional updates in advance for this meeting. Bryan introduced Megan Haggerty, the new Program Coordinator for the State Council of Parks. Bryan went on to discuss the status of current regional commission appointments. He also discussed some of the priorities that he intends to bring focus to in the coming months:

Advocacy: Communicating with stakeholders throughout the year should be a priority for all of us. Consistent communication with the community, user groups, Friends groups, and **especially legislators** is integral to our role as liaisons and helps to tell the Parks story.

Continuing Education for our Parks' staff has also become a focus for Bryan, which will be explored further this year through a possible collaboration with the GreenTree Foundation.

Commissioner's Remarks

Agency Update and Priorities:

Commissioner, Erik Kulleseid presented the Governor's Enacted Budget for 2022-2023. The Commissioner went on to review several major agency updates, such as the opening of Sojourner Truth State Park and the Coxsackie State Boat Launch, enhanced public access at Hempstead Lake State Park, the 11th Annual I Love My Park Day and a Park Police status update. Finally, Commissioner Kulleseid reviewed the 2022 Summer Season highlights like the Bethpage Airshow, Connect Kids field trips returning, lifeguard hiring, the upcoming camping season and June 11th's Get Outdoors & Get Together Day.

The Commissioner's presentation is attached to these minutes.

SCOP Chair Reports on Regional Commission Activities

Allegany: Wendy Brand reported that the Allegany Commission held a meeting to discuss the NYS Historic Business Preservation and a recent Cutco event. Wendy also reported on two historic markers that were erected at Midway State Park. Finally, the Allegany commission reported that they're working on various fundraising efforts to renovate the Barcelona Lighthouse.

Central: Chair Neil Murphy reported that the Central Region is collaborating with the City of Syracuse School District on Lifeguard Training. Neil also gave an update on the Ladders Program Funding by the CNY Foundation. The Central Region is also planning for a possible sensory trail. Neil then went on to discuss the success of the environmental education center at Green Lakes State Park.

Finger Lakes: Chair David Banfield noted that the Commission has two new potential members. David also gave an update on I Love My Park Day throughout the Finger Lakes Region and the renovations at Watkins Glen SENTRY Bridge. A brief video was shown, displaying the hard work of volunteers at Ganondagan Park on I Love My Park Day.

Genesee: Acting Chair Nate Coogan reported that he met with three Park Managers and one Friends Group this year in an effort to expand outreach and support to the parks in his region. He then reported that all five commissioners participated on I Love My Park Day, visiting three different locations in. During Nate's presentation, drone footage of the new Autism Nature Trail at Letchworth was displayed so the Council could admire the outcome of this project.

Long Island: Chair Bryan Erwin reports that the Long Island commission is resuming its golf-outing fundraiser at Bethpage Black this summer. He also briefly discussed continuing education, the launch of a scholarship for Park Staff and a possible collaboration with the GreenTree foundation.

Niagara: Mark Mistretta reported in place of Chair, Cindy Letro. He discussed the restoration at Buckhorn State Park is complete with funding from a federal grant. It was also reported that work is on schedule to open in May of 2023 at the Niagara Falls Welcome Center. Finally, a short but informative video was shown to highlight the seasonal rebuilding of the Cave of the Winds' deck.

New York City: Chair Leisle Lin reported that the New York City Commission held its meeting in April to discuss the "story" of DF Riverbank State Park. It was also reported that commission members and elected officials attended ILMPD at Four Freedoms State Park.

Palisades: Jeanette Redden reported in place of Vice-President Bryce O'Brien that the Palisades commission is in the process of a Big Think to formulate renovation and programming plans for various parks. Jeannette announced the opening of Sojourner Truth State Park and discussed regional trail planning and group camps.

Saratoga: Chair Heather Mabee talked about the expansion of Grant Cottage and Moreau Lake State Park. It was also reported that the community-based Nature Bus is back in Albany providing free transportation to local state parks.

Taconic: Chair, Edgar Masters reported on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail which is to be completed to Hillsdale, NY. He also discussed the progress at John Jay Homestead and commission appointments. Finally, a brief video of the Copake Iron Workers was shown to display the progress at Taconic State Park.

Thousand Islands: Peyton Taylor presented in place of Chair, Harold Johnson. She discussed the continuing transformation of Southwick Beach State Park and the upcoming open-air pavilion. Commissioner Kulleseid attended the opening of Robert Moses State Park Admin Building. Finally, an update on park staffing was given, 26 permanent employees have been hired in the Thousand Island region.

Bryan approved a brief break at this point. The council took 10 minutes to regroup.

SHPO Update

Daniel Mackay spoke in place of Doug Perelli. He reported that the Division for Historic Preservation senior staff team has been fully re-established. Daniel also spoke about some new initiatives, such as the newly published NYS Preservation Plan, the Historic Business Preservation Registry, which was launched in March, as well as the

revived NYS Barn Rehabilitation Tax credit launched in April. Finally, he discussed the June meeting of the State Review Board, naming 25 nominations throughout 14 counties.

DEC Update

Laura DiBetta reported for the DEC. She discussed I Love My Park Day, which was held at 35 DEC locations. She also briefly announced the upcoming Get Outdoors & Get Together Day, which will be held on June 11th. Finally, Laura reported on the NYS Birding Trail, stating that 6 out of 9 regions have been completed.

I Love My Park Day

Will Cote gave a brief overview of PTNY's I Love My Park Day, which was a major success this year.

Open Spaces for All

Kathy Moser reported on Open Spaces for All. She gave a brief presentation on the agency's goal of transforming NYS's public open spaces more inclusive, welcoming, and accessible. She then reviewed the framework to improve and enhance policies, programs, initiatives, and creative partnerships. Kathy went on the review current partners of the agency and recommendations moving forward.

Centennial Campaign Update

Commissioner Kulleseid presented the Centennial Campaign to the Council. He announced that 2024 is the 100th anniversary of the State Parks Act, and therefore the Centennial Campaign will be announced this fall to build support from the public to ensure an accessible and welcoming Park system for the next 100 years. The commissioner encouraged each region to commit to an endowment or a project to help reach the campaign's goal. This will be discussed further at our fall meeting.

Adjourn

After Bryan took a pause for questions or comments, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was approved. The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.