

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: March 23, 2015

TIME: 10:10 am to 11:50 am

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 4th Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Gloria Russo, Chair

Eva Growney

Thomas Gulbransen

Hon. Kara Hahn

Larry Swanson

Michael Kaufman

Mary Ann Spencer

ABSENT:

James Bagg, Vice-Chair

Dan Pichney

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

Joy Squires

STAFF:

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner

John Corral, Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS:

Jennifer Kohn, Assistant Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law

Richard Martin, Director Historic Services, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Nick Gibbons, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conversation

Alyssa Turano, Legislative Aide 5th District
Marisa Schifano, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law
Dennis Brown, County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law
Kevin Levine, Village of Islandia
Andrea Rosenthal, Parsons Brinkerhoff
Richard Henke, Parsons Brinkerhoff
Craig Metzger, Amy S. Green Environmental
John Sullivan, Skanska/Posillico JV
NR Golan, Skanska/Posillico JV
Cheryl Hartell, LIRR
Glenn Mistler, LIRR
Robert Oggeri, LIRR

Minutes:

Minutes for the January 21, 2015 CEQ meeting were reviewed and discussed. Ms. Russo asked Mr. Corral about the Lead Agency status for the sewer connection project for the Ronkonkoma Hub that was discussed at the January, 2015 CEQ meeting. Mr. Corral noted that the Suffolk County Department of Public Works received a letter from New York State Department of Conservation stating that Suffolk County should be the Lead Agency for the project. Mr. Corral also noted that CEQ staff is working with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works to revise the EAF based on issues discussed at the January, 2015 CEQ meeting and that the project will come back before the CEQ once the EAF is completed.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to approve the January 21, 2015 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gulbransen. 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 are no new updates to report.

- Custodial Agreements:
Mr. Martin stated that the Parks Department is working to issue new custodial agreement contracts for the Sagtikos Manor, Long Island Maritime Museum and the Meadowcroft Estate because the previous custodial contracts have expired.
- Other updates:
Mr. Martin brought to the CEQ's attention a Newsday article regarding the historic Montaukett Indian House that was discussed at the December, 2014 CEQ meeting. Mr. Martin noted that Legislator Schneiderman's sponsored resolution, which included the CEQs recommendations, to turn the House and property over to the Town of East Hampton for historic preservation purposes was adopted and the Town has now accepted the property. Ms. Growney noted that the East Hampton Press also had a very favorable article regarding the preservation of the Mantaukett Indian House. Ms. Growney also noted that this project appears to be very well embraced by the local community.

Mr. Martin stated that there will be a new art show at Deepwells Historical Society in Saint James running from April 13th to the 26th. The art show will consist of an Art Exhibit in honor of Catherine Lorillard Wolfe who was the only founding woman member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Access Agreement with the LIRR in Connection with the LIRR Second Track Project at Lakeland County Park, Town of Islip, and the Village of Islandia.

Ms. Russo noted that she must recuse herself for this action and that Mr. Swanson would serve as the acting CEQ Chair for this item.

Mr. Corral, staff to the CEQ, and Mr. Gibbons, Principal Environmental Analyst for the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, gave an overview of the project. Mr. Corral and Mr. Gibbons described that the proposed action involves a compensatory wetland mitigation project at Lakeland County Park pursuant to a Freshwater Wetlands Permit issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The wetland project involves the installation of a culvert and retaining wall and the filling of a maximum of 0.14 acres of wetlands in the Long Island Rail Road right-of-way adjacent to Lakeland County Park and a compensatory wetland mitigation project in two locations within Lakeland County Park resulting in the enhancement of approximately 0.15 acres of wetlands, the enhancement of approximately 0.22 adjacent acres and the construction of a 0.05 acre boardwalk. This proposed action is part of the LIRR's overall "Second Track Project" aka "the Double Track" where a second continuous railroad track is constructed within the LIRR owned right-of-way over a 17.9 mile segment of the Ronkonkoma Branch between Farmingdale and Ronkonkoma LIRR train stations. The LIRR conducted

a Coordinated SEQRA Review of the overall LIRR Second Track Project and on October 3, 2013 determined that the project would not have any significant adverse environmental impacts. Mr. Gibbons also described the access that the Long Island Rail Road would need for the project and noted that the access would be over preexisting Parks roadways and the LIRR does not need to make any significant alternations to said roadways.

The CEQ had an extended discussion about different aspects of the project. The CEQ members felt it was important that the Suffolk County Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the LIRR carefully examine the construction elements and consider employing appropriate engineered products for the proposed boardwalk. Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the LIRR agreed to explore the most appropriate types of construction materials that should be used for the boardwalk.

Kevin Levine, an attorney representing the Village of Islandia, read a letter from the Mayor of the Village of Islandia to the CEQ which noted the Village of Islandia's objections to the Suffolk County's SEQRA review for the project. The CEQ discussed and addressed each of the Village of Islandia's objections. Mr. Swanson then noted that the Village's comments have been noted and addressed and that the CEQ will now move forward with its SEQRA recommendation.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a negative declaration as indicated in the Draft CEQ Resolution with an additional reason that the Suffolk County Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the LIRR will carefully examine the construction elements and consider employing appropriate engineered products for the proposed boardwalk. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Recommendations for LADS Report:

- A. Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table February 3, 2015 and March 3, 2015

Mr. Corral noted that the Staff's SEQRA recommendations are listed on the February 3, 2015 LADS report as well as the March 3, 2015 LADS report and that none of the resolutions appear to have an issue related to their SEQRA determinations.

Mr. Corral brought to the CEQ's attention that the March 3, 2015 LADS Report includes IR 1174-2015 which pertains to the proposed Access Agreement with the LIRR in Connection with the LIRR Second Track Project at Lakeland County Park and noted that the CEQ's SEQRA recommendation for this project will be provided to the Suffolk County Legislature.

Ms. Spencer made a motion to accept staff recommendations for the February 3, 2015 and the March 3, 2015 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Appoint John Corral to the Dredging Project Screening Committee

Mr. Corral provided the CEQ with a brief overview of the Dredging Project Screening Committee. It was noted that the Dredging Project Screening Committee's function is to make preliminary investigations and findings into the feasibility and desirability of any proposed County dredging projects and then forward the recommendations to the Suffolk County Legislature for its consideration.

Ms. Spencer made a motion to appoint John Corral as the CEQ representative for the Dredging Project Screening Committee. The motion was seconded by Hon. Kara Hahn. Motion carried.

Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning for Suffolk County brought IR 1276-2015 to the attention of the Council. Ms. Lansdale noted that Suffolk County has received a grant from the Long Island Regional Economic Council for four million dollars for engineering and design for three sewer projects. The project areas include the Carlls River area, the Great River area and the Mastic area. Ms. Lansdale noted that these areas are consistent with the County Executive's proposals for his Reclaiming Our Waters Initiative. Ms. Lansdale noted that there is a tight time line to have the grant accepted by the Legislature and wanted to bring this draft resolution to the CEQ's attention.

Mr. Kaufman noted that this is for planning and design and that is a Type II action.

Ms. Russo noted for clarification that as the resolution is written - to "design advanced wastewater infrastructure" - she immediately thinks tertiary treatment. Ms. Russo noted that sewage treatment is advanced relative to septic tanks and cesspools but that this should be clarified. Ms. Lansdale agreed and noted that this can be clarified.

Mr. Swanson wanted to know whether there are plans to bring Suffolk County's overall wastewater treatment program to CEQ. Ms. Lansdale discussed that there are several components to the Reclaim our Waters Initiative which include the sewerage effort discussed today as well as advancing innovative onsite systems. Ms. Lansdale noted that she would be happy to bring a County team made up of individuals from Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Suffolk County Department of Health and Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning to give the CEQ an overview of the program. Ms. Russo noted that the CEQ would like to have this type of informational presentation made to the CEQ and thought that at least an hour would be needed for the presentation.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend that this Legislative Resolution regarding accepting grant money for the planning and design for the three wastewater projects is a Type II Action. Ms. Growney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CAC Concerns:

Ms. Squires noted that last week Suffolk County, the Town of Huntington and the North Shore Land Alliance closed on the Williams property. Ms. Squires noted that this 26 acre open space acquisition in Cold Spring Harbor has been in the works for ten years and that it is very exciting that this partnership was able to make it happen. Ms. Squires noted that the North Shore Alliance and the Town of Huntington will maintain the property.

Meeting Adjourned