

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: July 18, 2012

TIME: 9:35 am to 12:00 pm

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
Mary Ann Spencer
Larry Swanson

ABSENT:

Thomas Gulbransen
Gloria Russo, Chair

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None Present

STAFF:

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

GUESTS:

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
Gil Anderson, Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Victor Keneiby, Associate Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Ben Wright, Principal Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

John Donovan, Chief Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Mike Jensen, Public Health Sanitarian, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Chris Lubicich, Assoc. Public Health Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Janet Longo, Acquisition Supervisor, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning
Thomas Ryan, Legislative Aide, 5th Legislative District
Mary Anne Taylor, Associate, CDM Smith Consultants
Mark Seratoff, Executive Board, Townline Civic Association
Jack Finkenberg, Great South Bay Audubon Society
Rich Brand, Reporter, Newsday

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Machtay to approve the June 20, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swanson. Ms. Growney and Legislator Hahn were not present and Mr. Kaufman abstained. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Martin received a letter from VHB Engineering, Surveying and Landscape Architecture, P.C. notifying the Office of Historic Services that the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium will be reaching out to the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to obtain clearance for the installation of a 140+/- foot cell phone tower on site. Mr. Mulé informed the group that this clearance is only one of several requests made by the Council when this project was first reviewed. The project was tabled by the CEQ until such time as the additional information is received. Mr. Bagg noted that the State cannot sign off until SEQRA is complete. Mr. Kaufman recommended that staff draft a letter to remind all parties involved of the correct procedures under SEQRA and ensure SHPO is provided the necessary project detail to make an informed decision.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mr. Seratoff informed the Council that area residents are very upset regarding the location of the proposed cell tower. He supplied the Council with several nearby alternative locations that would have less of an impact on the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium and neighboring properties.

HISTORIC TRUST DOCKET:

Mr. Martin updated the Council on the following:

Housing Program:

- The three vacancies at North Fork Preserve, South Haven County Park and the Bayman's Cottage at the Maritime Museum have been filled and the tenants are due to move in shortly.

Custodial Agreements:

- The Suffolk County Office of Historic Preservation is still working on the custodial agreement with the L.I. Maritime Museum. Meetings were held to negotiate additional buildings and grounds that we are going to be adding to their contract.

- A County Executive press conference was held on July 17th, 2012 at the Homan House in Yaphank to kick off the stabilization and restoration project. There was a good turnout for the event and the County Executive promised he would support the completion of this project. The house should be stabilized by the end of the year. At that point, the Yaphank Historic Society can begin the interior restoration work. The Homan House is the last of the three houses that will be restored in that historic district. Both the Booth House and the Hawkins House are now open to the public for tours.
- The Lessings contract at Timber Point expires at the end of this year. They were awarded a new 20 year contract agreement with the County which includes an addition to the building and some renovations. Mr. Martin would like the CEQ to review, comment on and approve the architect's draft plans. He suggested having the CEQ meet at the site in August to discuss the project. It was noted that if they can get all permits in place, they would like to start construction in the winter of 2013 and that Lessings is to pay for the construction and no County funds are required.

PROJECT REVIEW:

Recommended Type I Actions:

Proposed Sewer District #3 – Southwest Bergen Point Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Replacement Project, Town of Babylon

Mr. Donovan gave a brief background on the Bergen Point Treatment Plant noting that the plant treats approximately 30.5 million gallons per day with the treated effluent being conveyed through an outfall pipe for about six miles underneath the Great South Bay, through the barrier island and out into the ocean. The portion under the Great South Bay is failing and needs to be replaced. It was noted that the County does regular dye testing and there has yet to be any evidence of leakage but there is an emergency response plan in place in the event that there is a catastrophic failure. This make of pipe has historical failures in other applications across the country and the County wants to be proactive in preventing any future problems. As such, DPW is proposing a replacement tunnel underneath the bay instead of conducting an open cut in the bay bottom. Mr. Donovan then turned the floor over to Ms. Taylor to explain the recommended project and give a PowerPoint presentation outlining the alternatives analysis conducted. With DEC's input, CDM and DPW came up with six replacement scenarios. The six alternatives were developed sufficiently enough so that an analysis could be conducted for constructability, implementation, impacts, permit requirements and capital cost estimates. Based on the analysis, the tunnel was chosen as the preferred alternative. This option was selected as it was permissible, could be implemented the quickest, has the least impact, avoids disturbance to the Great South Bay and is less expensive.

The Council had many questions regarding issues that were not covered in the engineering design study. These included fate of excavated tunnel material, fate of existing tunnel, storm surge contingences and pipe integrity. The CEQ was also concerned about what steps had been taken to inform the public of the project and wanted to make sure that involved agencies were notified.

Mr. Finkenberg commented that there are Harrier Hawks nesting in the phragmites in the staging area and that the habitat might not be as poor as expected.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to Table the project until such time as the Council's concerns could be addressed. Ms. Growney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Recommended Type II Actions:

Proposed Construction of Sidewalks on Various County Roads

Mr. Keneiby explained that this project proposed the construction and repair of sidewalks on various county roads and that this does not require right-of-way acquisition or cut and fill.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as a Type II Action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pichney. Motion carried.

Proposed Introductory Resolution Accepting the Donation of the Noto Property in the Mastic-Shirley County Conservation Area, Village of Mastic Beach

Ms. Fischer gave a brief presentation on the donation of this 0.30± acre parcel. Ms. Growney wanted to know what the advantage was of the County accepting this property with no County parkland nearby. Ms. Fischer stated that the acceptance into the County Open Space Program would prevent future development and allow the property to be left in its natural state. Mr. Kaufman noted that it would also reduce the potential septic load discharging to the creek. Ms. Growney wanted to know if anyone had contacted the Town of Brookhaven to see if they were interested in accepting the property. Ms. Fischer was not aware of any contact with the Town and informed the Council that this introductory resolution was submitted by Legislator Browning and suggested that any questions regarding their concerns be addressed to her.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration and went on to recommend reaching out to the Town of Brookhaven to ask if they would be interested in the property. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Proposed Introductory Resolution Accepting the Donation of the Baravarian Property in the VA Veterans County Park Area, Town of Huntington

Ms. Fischer gave a brief presentation on the donation of this 0.20± acre parcel. She explained that it is part of an approved three lot subdivision with this piece preserved for open space preservation purposes. There are Town and County parkland properties within the immediate vicinity.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Proposed Acquisition of Land by the County of Suffolk (75%) and the Town of Brookhaven (25%) for Open Space Preservation Purposes Known as the New Hope Revival Church Property, Town of Brookhaven

Ms. Fischer gave a brief presentation on the 12.6± acre acquisition.

Mr. Machtay made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carried.

Proposed Acquisition of Land for Open Space Preservation Purposes Known as the Heritage Square Builders at East Moriches, LLC Property, Town of Brookhaven

Ms. Fischer gave a brief presentation on the 51.5± acre acquisition. It consists of two parcels, one in the compatible growth area and one south of the compatible growth area bisected by County Route 91 which

was a former railroad right of way. The County is buying the property on its own, however, the Town of Brookhaven has acquired the Oaks at East Moriches to the west which is about approximately 50 acres that they will be managing. There is a proposal that the Town of Brookhaven also manage this property on behalf of the County along with their properties to the west.

Mr. Machtay made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Draft Scope for the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) on the Proposed Amendments to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA):

Mr. Mulé informed the Council that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is updating Title 6 NYCRR Part 617, the rules and regulations of SEQRA. He informed the group that the DEC is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to solicit public comment. A copy of the scoping document was distributed to each member. Mr. Mulé is preparing comments on the document and requested the Council submit their questions, comments or concerns by August 1, 2012 so that they could be compiled and submitted to the State by their August 10, 2012 deadline.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Seratoff voiced his dissatisfaction with a Suffolk County Planning Commission decision that was made earlier this month regarding the 84 acre Carlson property rezoning in Smithtown. The Council informed Mr. Seratoff that this project was outside of their jurisdiction and suggested he contact the Town of Smithtown regarding this issue.

CAC CONCERNS:

No CAC's were present for this meeting.