

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: November 19, 2014

TIME: 9:35 am to 11:15 am

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 4th Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Gloria Russo, Chair

James Bagg, Vice-Chair

Eva Growney

Hon. Kara Hahn

Larry Swanson

Michael Kaufman

Mary Ann Spencer

ABSENT:

Thomas Gulbransen

Dan Pichney

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

Joy Squires

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

Allison McGovern, Historic Services, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation

Christopher Lubicich, Principal Public Health Engineer, Suffolk County Departments of Health Services

Al Krupski, Legislator, District 1

Alyssa Turano, Legislative Aide, Legislative District 5

Michael Reichel, Superintendent, Riverhead Sewer District

Jill Lewis, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Riverhead

Richard Ehlers, Attorney for the Town of Riverhead

Minutes:

Minutes for the October 15, 2014 CEQ meeting were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Ms. Spencer to approve the October 15, 2014 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bagg. Mr. Kaufman abstained. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

None

Public Portion:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Mr. Martin updated the Council on the following:

- Housing Program:
Mr. Martin stated that there were no new updates to report.
- Custodial Agreements:
Mr. Martin stated that there were no new updates to report.

Dedication of Montauk County Park and Associated Buildings and Sites to the Suffolk County Historic Trust

Mr. Martin gave a presentation regarding the dedication of the Montauk County Park and associated buildings and sites to the Suffolk County Historic Trust. Mr. Martin noted that the Historic Trust Committee recently conducted a site visit to review Montauk County Park and the associated buildings and sites. Mr. Martin noted that the Historic Trust Committee recommended that the Montauk County Park and associated buildings and sites be dedicated to the Suffolk County Trust as indicated in the provided table. Mr. Martin noted that the provided table also includes a recommended Use Category and a Preservation Category for the Park and each building/site.

For background information Mr. Martin noted that a number of years ago the CEQ adopted a resolution recommending the dedication of Montauk County Park to the Historic Trust. However, this CEQ resolution did not call out specific buildings/sites for

preservation. In addition, this CEQ resolution did not go forward at the Legislature because a Master Plan was being worked on for the Park. Mr. Martin noted that the Master Plan has been approved by the Legislature and that in the 1990s the whole Park was made eligible for listing on the National Historic Register.

Mr. Martin went through in detail each building and property and explained the recommended use category and the preservation category. Mr. Martin described the historical significance of the buildings and structures. They include Third House which was built in 1806 and housed Theodore Roosevelt after the Spanish-American War and the GATR Buildings and GATR Transmission Poles which were used for communication purposes during the Cold War. Ms. McGovern, a graduate student who is working with Mr. Martin at Suffolk County Parks, also gave a presentation regarding the archeological significance of the property and noted that the Park was once inhabited by Native Americans known as the Montaukett Indians. Ms. McGovern, noted that due to this history the entire Park is likely to contain important buried archeological resources.

The CEQ noted that they felt it was important that any historical exhibits that are created at Montauk County Park include the history of the Native Americans in this area. The CEQ also felt it was important to point out the impact that raising cattle had on the historical development of the area.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to dedicate the Montauk County Park and associated buildings and sites as listed and described in the Historic Trust Committee resolution to the Suffolk County Historic Trust. The motion included that the dedication is a Type II Action under SEQRA. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Listing of the Stable at Montauk County Park to the Suffolk County Historic Trust

It was discussed that the Montauk County Park stable was not included in the dedication because the Historic Trust Committee felt that the stable, which was built in the 1990s, is too new to be dedicated. However, it was felt that the Stable contributes to the historic integrity of the Park by representing the Park's history as a Dude Ranch. Listing the stable allows the Stable to fall under the purview of CEQ and the Office of Historic Services. As a result, before any major alterations can be done to the stable the project plans must come before the CEQ for review.

Ms. Growney made a motion to list the Stable at the Montauk County Park to the Suffolk County Historic Trust. The motion included that said listing is a Type II Action under SEQRA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

Mr. Martin also made a presentation on the Fowler House and property in the Town of East Hampton. Mr. Martin noted that the County originally obtained this property via tax default and then in 2002 transferred this property to the Town of East Hampton for affordable housing purposes. Since that time it was determined that the house has historical significance and may have been a Montaukett Indian house that was moved from Indian Fields in the Montauk area to Freetown, East Hampton. Because of this determined historical significance a resolution has

been put forth by Legislator Schneiderman stating that the house should be preserved by the Town of East Hampton and the property should be utilized for park and historical purposes. After being briefed on the proposed action the CEQ felt that that this action is an Unlisted Action and not a Type II action. As a result the CEQ requested that a short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) be submitted to the CEQ so that the legislative action can be reviewed by CEQ for a SEQRA recommendation.

Recommendations for LADS Report:

A. Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table November 5, 2014

Mr. Corral noted that the Staff's SEQRA recommendations are listed on the November 5, 2014 LADS report and that none of the resolutions appear to have an issue related to their SEQRA determinations.

Ms. Growney made a motion to accept staff recommendations for the November 5, 2014 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Information Session on Town of Riverhead Sewage Treatment Upgrade and Reuse of Treated Wastewater on Indian Island Golf Course

A presentation was given by the Town of Riverhead regarding the Town's upgrade of the Riverhead Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade and the related wastewater reuse project to use treated effluent water for irrigation purposes on the Suffolk County Indian Island Golf Course. It was stated that the Town of Riverhead conducted a coordinated SEQRA review for the entire Riverhead Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade project and determined that the project was an Unlisted Action that would not have a significant impact on the environment (Negative Declaration). The Town also noted that the reuse of treated effluent on the Suffolk County Indian Island County Golf Course required an Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town of Riverhead and Suffolk County. The CEQ noted that this Intermunicipal Agreement, which must be adopted by the Suffolk County Legislature, requires a SEQRA review. The CEQ noted that they are not interested in reviewing the entire Riverhead Sewage Treatment Upgrade Project but rather only the aspects of the project related to the reuse of treated effluent water on the Indian Island Golf Course, which is the subject of the Intermunicipal Agreement. The Town of Riverhead agreed to provide the EAF and the completed plans/studies related to the reuse of the treated wastewater on Indian Island County Park to the CEQ so that a SEQRA determination can be made for the Intermunicipal Agreement.

Mr. Kaufman noted that in 1996 Suffolk County did a generic EIS for a similar type of proposed project; the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) plan was to utilize treated wastewater from STPs to irrigate proposed golf courses.

CAC Concerns:

None

Meeting Adjourned