

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

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: December 11, 2013

TIME: 9:40 am to 11:40 pm

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 4th Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Gloria Russo, Chair

James Bagg, Vice-Chair

Larry Swanson

Mary Ann Spencer

Hon. Kara Hahn

ABSENT:

Eva Growney

Michael Kaufman

Dan Pichney

Thomas Gulbransen

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner

John Corral, Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation

Nick Gibbons, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation

Lauretta Fischer, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development & Planning, Division of Planning & Environment

Christopher Poelker, Junior Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

William Hillman, Chief Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

William J. Colavito, Director of Highway Design, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Al Krupski, Legislator, Legislative District 1

Debbie Tinnirello, Legislative Aide, Legislative District 5

Kevin LaValle, Legislative Aide, Legislative District 4

Catherine Stark, Legislative Aide, Legislative District 1

Eddie Morris, Town of Brookhaven Parks

Minutes:

Minutes for the October 16, 2013 CEQ meeting were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Mr. Spencer to approve the October 16, 2013 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swanson. Mr. Bagg and Legislator Hahn abstained as they were not present at the October 16, 2013 meeting. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Ellen Wexler – Information regarding the Health and Environment as it pertains to the Deer Population on the East End of Long Island

The CEQ discussed in detail the contents of this letter. At the meeting Legislator Krupski also spoke about this issue and about working with the NYSDEC to better control the deer population.

Public Portion:

There were no general public comments offered to the CEQ

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Mr. Martin updated the Council on the following:

- **Housing Program:**
Mr. Martin noted that there have been open houses for the two housing vacancies at Coindre Hall and Blydenburgh Park. Mr. Martin reported that as a result of the open houses there are now tenants for these two housing vacancies. Mr. Martin stated that now all available County housing is occupied.

- **Custodial Agreements:**
Mr. Martin noted that there are no updates on the custodial agreements and none of the pending contracts have been completed since the Council's last meeting. Mr. Martin noted that one of the reasons for the very slow progress is due to the reduction in staff and the increased workload at the Suffolk County Parks, Division of Contracts.

- **Current Events:**
Mr. Martin had no current events to report.

Mr. Swanson did, however, ask Mr. Martin to look into a house that was in the John Adams family which is located on Harbor Hill Road in the Village of Head-of-the-Harbor to find out if it has historic significance. Mr. Martin said he would look into the history of the house.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Remediation of Stormwater Flooding in the Vicinity of the North Fork Preserve, Town of Riverhead

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Christopher Poelker, Junior Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works. The project involves the replacement of the failing pipe system that conveys water from the North Fork Preserve to the Long Island Sound and the installation of roadway leaching basins to contain roadway runoff. The new piping system would be sized to handle large storm events and in combination with the leaching basin system is designed to prevent large overland flow that has been eroding the neighboring residents' properties and carrying sediment and undesirable materials to the Long Island Sound shoreline.

Mr. Poelker's presentation included updated information that addressed the questions the CEQ had when the Council tabled the project at its August 21, 2013 meeting. After Mr. Poelker's presentation the CEQ had no additional questions regarding this project.

Mr. Bagg made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. Mr. Swanson seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

B. Proposed Acquisition of Land by Suffolk County for Active Recreation Purposes known as the North Fork Preserve, Inc. IV Property, Town of Riverhead

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Laretta Fischer, Principal Environmental Analyst, with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning. The project involves the acquisition of the underlying fee of 50.58± acres of land by Suffolk County for active recreational-equestrian center purposes. The overall concept of the acquisition is to create an equestrian center known as the North Fork Preserve Equestrian Center with corrals, stables, paddocks, and an indoor arena for all County residents to utilize. Additional project information was also provided by Nick Gibbons, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation.

Mr. Bagg made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as a Type 1 Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion included that while the CEQ reviewed and approved the Concept Plan to create an equestrian facility that prior to the development Plan being finalized said Plan will be submitted and reviewed by the CEQ. Ms. Hahn seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Recommended Type 1 Actions:

A. Proposed Acquisition of Land by Suffolk County for Active Recreation Purposes known as the Board of Education Middle Country Central School District #11 Property – Boyle Road, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Laretta Fischer, Principal Environmental Analyst with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning. Ms. Fischer described that this property is being acquired for active recreation. It was noted that the project includes a multiuse sports field, two baseball fields, two basketball courts, three tennis courts and parking lots. It was also stated that Suffolk County will pay for the acquisition of the property and that the Town of Brookhaven will be responsible for park improvements and maintenance. Additional project information was also provided by Kevin LaValle an Aide to Suffolk County Legislator Muratore and newly elected Brookhaven Town Councilman.

After much discussion regarding the details of the acquisition it was determined that more detailed environmental information was required. Mr. Freleng, Chief Planner with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning offered a suggestion to do an expanded Part 3 on the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) rather than recommending doing a full Environmental Impact Statement. The CEQ agreed with Mr. Freleng and the CEQ decided to table the project so that an expanded EAF Part 3 section could be completed. The CEQ stated that the following additional information should be included in the expanded Part 3 section of the EAF:

- Additional information regarding the existing vegetation on the subject property

- Information regarding the proposed project's impact on traffic in the surrounding area
- Information regarding the proposed lighting for the property and how this lighting will be screened to mitigate impacts on the surrounding neighbors
- Information regarding local community support for the proposed project including copies of the discussed community letters
- Suffolk County Legislative Meeting Minutes relating to the acquisition to provide information relating to the financial implications of the proposed project

Mr. Bagg made a motion to table the proposed project pending the preparation of an expanded EAF Part 3. Mr. Swanson seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Recommendations for LADS Report:

- A. Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table November 6, 2013, November 19th, 2013 and December 3rd, 2013

Mr. Corral noted that the staff's SEQRA recommendations are listed on the LADS report but that there was nothing additional to report on these LADS reports.

Mr. Swanson made a motion to accept staff recommendations as presented for the November 6, November 19 and December 3, 2013 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carried.

Other Business:

CEQ Schedule for 2014 – Approved by the Council as presented.

CAC Concerns:

None

Meeting Adjourned.