

SUFFOLK COMMITTEE FOR CAMPING
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
October 1, 2025
Henrietta Acampora Cottage

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Vice President Ken Weeks opened the General Membership meeting of Suffolk Committee for Camping at 7:30 PM. The salute to the flag was led by Ken followed by a moment of silence.

Board members in attendance: Steve Doner, Clare Gunning, Ken Weeks

Clubs Represented: Pathfinders, Hooters, Mallards, and Smore'ons. And several independents.

Motion made to accept the minutes as read by Gail Spillet. Second by Paul Domanski.

A financial report was given.

Legislative: Ken will have the opportunity to speak to the commissioner next week. The commissioner wants to hear what the campers experiences were like over the summer.

The bathrooms on the upper level at Smith Point are fantastic. Bathrooms are being taken care of. Member did not expect the great condition to last the whole summer.

Rules not being enforced. Ken did say that he has spoken on the phone with the commissioner on this and the commissioner says he does not have the staff.

The starting salary for a park ranger carrying a gun is only \$18 per hour. The unions and the county just came to an agreement to raise the salary to \$25 per hour. It should be signed this week. He thinks it will help. Ken is trying to convince the commissioner to assign one ranger per shift per park.

They are planning another bathroom to be installed at the lower Cupsogue campground area.

The new playground is finished at Cathedral Pines. The next project is the water park at Cathedral Pines. Then the water park at Smith Point will be started.

Ken brought up to the commissioner that they need to do major work at Southaven to bring it back. Group area was only used once all summer as the conditions there are so bad. It is on the commissioner's agenda.

SCC has always given a donation to the county. One of the ideas bantered around was power washing the picnic tables in one of the parks. It has to be discussed and voted on.

Commissioner promised there will be no price increases for 2026.

A lot of the group areas were unused this summer. If we don't use them we will lose them. Discussions amongst the camping department employees are leaning towards closing the group areas but the commissioner says he will not close them. They have worked with us to eliminate some of rules.

There were multiple discussions, all at once in groups, of the group rosters, calculations, and rules and how it worked this year. I couldn't discern what was said.

There are problems with the group household number unpaid reservations affecting the individual household number's reservations.
Traffic coming through the private group areas and not wrong turns.
People just coming into Indian Island group areas after the office closes and taking spots in the group areas. Then leaving before the office opens.
Office hours are not meeting the needs of the campers checking in and are not consistent throughout the parks.
They are not checking at checkin for the outer beach that you have all the equipment that you're supposed to have.
Ken has asked the commissioner to attend a meeting but he doesn't want to come and be under attack. We'll get better results with positive interactions.

Good and Welfare: Chris & Bridget Romano are grandparents for the first time.
The people who bought Todd Lavendar's house bought his camper.

Next meeting is November 5th. 7:30pm

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A motion was made to close the meeting by Paul Domanski. Second by Gail Spillet.

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