

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

GLORIA RUSSO
CHAIRPERSON
CEQ

MICHAEL MULÉ
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS
COORDINATOR

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: June 20, 2012

TIME: 9:30 am to 11:15 am

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library
H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 4th Floor
Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

James Bagg, Vice-Chair
Eva Growney
Hon. Kara Hahn
Michael Kaufman
Richard Machtay
Dan Pichney
Gloria Russo, Chair
Larry Swanson

ABSENT:

Thomas Gulbransen
Mary Ann Spencer

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

Joy Squires, Town of Huntington

STAFF:

Christine DeSalvo, Senior Clerk Typist
Michael Mulé, Environmental Projects Coordinator

GUESTS:

Robert Braun, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law
Jack Finkenberg, Great South Bay Audubon Society
Lauretta Fischer, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning
Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Michael Pitcher, Director of Communications, Office of the Presiding Officer
Thomas Ryan, Legislative Aide, 5th Legislative District

Ron Warren, Director of Operations & Maintenance, Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Machtay to approve the May 16, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Ms. Growney abstained. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Council received an invitation to the annual Pine Barrens Research Forum scheduled for October 4th & 5th at Brookhaven National Lab.

PUBLIC PORTION:

None

HISTORIC TRUST DOCKET:

Mr. Martin updated the Council on the following:

Housing Program:

- The Department of Parks Recreation and Conservation is sponsoring an open house on the weekend of June 23rd for those interested in renting the apartment in the baymen's cottage at the Long Island Maritime Museum, the cottage at Southaven County Park or the apartment in old clubhouse at North Fork Preserve.

Custodial Agreements:

- Contract negotiations are still on going with the L.I. Maritime Museum.
- The Parks Department is currently working on a five-year contract extension with the Deepwells Farm Historical Society.
- The Parks Department is amending the existing agreement with the Commerdinger Historical Society to add the restoration and upkeep of the buildings on site to their existing contract.

Mr. Martin presented the Dittmann AKA Trihy House and garage located in the Village of Amityville for consideration of listing to the Suffolk County Historic Trust. Mr. Martin informed the Council that the Historic Trust Committee has met at the site to review the historic nature of the property and has recommended that both the house and detached garage be listed to the Suffolk County Historic Trust. While the buildings were constructed under Dittmann Family ownership, the Council recommended that some recognition be given to the Ireland Family whose ownership of the property predates that of the Dittmans.

Mr. Machtay made a motion to list the Dittmann AKA Trihy house and garage to the Suffolk County Historic Trust. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

PROJECT REVIEW:

Recommended Type I Actions:

Proposed Declaration as Surplus and Subsequent Sale of 230.8 +/- acres of County-Owned Land in Yaphank, Town of Brookhaven

Mr. Braun presented the proposed project explaining that the County wishes to surplus and sell approximately 230 acres of County-owned land according to existing tax parcels. The Council reviewed and recommended a negative declaration for a similar proposal in the past based on zoning boundaries and this updated proposal seeks to cover the balance of the property that was not reviewed prior. Mr. Braun informed the Council that there is no development tied with the contract of sale. Mr. Bagg highlighted the fact that the environmental impact statement for the Legacy Village proposal evaluated the impacts of the alternative to sell this land for development under existing zoning.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as a Type I Action with a Negative Declaration. Ms. Growney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Recommended Type II Actions:

Ratification of Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 5, 2012

Ms. Growney made a motion to accept staff recommendations for the June 5, 2012 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

Ratification of Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 19, 2012

Ms. Growney made a motion to accept staff recommendations for the June 19, 2012 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

Proposed Improvements to County Sewer Districts

Mr. Warren presented three projects involving improvements and upgrades to existing sewage treatment plants.

- Proposed Improvements to SD#7-Medford, Town of Brookhaven
Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as a Type II Action. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.
- Proposed Improvements to SD#14-Parkland, Town of Islip
Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as a Type II Action. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.
- Proposed Improvements to SD#20-William Floyd, Town of Brookhaven
Mr. Machtay made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as a Type II Action. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Update County Environmental Assessment Forms:

Mr. Mulé gave a brief overview of the updates made to the Environmental Assessment Forms and asked the Council for their input on the contents and layout of the new forms. Mr. Machtay submitted suggested changes to help gear the form towards typical County projects and to address relevant local issues. Ms. Squires presented updated information regarding the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation workbooks being prepared to assist initiating units in the preparation of long and short environmental assessment forms. Legislator Hahn went on to request including target concentrations for major constituents of wastewater effluent such as Nitrogen, Phosphorus, BOD and TSS as suggested by Mr. Swanson. After further discussion, Legislator Hahn made a motion to accept the updated environmental assessment forms as amended. Ms. Growney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CAC CONCERNS:

Ms. Squires presented documentation outlining the priorities of the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) along with other various topics such as solid waste regulations, fracking and funding opportunities that were covered in the Town of Huntington CAC meeting minutes. She went on to inform the group that the NYSDEC does not support the recommendation made by the regional economic development council that the State be designated SEQRA lead agency on regionally significant projects.