

# 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: January 15, 2014

TIME: 9:40 am to 10:30 pm

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

### PRESENT:

Gloria Russo, Chair

James Bagg, Vice-Chair

Eva Growney

Michael Kaufman

Larry Swanson

Hon. Kara Hahn

### ABSENT:

Dan Pichney

Thomas Gulbransen

Mary Ann Spencer

### 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

Janet Longo, Acquisition Supervisor, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development & Planning, Division of Real Estate

Legislator Tom Muratore, Legislative District 4

Bob Martinez, Legislative Aide, Legislative District 4

Brendan Chamberlain, Legislative Aide, Legislative District 4

Councilman Kevin LaValle, Town of Brookhaven

Debbie Tinnirello, Legislative Aide, Legislative District 5

Eddie Morris, Commissioner, Town of Brookhaven Parks

Jon Sullivan, Traffic Engineer, Town of Brookhaven

Ray DiBiase, Executive Vice President, LK McLean Associates

Rick Brand, Reporter, Newsday

**Minutes:**

Minutes for the December 11, 2013 CEQ meeting were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Mr. Bagg to approve the December 11, 2013 minutes. The motion was seconded by Legislator Hahn. Mr. Kaufman abstained as he was not present at the December 11, 2013 meeting. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:**

None

**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 stated that all available County housing is currently occupied.

- Custodial Agreements:

Mr. Martin discussed Legislator Schneiderman's sponsored Introductory Resolution, I.R. 1002-2014, that would create an agreement between Suffolk County and the Friends of Cedar Island Lighthouse to revitalize the Cedar Point Lighthouse. Mr. Martin noted there is already an agreement in place with the Long Island Chapter of the US Lighthouse Society (the official name of the historical organization). It was discussed that since 2003 Suffolk County Parks has been working with this historical organization and in 2011 Suffolk County established a formal contract with the organization. This contract includes a 20 year license agreement. Mr. Martin also noted that this historical organization has already restored the oil house and recently started the restoration of the lighthouse building. Mr. Martin stated that Suffolk County Parks Commissioner Greg Dawson will be discussing this information with Legislator Schneiderman.

- Current Events:

Mr. Martin had no current events to report.

Mr. Swanson did, however, update Mr. Martin about the old house on Harbor Hill Road in the Village of Head-of-the-Harbor which was discussed at the last CEQ meeting. Mr. Swanson stated that it was his understanding that the house had been sold to a person who is known to demolish old homes. Mr. Martin asked if the Village of Head of the Harbor had a landmark historic preservation law to protect the house. Mr. Swanson noted that the Village does not have a historic district but does have an architectural review board. Mr. Swanson also noted that if Suffolk County Parks determines that the house has some historical importance a letter supporting the historical significance of the house would be beneficial in helping to prevent the loss of the house.

## **Project Review:**

### **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

This project was tabled at the December 11, 2013 CEQ meeting so that an Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) Expanded Part 3 could be completed to provide the additional information requested by the CEQ. A presentation regarding the Expanded Part 3 was given by Lauretta Fischer, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Ed Morris, Parks Commissioner, Town of Brookhaven, Councilman Kevin LaValle, Town of Brookhaven, and Ray DiBiase, Executive Vice President of LK McLean Associates. The presentation on the Expanded Part 3 included the following:

- Additional information regarding the existing vegetation on the subject property. This included information from the site inspection which was conducted by Laretta Fischer, John Turner from the Town of Brookhaven and Kevin LaValle. This ecological assessment found no environmentally sensitive, endangered, or threatened species on the property.
- Information regarding the proposed project's impact on traffic in the surrounding area. Ray DiBiase, Executive Vice President of LK McLean Associates, gave a presentation on the traffic assessment for this project. This assessment determined that this project would result in a 4% increase in traffic at the nearest major intersection (Boyle and Hawkins) which, based on the capacity of the intersection, was determined to be a minor impact.
- Information regarding the proposed lighting for the property and how this lighting will be screened to mitigate impacts on the surrounding neighbors. This information was provided by Mr. Morris, Town of Brookhaven Parks Commissioner. Mr. Morris noted the installed lights on the sports fields will utilize a new technology that focuses the light on the fields and reduces light spillage. It was noted that the Town has used this exact lighting system at other major Park facilities and has received very few, if any, complaints from surrounding neighbors. It was stated that the lighting will be dark skies complaint. Mr. Morris also discussed that the Town will maintain a minimum 50-75 feet buffer between the fields and the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Information regarding local community support for the proposed project including the Town of Brookhaven's project resolution and community letters of support.
- Information from the Suffolk County Legislative Meeting Minutes including information on the Legislature's rationale for the proposed acquisition and its financial implications.

Legislator Tom Muratore also spoke about the extensive community outreach that had been done for this project and the great amount of community support that had been received.

Ms. Fischer noted that the County is purchasing the property and the Town will be improving and maintaining the property. Ms. Fischer also noted that the Park will be open to all County residents.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion that the project be classified as a Type 1 Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion included that the project will maintain a minimum buffer of 50-75 feet between the ballfields/active recreation areas and the surrounding community in accordance with Brookhaven Town Code and that any significant changes to the proposed Concept Plan will be resubmitted to the CEQ for review. The motion also included that the project will have dark skies compliant lighting, will have a positive

social and cultural impact on the surrounding community by providing needed ballfields/active recreation areas, will have a smaller environmental impact than if the property was developed for residential purposes, and will not exceed any of the criteria set forth in Title 6 NYCRR Part 617.7 which sets forth thresholds for determining significant effect on the environment. Legislator Hahn seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**Recommendations for LADS Report:**

A. Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table December 17, 2013 and January 2, 2014

Mr. Corral noted that the staff's SEQRA recommendations are listed on the LADS report and that the January 2, 2014 LADS report included the Introductory Resolution (I.R. 1002-2014) that Mr. Martin discussed regarding the Cedar Point Lighthouse.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations as presented for the December 17, 2013 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bagg. Motion carried.

Mr. Kaufman also made a motion to accept staff recommendations as presented for the January 2, 2014 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

**Other Business:**

Election of Officers

Mr. Swanson made a motion to nominate Ms. Russo as CEQ Chair and Mr. Bagg as Vice Chair for another term. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

**CAC Concerns:**

None

Meeting Adjourned.