

**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Environment, Planning & Agriculture Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on February 1, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Kara Hahn, Chairperson  
Leg. Al Krupski, Vice Chair  
Leg. Sarah S. Anker  
Leg. Thomas Muratore (excused absence)  
Leg. Robert Trotta  
Leg. Bridget Fleming

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel/Legislature  
Jason Richberg, Clerk of the Legislature  
Amy Ellis, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature  
Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office  
Katie Horst, County Executive's Office  
Lisa Santeramo, County Executive's Office  
Sarah Lansdale, Director/Department of Planning  
Michael Pitcher, Director of Communications/PO  
Alyssa Turano, Aide to Leg. Hahn  
Catherine Stark, Aide to Leg. Krupski  
Robyn Fellrath, Aide to Leg. Anker  
Brendan Chamberlain, Aide to Leg. Muratore  
Elizabeth Sutton, Aide to Leg. Fleming  
Robert Braun, Deputy Bureau Chief/County Attorney's Office  
Rick Brand, Newsday  
Dave Schwartz, Newsday  
Errol S. Kitt, Appointee/SC Planning Commission  
Nicholas Gould Morehead, Appointee/SC Planning Commission  
Michael Kaufman, CEQ  
Adrienne Esposito, Planning Commission  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:23 AM**

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Welcome everybody. Sorry for the delay. I'll ask that all Legislators come to the horseshoe. Welcome to the Legislature's Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee. If we could all rise for a salute to the flag led by Legislator Krupski.

**SALUTATION**

Okay. Madam -- I'm sorry. Mr. Clerk, do we have any cards this morning?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

No cards, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you. Okay. With that, we don't have any presentations today, nor do we have Tabled Resolutions. Thank you.

And I would also like to mention -- thank you, Alyssa -- that Legislator Muratore has an excused absence this morning.

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

With that, Introductory Resolutions: **1008, To appoint member of the Suffolk County Planning Commission Errol S. Kitt. (Co. Exec.)**

Mr. Kitt, if you'd like to come forward. You can have a seat here directly across from me. Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The microphone should -- if the green light is on, then it's on and it should stay on for you.

**MR. KITT:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Welcome. If you could tell us a little bit about yourself and your interest in serving on this Commission.

**MR. KITT:**

Sure. Good morning everyone. Thank you all for giving me an opportunity to meet with you. Again, my name is Errol Kitt. I'm a lifelong resident of Long Island; a young 57 come this March. I currently reside in Lloyd Harbor with my wife and family; three children, two out of college and one still there. I grew up in Mineola. I went to Chaminade High School and then went on to Cornell University, where I played college football and earned my degree in environmental and engineering and technology.

Upon graduating I went to work for a small environmental consulting firm on Long Island and went to night school, got my Masters in Civil Environmental Engineering. And I've been in environmental consulting for about 35 years now. A lot of our projects -- I'm actually a Vice President with GEI Consultants. We're a national company of about 700 employees. I'm also the branch manager of the Long Island office here in Huntington Station. We provide a wide range of environmental, ecological, water resources and geotechnical services. I've been -- we do a lot of work in Suffolk County related to environmental investigations for the ideation ecological studies, watershed planning and management, coastal engineering, etcetera.

## 2/1/2016 EPA Committee

I would like to be part of the Commission. I want to really give back -- get more involved civically and work with the County on, you know, issues related to the environment, land use and development. I feel my experience of almost 35 years working on environmental and ecological projects will be an asset to the firm, my hard working and commitment.

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you. I know we have some questions from the Committee. Legislator -- I know both Legislators Fleming and Legislator Anker have questions, and Legislator Krupski. Who would like to go first? Legislator Fleming? Welcome. And we should all welcome Legislator Fleming to the Committee as with Legislator Trotta; two new members of the Legislature's Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee. So welcome to both of you. I look forward to working with you all on this Committee and on all we do here at the Legislature. So Legislator Fleming.

### **LEG. FLEMING:**

Thank you. Thank you, Legislator Hahn. This is the first time I've done this so -- is the microphone working? Okay. Because I also have a cold, so.

Good morning, Mr. Kitt. Thank you so much for coming in. And I really do appreciate your wanting to serve in this capacity. It's an important Commission, the Planning Commission; and particularly to folks out east. We take it very seriously. As you know, there was a recent project that got a lot of attention through the Planning Commission so we do pay attention to it and we do recognize its impact, the impact of the decision of the Commission.

So I just need to ask you a few questions. I noted that you're from Lloyd Harbor so you obviously have a keen understanding of how beautiful natural resources affect property values and the character of a community. Lloyd Harbor is certainly one of the most beautiful parts of our Island, and I like to think the South Fork of the East End is the same in that way.

So I also noted that your professional background includes a lot of great projects, a lot of commercial and industrial projects. So, of course, looking from it as -- from the perspective of an environmentalist, it jumps out at me that obviously you work for a lot -- most likely for a lot of developers and on a lot of commercial industrial projects. Is that a fair characterization of your professional work?

### **MR. KITT:**

I typically get involved on -- with real estate transactions for developers on the front end. We basically do, you know, environmental due diligence for a developer and determine whether it's appropriate where it can be -- you know, whether there's any environmental impacts or geotechnical restrictions that might affect development of that property. We do a lot of work really for, you know, municipalities as well, Suffolk County itself, the Brownfield, you know, programs. So I'm typically involved in the front end, like I said, for a developer, but not involved in the final, you know, piece of development.

### **LEG. FLEMING:**

No, but I guess my question is just that's -- that's who you're sort of reporting to; more than, say, an environmental advocacy organization.

### **MR. KITT:**

No, well, we have a mix of projects for, you know, private, municipalities as well as, you know, government agencies so it's not strictly, you know, a developer. But, you know, essentially it's -- you know, there's -- we're always trying to find that balance like we were talking about earlier between, you know, smart economic growth and protection of the environment and its natural resources.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

I'm glad you mentioned that because, you know, I certainly understand -- you know, everyone who serves on the Commission has their own personal interest, their own business interest. But when you take that seat, your interests shift in terms of representing the public from a -- from the perspective of what the regional impacts of any given application might be. So could you talk a little bit about what you intend to bring to the table with regard to the consideration of either the economic benefits or the environmental impacts of any given project?

**MR. KITT:**

Well, you know, I bring a hard, you know, work ethic and commitment and my experience with of over -- you know, close to 35 years now working on environmental and ecological projects. I feel I would be an asset, you know, to the Commission. I've been involved in a lot of these investigations, know some of the land use issues and development issues. I, you know, support, you know, the guidelines that have -- that the Commission has, the policies in place, you know, regarding -- could it be open space and farmland preservation, protection of open space farmland, other ecologically and environmental sensitive areas, you know, through, you know, really -- you know, again, it's all about the balance and that's what I would be there to, you know, continue with the Commission on successful, you know, results in that vein.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

And I don't want to take up too much of the time here, I'm sure other people have questions. But coming from the East End representing the Second Legislative District, which is Center Moriches to Montauk and Shelter Island, I'm interested to hear how you consider the regional impacts of particular applications and how you look at applications on the East End versus Up West. I think I can say for myself, I mean there's a lot less margin for error on the East End with regard to traffic impacts, with regard to water quality impacts of density, with regards to density in general. So could you just talk a little bit about what your perspective is at this point on a project that, for instance, might be great for Babylon or Islip, or how that might -- might impact natural resources out on the East End.

**MR. KITT:**

You know, I agree, there is a big difference between Western Suffolk and the East End. You know, just looking at the Master Plan here it is, you know, in 2010. You know, the population on the East End was less than 500, you know, persons per square mile; versus Western Suffolk was almost 2500. So there's a significant difference and there are, you know, projects will have more of an impact, you know, so it's important to find that balance especially, you know, with the East End projects.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

I mean -- I know that -- I think that our natural resources are basically the engine that runs our economies. So that's why I say there's less margin for error and I'd appreciate --

**MR. KITT:**

Agree.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

-- a sensitivity to that for anybody who serves on the Commission.

**MR. KITT:**

Yes.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Well, thank you very much. I don't know, Legislator Hahn, if I might have a couple of follow-up

questions if they come up, but I want to just let someone else do some questioning.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Of course. Legislator Anker, I believe you were next on the list.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Errol, I want to thank you for being here and applying for this position. Why do you feel you'll make a good candidate to be on the Planning Commission? You know, you've told us a lot about your experience, you know, working with the developers and understanding the environment, but what will be your highest assets?

**MR. KITT:**

Well, my hard work ethic, my commitment. I, you know, I'm aware of the need for that balance we keep talking about, you know. And there -- you know, and really the great job that the Commission has done so far, I'd really like to be part of that, you know, success moving forward. I can -- you know, basically I bring that, my experience with dealing with projects, you know, environmental and ecological as well as on the development side.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Do you feel that there may be some type of conflict between, you know, you working at -- with the developers and, you know, being in a position to make, you know, decisions relating to development?

**MR. KITT:**

No. I -- you know, if there was an instance where -- if one of my clients was a developer, I would recuse myself if that project came forward. But, again, I'm -- you know, it's -- each project needs to be looked at on a case by case basis, you know, the merits of each of the projects, you know, considered. All, you know, information, looking at it, doing a thorough review of all the information. And, again, it's, you know, to find the right balance with economic growth and protecting the environment and our natural resources.

**LEG. ANKER:**

What do you feel are the top three issues related to environment that you feel greatest concern about?

**MR. KITT:**

Well, one of the largest is water quality; you know, really, um, you know, the reduction of nitrogen loading to groundwater and surface waters, cleaning up contaminated properties. I see -- you know, there's a -- also, when you look at preservation and protection of farmland and open space. And really the redevelopment of properties that have -- are environmentally impaired such as Brownfield sites, such as what the Suffolk County Landbank is involved with. Those are critical; along with, you know, the revitalization of downtowns and, you know, transit-oriented development. And, again, it's finding that balance between the both.

**LEG. ANKER:**

One of the largest problems I have, you know, balancing, again, environmental preservation with development is the traffic issue. Have you worked with traffic situations through your experience as an engineer?

**MR. KITT:**

Not so much on traffic.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Good morning. So I feel a little bit misled this morning because I thought we were interviewing Errol Kitt, the Hog Farmer.

**MR. KITT:**

I have a dog.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

I had that impression. I'm very disappointed, yes. *(Laughter)* The one thing I have been, kind of, pressing for the Administration and my colleagues, because agriculture is so important in the County, to the County -- to the County's future, that we should have a farmer on the Planning Commission and -- but that's not the issue at the moment here. So I'm going to ask you a few questions in the same -- kind of in the same vein as Bridget did about the East End. And you live in Lloyd Harbor, and I've been there and it's a very nice place. How familiar are you with the East End?

**MR. KITT:**

Very familiar. I have family that lives out in Riverhead. I've been out to the East End quite a bit. I enjoy the environment, the natural resources there. And I do notice the significance, you know, in terms of Western Suffolk versus the East End.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

There's been -- and it's not an accident that the East End is different. There's been -- the local governments have made a tremendous amount of effort, not only in land preservation but also in land use and planning and the different codes that were passed over the years to provide protection, whether it's wetland codes or subdivision codes, to provide that kind of protections in place so that when you go out there today, you see that there's a difference. And it's very intentional.

On some of these specific projects, you know, how willing would you be to meet with either the specific towns or stakeholders or elected officials on these specific projects and review the specific -- some of the other, you know, building codes or zoning laws that would affect these; you know, something that was put in front of you.

**MR. KITT:**

Well, you know, as part of the, you know, job of the Commission is, you know, to work with the municipalities on making sure that codes are being adhered to; and also, you know, Countywide policies and, you know, I guess, goals. So in that capacity I would be working with, you know, the Commission under their guidelines in doing so.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you. And I just have one other question. So you mentioned water quality as one of the really important things that you think the County should be continuing to pursue or improving water quality, I should say. In my experience, since we have a sole source aquifer and we rely on rainfall to replenish it, how -- and you have -- you seem to have a background, I'm not familiar with your day-to-day work, in drainage. I mean, how important do you think drainage is? And I know it's usually a pretty boring topic because once -- see I get excited about drainage.

**MR. KITT:**

So do I.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

-- because you're recharging the aquifer and you're limiting road runoff and you're limiting surface water running -- I mean, you know, road runoff going into surface waters and impairing those. How

## 2/1/2016 EPA Committee

important do you think drainage is and how far do you think the County should go and the Planning Commission should go on these projects?

**MR. KITT:**

Well, yes, drainage, recharge, you know, to our aquifers is critical. We're over, you know, over a sole source aquifer, we get all of our drinking water, you know, from groundwater. So minimizing impacts, you know, through -- could be point sources contamination from sites but nitrogen loading is key from all the old, you know, septic systems we have. So finding ways, you know, innovative technologies to help -- you know, other technologies to really treat, you know, nitrogen loaded waste is important. It affects not only groundwater, but recharging to surface waters and the impacts that it has on surface water.

We've been involved with ecological -- not only on the environmental end but ecological projects with restoration of wetlands. That's key for, you know, basically taking drainage, passing it through a wetland system before it goes into a surface water body.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

What exactly does your company do?

**MR. KITT:**

We are a consulting engineering firm. We do environmental -- we offer environmental, geotechnical, water resources and ecological services to our clients.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Specifically; give me an example.

**MR. KITT:**

Oh. Well, for example, for a contaminated industrial site, we will be responsible for going in and investigating either on behalf of government agency or a private client or a utility; to go in, investigate the site, determine the best way to clean it up and then design a remediation system and then monitor it for successful remediation of the property.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

In my district, which covers Kings Park, it's basically a dump, there's an old dump there that's capped with three inches of topsoil -- excuse me, three feet of topsoil. And apparently it's grandfathered in because it was -- it didn't require a rubber cap before that was done, or whatever, a non-permeable cap. I mean, it seems to me that, you know, that's something that should be taken care of yet we're being told that it's grandfathered in so we're just going to let it leach into the groundwater. What's your opinion on that?

**MR. KITT:**

I'm not familiar enough with the project -- with the site. I guess it's really a regulatory, you know, issue. So, you know, I'm sorry I can't -- I don't know too much about the project to give a, you know, a solid opinion on it.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Well, it's a dump and they put three feet of topsoil on it 30 years ago. And now they're planning on putting solar panels on it. I was just wondering, you know, it's a dump with waste, what your opinion was that should the government require that it be capped properly so it's not permeable; or should we allow them to put solar panels on it without capping it.

**MR. KITT:**

Well, again, I don't know all of the particulars about the project. I'd really need to review, you know, all the information. But, yeah, I mean a cap is important. And if it's consistent with the State's regulatory, you know, compliance --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

It was capped like 30 years ago and apparently it was just before that requirement that it be capped. I mean, we're sitting -- anyway, let's change the subject. Does your company do business with the County?

**MR. KITT:**

Yes.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

How much approximately a year do we --

**MR. KITT:**

We're involved with a few projects, again, mainly on the ecological side as well as environmental, but most of our work is through private industry and government agencies and municipalities.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

A dollar figure; how much?

**MR. KITT:**

I don't have that information readily available.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Do you have an approximation?

**MR. KITT:**

Is it -- I don't understand why that would be information that would be critical to --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Because I don't know if you noticed, in this County there's been a lot of corruption going on, and I'd like to find out, you know, how much business you're doing and if it affects -- you know, this is not a paid position, I'm assuming; or it is a paid position?

**MR. KITT:**

No.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Okay. Well --

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

George, I was wondering if you could just comment to -- you know, how that could be handled. Obviously if there are conflicts, they would -- you wouldn't be able to vote. But, George, you can talk about ---

**MR. NOLAN:**

Well, I don't know exactly what the question is. I mean --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I want to know the figure, you know, for doing \$10 million, \$20 million, \$30 million. Because, you know, coming from my background I'm not happy with what's been going on. I'm not happy with what I see in this County. And I see that, you know, you contribute a lot of money to campaigns. And I don't want -- you know, I'm sure you're a man of integrity and honor, but a lot of people are and there's things that go on. So I want to know how much money your company does with the County and if there's a possible conflict. I would prefer to have someone who doesn't have a conflict. So you might not have a conflict. I just would like to clarify that.

**MR. KITT:**

No, all I can say is that, you know, myself and my firm work at a high level of integrity and there's no influence on what we do, you know, from the outside.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

And I personally don't even know that what you do would have an effect.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

So, Legislator Trotta, our Counsel just has another thing he'd like to add to this and maybe that'll help.

**MR. NOLAN:**

I would just say that, you know, if you are placed on the board or on the Commission, you should take a look at the County's Code of Ethics. There are some restrictions on public servants which would include a member of the Commission from doing business with the County. So I think that's something you might want to acquaint yourself with.

**MR. KITT:**

(Shaking head yes)

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Next question: Is he allowed to do business with the County?

**MR. NOLAN:**

I can't answer that. I'm not the -- I'm not the Board of Ethics. I know that there are some restrictions and prohibitions in terms of if you're a County official, which a member of the Commission is, even though he's unpaid, there are some restrictions on doing business with the County.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

There we go. So clearly, you know, if you weren't aware of that, you should make yourself. Legislator Fleming had other -- oh, I'm sorry. Legislator Trotta, were you done there?

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I think I personally -- I'm new on this. I did a little bit of research on it, but I don't -- I don't know what -- I have a general idea of some of the things they would be ruling on or recommending, and I think there might be some kind of conflict. I'm not -- I don't know for sure, but just -- were you aware of this instance where you might have --

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

I see that Director Lansdale's here. Maybe she'd like to comment.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

I just wanted to add -- to clarify a point that GEI Consultants does have a contract that was competitively selected with the County funded by 477 Water Quality Funding. The amount of the contract I don't have with me, but I can certainly provide that to -- to members here of this Committee. I believe the contract -- the entire contract value is approximately around \$100,000. This pre-dates -- this contract has been longstanding, probably two or three years now.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

We can ask BRO to send it to us.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Well, I think that the Counsel -- our Counsel is just suggesting that we may need an ethics opinion so -- or we do need an ethics opinion.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

Sounds good.

**MR. NOLAN:**

I'm not even saying that. I'm saying that I think -- whether or not there's a prohibitive interest in the business would depend on whether or not there was an ownership interest in the business. I don't know if that's the case. There's a lot of -- there's factors that go into a determination whether or not there's a, you know, a problem or a prohibition that's going to affect this person who's going for this position. All I'm suggesting is take a look at it. That's all.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

If I may add, there was a previous member on the Planning Commission who also had several contracts with the -- with the County as well. And she did seek opinions from the County Ethics Office and it was fine. If I can paraphrase those opinions, there was no problem in her continuing to serve. She's no longer on the Planning Commission, but just wanted to share that.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. I had Legislator Fleming and then Legislator Krupski again.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Thank you. So, Legislator Anker was asking about traffic, which is, of course, very important everywhere on Long Island. And it's not something that's in your bailiwick, not something that you bring expertise on. It's a good opportunity I think to ask how do you see yourself gathering the information that you need to render an opinion. I know that Legislator Krupski talked about the vast bodies of laws and codes that the local municipalities have put together. You're going to get a staff report from Planning -- the Suffolk County Planning. How do you see yourself sort of getting up to speed on issues that you're not -- that you don't bring expertise with you?

**MR. KITT:**

Well, it would be through, you know, the documents that you -- you mentioned, the policies, you know, that the County has as well as in each municipality, but also the project information that I would be able to review and, you know, analyze.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Are you aware of where all of that comes from, you know, when you consider an application? And maybe, I don't know, Sarah, I see you standing there, did you want to say something about it?

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

Sure. I just wanted to add that in addition to the staff report that members of the Planning

## 2/1/2016 EPA Committee

Commission receive, usually the Friday before the Wednesday meeting of the once-a-month meeting, we also provide information, source materials that we've received from the referring municipality, whether it's the town or village. And we deliberately send the information at least a few business days before the meeting and then have staff available to answer any questions and/or provide guidance for members of the Commission to speak directly with the referring agency, i.e. the town or village.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

So I guess one of my questions is, to put it bluntly, are you -- are you committed to considering what the towns and villages say as much as what the staff report and what the recommendations of the County are?

**MR. KITT:**

Yes. It's really the responsibility of the Commission to help, you know, work with the municipalities and to make sure that -- that the projects are within code and in accordance with policies and goals.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Of the local municipalities?

**MR. KITT:**

Both Countywide policies and goals. So, you know, that's part of what the Commission does is working with the municipalities to make sure our project is in accordance with code.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Let me ask you this: If you were faced with a recommendation from the County to approve a project and you're hearing from folks in the community that it's not appropriate or the codes -- the wetland code or whatever it may be indicates that it's not appropriate. Not that this would necessarily happen, I know they do a good job at the County. But if you were to face that conflict, how would you resolve it?

**MR. KITT:**

It's working with other members of the Commission to address the issues and understand, you know, fully all aspects of the project.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Okay. Do you think that there would ever come a time that you would see something that's recommended by the County that's resisted by the local community and you would think that it should be approved?

**MR. KITT:**

I, you know, I wouldn't know how to answer that. But if there's -- again, the responsibility of the Commission is finding that balance on issues and projects. And that's -- you know, it's working with members of the Commission to understand and make some decisions on it.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Okay. Speaking of working with commissions, you know you're going to face a decision almost, if you are approved and serve on the Commission, and again I appreciate your willingness to do so, there's going to be a vote on the Chair, who's to be the Chair of the Commission almost immediately when you get there. Can you just talk a little bit about what you see as important characteristics for someone who would serve as a Chair?

**MR. KITT:**

Well, I obviously would be listening to the candidates to make my decision as to a vote. But, you

## 2/1/2016 EPA Committee

know, understanding that it's critical that, you know, that the person is really looking to find that right balance between smart economic growth and protection of the environment and our natural resources.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Okay, thank you. Thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you. So kind of changing the line of thought here a little bit, specifically what projects did you work on? And there was some mention of a current contract with the County. What is that specific contract for; what is the work?

**MR. KITT:**

The contract that Sarah referred to is -- it's an ecological project. It's basically a fish ladder, a fish passageway on the Carmans River. So we're involved with the design of that -- of that fish ladder.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Is that one like the one in Grangabel Park in Riverhead or is that -- is this going to be more of a temporary metal?

**MR. KITT:**

No, this is more of a permanent design. It allows fish to travel upstream into the lower lake naturally without, you know -- with a little less, I guess, disturbance to the fish, where they're not as beat up as they get into the lake.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

And how are you coming along with that?

**MR. KITT:**

Well, we're in the 60% design stage and things are moving along smoothly.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Are there national alewife fish ladder design standards?

**MR. KITT:**

Yes. And trout as well.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

So what other municipalities do you work for?

**MR. KITT:**

We do work for the towns, Brookhaven as well as Huntington. There's villages; Old Field. We just completed a project for Conscience Bay where we actually -- an innovative design award was given to the Village. That was related to stormwater management, restoration of wetlands and treatment of urban runoff before it discharged into the bay.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

So you're going to have -- you're going to review an application for some sort of development and there's going to be great potential there for improving water quality, groundwater or surface water quality if the project is done correctly. Are you willing to advocate that it's done correctly or are

## 2/1/2016 EPA Committee

you going to -- because there might -- some people who are going to say no, it's going to be too expensive to do it the right way. You know, are you going to be someone who's going to insist that it's done the right way? I mean, you certainly have the experience and you know how to do it the right way as far as whatever it's going to take to remediate the surface pollutants from, you know, being discharged into surface water. Are you going to be a strong advocate for including those design components into a final project?

**MR. KITT:**

Yeah, each project really is addressed on a case-by-case basis. And, yes, following the guidelines that the Commission has, you would look at all aspects and to really, you know, make that determination, but it is, it's very important to improving the water quality in the County.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Are you familiar with -- did you do any work at the Kings Park Psychiatric -- for our Kings Park Psychiatric Center?

**MR. KITT:**

No, we have not.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Are you familiar with it at all?

**MR. KITT:**

Somewhat, yes.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

It was put into State Parks. While the north 353 acres isn't considered a State park, it's put under the purview of State Parks. What's your feeling towards removing any land from State Parks?

**MR. KITT:**

Again, without more specific information on the project, I'm sorry, I don't have --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Just your only personal feelings. I mean, should parkland ever be alienated for development?

**MR. KITT:**

You know, really it's -- you know, looking at, you know, the -- whatever the County's, you know, policies and --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I'm not talking about -- I'm talking about your own personal feelings. I mean, once parkland is parkland, I mean, do you see, you know, the sides of private/public partnership, with the exception of a private/public partnership, do you ever see where like a large tract of land should be taken out of parkland and be developed?

**MR. KITT:**

Well, if it's for the benefit of the community, if there's a right -- you know, striking that balance

again is -- would it be appropriate --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

That's a yes or a no, you know. I mean, generically --

**MR. KITT:**

Yes and no, because it's really -- really understanding all the particulars about the project to see if there is the benefit for the community --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Who?

**MR. KITT:**

Well, if this became -- I don't know if it's something that would be brought -- if you're --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

But if the community was totally against it.

**MR. KITT:**

Again, I don't know all the particulars about the project.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

All right. Thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Anyone else? No? Okay. I actually have, you know, a couple of questions as Chair of this Committee. And a lot of really good things have been asked and I think it's important that we get -- clearly, you have some pretty extensive environmental remediation, environmental design background that I could see being very valuable to the Commission. I also just want to understand, because not fully understanding the role of your company. We here -- most of us here are strong advocates for the environment, and right now there's a perception that there's some sort of rift happening at the Commission, and we need assurance that the appointments we make now are going to truly strive for the balance you're talking about. And a balance that's equal or some of us would say, you know, lean to -- you know, we want to protect our environment for the future. It's so much more costly for everyone when we allow development to happen where it probably should not.

And I'm wondering if you can just speak to your personal vision for the future of Long Island and development and where it should happen and what you know about our unique environment here, if you could speak generally about how you think future development should happen.

**MR. KITT:**

Well, you know, I definitely am supportive of the County's, you know, policies regarding, you know, the preservation, protection of open space, farmland, you know, protection of -- or reduction of -- protection of water quality and sensitive to development in ecologically environmentally sensitive areas. You know, again, it's that -- that balance where in some instances it's more appropriate for, you know, revitalizing our downtowns, you know, remediating or redeveloping contaminated properties such as Brownfield sites are very important. It keeps that open space available. It's -- you can turn those properties back into reuse. And many of them are in downtowns, in, you know, transit-oriented development areas. I think that's very important. But, yes, protection of the environment and our natural resources are critical. And we see that with many of the different issues. And we're trying to, you know, keep our youth here on Long Island. I mean, we need to protect the environment and natural resources for everyone's enjoyment. And

that is very important to me.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Are there places where development should not happen in your mind?

**MR. KITT:**

Well, you know, it's a case-by-case, you know, looking at where the properties are and understanding, you know, the environmental issues or ecologically sensitive issues, you know, in those areas. And that's where, you know, the balance comes into, well, you know, there's no cookie cutter approach here. You know, you really have to look at each project and find that balance, you know, what's right, what's appropriate. You know, there are certain areas, downtowns, like I mentioned, that would be important for development in those areas.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Yeah, there's no question that, you know, I think, we can all -- we can all support revitalization efforts, you know, cleaning up and redeveloping Brownfields. There are downtowns that can be properly developed. Sometimes, though, the real concern lies in the land use planning where there are open spaces and there are inappropriate places for large development that could cause tremendous problems for communities in many ways and --

**MR. KITT:**

Right.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Do you think every project can be fully mitigated? Or sometimes is it difficult? Do you find it -- do you see it difficult in projects to be properly mitigated, the environmental effects?

**MR. KITT:**

In projects that I've been involved with?

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Yes, in general. I mean, do you ever think there's a time that what is being proposed couldn't properly be mitigated?

**MR. KITT:**

Well, you know, projects that I've dealt with from my business, that point of view, you know, we've been successful in remediating projects, and, you know, mitigating, you know, runoff issues, you know, contamination but -- and, you know, working with, you know, the regulatory agencies, municipalities on successful projects.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

See, I think you bring some unique skill set to recognize when a project comes forward and is not properly mitigated; and they're coming in with weak proposals, they're coming in with weak -- weakly performed environmental impact statements and you're uniquely qualified to really fully understand that. And if -- you know, if this Committee decides to move you forward, we'd really be relying on your expertise to point out, you know, when projects can do better in their mitigation. And you have that unique knowledge -- or maybe not unique necessarily, but you have, you know, knowledge that we really would be relying on that expertise to push the envelope towards true protection of our environment in every case.

And then Legislator Anker has a question.

**LEG. ANKER:**

So, again, my concern, again, you're very skilled, you're very experienced, but there's that business, you know, where is the line between, you know, providing information insight to the County, move forward with planning and, you know, your business relationships.

So, George, how would that work as far as if he had a client that his engineering firm was working with, but he had, you know, valuable information, could he basically just not vote for that particular proposal? How does that work?

**MR. KITT:**

I would recuse myself.

**MR. NOLAN:**

If there's a -- if he has a matter come before the Commission and Mr. Kitt had some involvement in it or it's somebody's he's worked for, he would probably recuse himself in that matter on a case-by-case basis. What I was referring to earlier is there is a section of the -- of our code which talks about prohibited interest and firms doing business with the County. And for a non-paid member of a Commission, if Mr. Kitt had an ownership interest in a firm that was doing business with the County, I think that's something he probably would want to look at, but I don't know any of the particulars regarding Mr. Kitt's company or anything like that. I'm just suggesting he may want to take a look at it.

**LEG. ANKER:**

So, Errol, do you think that would be a problem?

**MR. KITT:**

I don't see a problem.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Okay, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Fleming.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

I'm sorry, George, then I have a question for you. So I think maybe I misheard it, that there's an open contract with Mr. Kitt's company with the County. Is that -- I would prefer that we look at what those requirements are than requiring the candidate to provide that to us. Is there a prohibition for someone to serve on a non-paid committee if they have an open contract with the County, and if we do approve Mr. Kitt, does he then have to take some sort of steps either within his company or with regard to that unfulfilled contract?

**MR. NOLAN:**

I think it would depend, as I mentioned earlier, on whether or not there was an ownership interest in the firm. I think if that is the situation and there is an ongoing contract with the County, in that situation, if those are the facts, then the process would be to go to the Board of Ethics and basically ask them what action he should take to cure it. If there's a curative needed, they would suggest what it is.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

And, you know, I'm new at this but -- so would there be any problem with our discharging this from committee and then doing the research on that issue prior to any vote in the General Legislature?

**MR. NOLAN:**

No, I don't see any problem with discharging this resolution from Committee. It's -- I think it's not so much an issue for the Committee and for the Legislature but for Mr. Kitt, for him to look at the situation, look at what our requirements are; and if he thinks he needs to go to the Board of Ethics, go to the Board of Ethics. If he thinks not, then he doesn't. But, of course, if the Committee wants information about his business dealings with the County, I think that's certainly legitimate as well.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

And I would feel more comfortable, you know, if that was clarified before a vote, just personally. Not that -- I mean, I really feel like there is some extraordinary skills and expertise that you bring to the table, but the question -- some of the questions about the company, just for your protection and ours, you know, I would feel -- I would feel more comfortable tabling or discharge -- if you all want to discharge without recommendation.

I'm going to make a -- actually, I don't think we have a motion. So I'd like to make a motion to table on that grounds, but there's also the option of the discharge without recommendation if you think we could -- could get an answer from the Commission before the General Meeting. I just don't feel comfortable letting it out of my Committee without those answers.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Could I just follow-up on the question that I asked? You know, obviously Ethics Rules and Regulations are in place for a reason. So, you know, I appreciate that, George, you're suggesting that it's the individual who needs to research it. But with regard to our obligations, our fiduciary duties to the taxpayer, I wonder if it's not really sort of on our shoulders to clarify that, assuming that the Rules and Regulations are there for a reason without any specific, you know, individual concerns, but just generally having that "i" dotted or that "t" crossed; if we could be assured that that's something that could be clarified before a General vote, you know, I'd like to know that. But if you don't think that's possible, I'd like to know that as well.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

George, you want to answer that?

**MR. NOLAN:**

Yeah, I -- again, I don't know the particulars of Mr. Kitt's business and the contract dealings he has with the County, so it's very hard for me to say whether he has -- he's prohibited from what he's doing. I don't think you're going to get an answer from the Board of Ethics prior to next Tuesday. I think they meet twice a month, but I think it unlikely you're going to get an answer out of the Board because Mr. Kitt would have to, you know, submit something to the Board of Ethics and ask for an opinion if he deemed it necessary to do that. I don't even know if that is the case. But even if Mr. Kitt decided, yes, I'm going to speak to the Board of Ethics and get some guidance, you're probably not going to have that before Tuesday.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Director Lansdale.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

Again, I just wanted to make the point that in the past there was a member of the Commission who had several open contracts with -- with the County and served quite successfully on the Commission. I just wanted to bring that -- and she did generate or requested from the Ethics Board an opinion. I'm not sure if it's possible to have that Ethic's opinion. It's a different set of facts.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Yeah. No, I would imagine that every set of facts is unique and I don't want this to sound -- I just don't think we should go on the way things have always been done. And, you know, I think that every set of facts is a little bit different. But, Legislator Trotta, you had another question?

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Yeah. I'm not so much concerned with the contracts with the County, I'm more concerned with his private contracts and now he has to vote on -- let's say he's a contractor to clean up a gas station and now it goes before the Board of Health. Does it come to the Planning Commission? I don't know. Where he can be making a decision on some -- one of his customers, properties or development.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

I think he addressed that earlier when he said that clearly if that were to happen, he could recuse himself from that vote.

**MR. KITT:**

Absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

And he would have no intention of, you know --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

How many times -- is it every customer? I mean, will he be recusing himself half the time? I don't know.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

No, I mean this comes up a lot when we have appointments and they know there's a process for a recusal. If you happen to have a client that has a -- brings something forward before the board you're on.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

I would think not only recusal, but full disclosure.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Absolutely.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

So you can make it easier for your colleagues on a commission to say, you know -- you don't have to legally recuse yourself, but, geez, you probably should because we know you have a relationship with, you know, whatever. I think full disclosure goes a long way also.

**MR. KITT:**

Absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. So I made a motion to table. Were there any -- we would need a second or are there any other motions?

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

I'll make a motion to discharge without recommendation. I know, you know, everyone's had really good comments and valid concerns. To me, if you put it before the full Legislature, it's never a bad thing to let everyone else weigh in to give them -- take a shot at Mr. Kitt here, so to speak. So -- and then if everyone's not satisfied and wants to wait for something from the Board of Ethics,

2/1/2016 EPA Committee

we could certainly table it at that point also. You don't have to necessarily vote on Tuesday.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I'll second, yeah, the motion to discharge.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

So we have a motion for discharge without recommendation and a second. We have a motion to table and no second. So we'll vote on the motion to discharge without recommendation. All those in favor? Opposed?

I'm going to be opposed. And abstentions? Okay, so it is discharged without recommendation.

**(VOTE: 4-1-0-1. LEG. HAHN OPPOSED/LEG. MURATORE NOT PRESENT)**

Thank you very much. I would -- you don't have to come before the Legislature, but because this is a discharge without recommendation, I am sure the Presiding Officer would be willing to take you, you know, probably at a time certain, hopefully, or close to, approximate, but I would recommend you be there. I don't usually say that but because there's some of these questions, I would recommend that you do come to the full Leg.

Legislator Fleming.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

I just wanted to ask Director Lansdale if we -- or, George, if we could get a copy of that Ethics Opinion with regard to the Commissioner who did have County contracts, that would be very helpful before the meeting.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

Yes. I was actually just speaking to my colleagues about getting that copy.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thanks for what you do and your willingness to serve.

Okay, next we have **IR 1013, To appoint a member of the Suffolk County Planning Commission Nicholas Gould Morehead (Co. Exec.)**. Come on up, Mr. Morehead. Hello.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Good morning.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

You have the benefit of hearing all that.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

True.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

This is a serious Commission that you're willing to serve on. So we'd love you to -- just tell us a little bit about yourself and why you'd like to be on this Commission, if you still do.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

I do. I don't know if I should make it clear upfront that I oversee about \$700 for Shelter Island Little League and about 21,000 for the Shelter Island preschoolers, their Treasurer. No, but

## 2/1/2016 EPA Committee

seriously, I'm kind of what you call a transplant. My early years were in New York City and from the age of three, my mother and stepfather had a house on Shelter Island, so a lot of formative years out there.

As I got older, weekends turned into summers. And after college and living in San Francisco and Washington, DC, I moved back there full-time to work for the local newspaper, Shelter Island Reporter. After that it was on to the Southampton Press; and then wanted a change of lifestyle, a change of career and I approached the owner of the South Ferry to see if he was interested in hiring and thankfully for me he was. I've been working there for about almost ten years now. And I'm in the capacity of Chief Operations Officer there now.

My wife and I have two young children, six years old and two-and-a-half. And the whole house is sick so I apologize if I sound a little off today with what's going around. But we are very lucky and happy to be able to live on Shelter Island. And that's a little bit about my background.

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you. Okay. Questions: Yes, Legislator Fleming.

### **LEG. FLEMING:**

Good morning, Mr. Morehead.

### **MR. MOREHEAD:**

Good morning.

### **LEG. FLEMING:**

Good to see you here. While you did have the advantage of listening to the prior candidate's questions and answers, I thank you very much for being willing to serve. I know the business of the South Ferry is a very important part of the East End business community and that you do a lot on Shelter Island in terms of civic work as well. You and your family are a very important part of the fabric of Shelter Island.

And certainly with regard to the balance that we were talking about, on -- in the work of the Planning Commission, that is balancing the economic benefits of development with the environmental impacts of development and recognizing the value of our natural resources, could you talk just a little bit about your perspective on that from where you sit as the, you know, operator of the South Ferry?

### **MR. MOREHEAD:**

Sure, yes. I think actually South Ferry is a pretty unique business to have a perspective on that balance. I mean, you know, we are depending on summer tourism to make the -- you know, the bulk of our revenue. And our tourists come out to see Shelter Island to enjoy their natural resources. So without those, obviously, we don't have the visitors to our area.

That said, you know, we also need to have young people to be able to work and to live on Shelter Island, on the East End. We need to have staff that are available to get to us so, you know, there's a balance there. The word has been used a lot today, for the right reasons, that you have to have so as we're able to live and work here, but also to appreciate those natural resources. And we are depending on, like I say, those summer tourists who are out there to enjoy our natural resources, but so too during the winter months the landscapers, a little less of them, the construction companies, they're our bread and butter, what little we have in the winter. So we are dependent to a degree on development and whatnot. So I think we're in a unique position to really appreciate that balance.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

And speaking of that, you know, and the activity -- business activity that comes from development on the East End, if you could talk a little bit about your thoughts on the different perspectives out on the East End as opposed to Up West. And, you know, I asked the prior candidate, you know, the -- is it possible that development that's perfect for Islip or Babylon is not perfect for Shelter Island or Southampton; and, you know, how you see the difference between the different parts of Suffolk County.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Okay, let me see if I caught all that. I think you alluded to it as well, you know being out not on the East End, I think that, you know, you hear the word balance and maybe you think of a scale that's completely flat. I don't know if it's necessarily the case. I think there might be a little bit of a tilt on one side towards the preservation of natural resources, but it doesn't mean that there's not a good amount on the other side of the scale. You have to have that balance. It can't be totally one-sided.

Do I think that a development in Babylon or Islip that might be perfect for that community is -- could be perfect for Shelter Island? It'd be a hard stretch to see how the two would be directly linked so closely. Would we possibly see some effects? Absolutely. But I'm not -- maybe there's a way to rephrase what you're asking, I'll try and do a better job by answering, but I'm not entirely sure if that's --

**LEG. FLEMING:**

No, I think that's just right.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Okay.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Can you talk a little bit about traffic and how you see development impacting traffic on the East End?

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Well, I guess I can use an anecdote that happened to us a couple of summers ago during our peak season. There was a very nasty accident on County Road 39. And forgive me, the details are a little lost because it was little bit of a long time ago, but as I recall, all of traffic was stopped on that road and had to be rerouted. And you guys might remember some of this. And it was -- you know, our colleagues over on the north side were completely caught off guard by that because their traffic lines went through the roof. We were getting one-way traffic across the Island in such a way that it was not normal. We weren't necessarily unprepared for it, but we were caught a little off guard.

So what I'm getting at is how traffic can affect the East End. There's -- there's not a whole lot of avenues in and out of the East End, so traffic is a big issue. And development out there obviously has to take into account how to deal with additional traffic, how to calm measures, things like that. So that's something that really opened my eyes to just how key traffic can be to affecting communities, and not necessarily communities where an incident happens, but the surrounding communities as well.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

And I think that's a really -- that's an excellent answer and I have to say it really kind of touches on the importance of the Commission as a body that acts as a check and kind of looks at regional impact as opposed to, you know, more immediate impacts of any development. So that being said, you'll be considering, if you're approved, projects Up West in neighborhoods that you're not familiar

with. Can you just let us know what you would draw on in order to make those decisions?

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Well, I think part of it would be really the experience of my Commission members, but I don't want to put that all on them by any means. One thing you have to learn, and granted I was only a small time reporter, but as a reporter you have to know who to talk to quickly to find the answers to the difficult questions. You gotta talk to the experts and you gotta talk to experts on both sides to get a balanced story. You know, if there's a project in Islip and it's a controversial project, you know, it wouldn't be my first time calling the Director of Planning in a Township, calling town board members if that's allowed, I don't want to do anything unethical, talking to people that know the issues better than myself, getting a sense of the various sides and then ultimately making my decision as a Commission member.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

That's great. I just have one last question regarding the vote on the Chair. You know that's going to be a big vote that you have to cast just when you get on the Commission if you're approved. Could you talk a little bit about what you -- what characteristics you would think will be important to bring to the Chair of the Commission?

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Well, I know this kind of sounding cliché at this point in the day, but I think the Chair of the Commission should represent somebody that brings the best notion of that balance to the Commission. I think the Chair should also demonstrate, you know, leadership abilities. It's not easy to lead a committee. I serve on a couple. They're a lot smaller but, you know, there's infighting. There has to be a sense of order. That's a rare quality among people, I think. And how am I going to determine that in this short time? I'm not entirely sure, but, you know, that person that to me will bring the best sense of balance and a good leadership quality would be the person I'd like to vote for.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Thank you, Mr. Morehead. Thank you for coming. I don't have anymore questions, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you. Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

I just had -- Legislator Fleming asked a lot of good questions so I'm not going to repeat all those. I just wanted -- do you have a relationship with the local government, the town, and there's a village there. And what's your -- what's your opinion on the role you'll play as a Commission member for the County with the local government and what, you know, as far as what their opinions are on certain projects? And you're absolutely right; not just projects on Shelter Island, but you mentioned the accident and how -- the accident in Southampton and how it affected the Island.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

As far as a relationship, official capacity, no, you know. But Shelter Island's such a small community that I know all the town board members personally, I know the committee leaders. I see them on the boat on a regular basis. We shoot the breeze when they're going over so there's a relationship in that sense. And I look at that as a benefit actually as to, you know, while Shelter Island's a small community, it doesn't mean necessarily you have the pulse of the community. But not only working on South Ferry, you kind of have to talk to people and get a sense of what's going on. But, you know, I am involved in the community. I'm involved in my kids' life so I do have relationships with them on a personal level, but nothing in a official capacity, no.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

That's great. And I just want to make a comment. I've never heard it really put that way about the balance not being level, but it's a balance but it's not -- you know, that was a good way of putting it.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Anker and then Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Yeah, as I had asked before with the other person in your seat, do you feel there's any conflict of interest in being on the Commission pertaining to business and work?

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Yeah. I mean, I think the discussion here certainly was eye-opening for me sitting a few rows back. I mean, there obviously can be conflicts of interest if there's a proposal in which you're directly involved in and have a financial stake in. I mean, it's pretty clear it's a conflict of interest. And, you know, it sounds like there's policies and procedures in place to mitigate those. But, of course, there's conflicts. There's conflicts of interest in every commission and level of government, aren't there?

**LEG. ANKER:**

But as -- I guess your business is managing the ferry pertaining to you.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Oh, I misunderstood the question. I'm sorry. You know, that's -- I would be surprised if there were. I think it would be pretty clear if there were. We have a pretty small business, an important business but, you know, it's -- we do what we do. And, you know, there's not a lot of projects that -- in fact, there are no projects that we're invested in financially. We have enough to do to keep our own house in order, so to speak, so -- but I think it would be pretty clear if we're somehow ambitious enough to be part of a project that comes before the Commission, yeah. But, no, there's certainly nothing that I can envision in the near future.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Okay. And I guess similar to the question I had for Errol, what are your top three ideas or concerns specifically related to Shelter Island and out on the East End?

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Well, we just -- you know, as we all know, had an election in November. And I hate to use what was at Meet-the-Candidates Forum, but I thought it was pretty apt. It was the tick, taxes and the aquifer. There's the Shelter Island catchphrase out there. You know, with ticks and tick-borne illnesses, taxes, and we all have issues with those and the aquifer. And obviously that's -- you know, I thought Mr. Kitt answered that fairly well in regards to some of the key issues in the environment that he's concerned with; I agree with most of his, but Shelter Island might be a little different in the sense that, you know, we are a sole source aquifer so water quality is, you know, paramount. I think all of the candidates, when we had the Meet-the-Candidates Forum, were just lockstep about that being key.

We do have a tick-borne illness issue. It depends -- obviously there's different sides to it. How you solve it, is it a problem at all. There's an epidemic. You know, there's different people who say different things, but, you know, there is a pretty high level of Lyme Disease out there. And how

you get rid of that or mitigate that is a very controversial issue at the moment. It's been so for some time so that's not going away on Shelter Island as far as I can see it.

As far as the taxes go, I think that kind of loops into something that I'm really concerned with is, you know, how to keep our young people, and it's a Long Island issue. You guys know that better than anybody, but how to make young people able to live on Shelter Island and Long Island. It's an expensive place to live. I'm not sure how my kids are going to do one day without my help, you know. And I've done it with my mom and stepdad's help and my father-in-law and mother-in-laws' help, so. Not everyone is as lucky as I am so it's a -- it's a tough one. And I don't have the answers but those are certainly some of the bigger issues that we are facing out there and they're not unique to Shelter Island by any means.

**LEG. ANKER:**

All right. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

How did you end up sitting here today?

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

How did I end up sitting here? Well, I was -- actually the way it was explained to me is an old friend of mine who used to live on the Island -- how do I say this? Dropped my name to the Director of Planning when I heard there was an open seat for Shelter Island. Said "this guy's a good guy, he's a friend of mine, he'd be great for the Commission, why don't you vet him?"

And when the Director of Planning called me up, I said I would be flattered and very much interested to serve. And checked with my boss to make sure that he was okay with me being away from work every so often to do this. And things have kind of taken shape and here I am today in front of you.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Who was that old friend of yours?

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

The old friend was a gentleman named Sean McLean. He used to live on Shelter Island. He and his wife, ex-wife, they had kids our age and we were very social and hung out a lot.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Sean's a friend? (Laughter)

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

What's that? (Laughter) Sadly we're mostly out of touch these days.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

May I add something to that?

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

I think he meant that this could be more trouble than it's worth.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Go ahead. (Laughter)

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

We also received his name from the Supervisor of Shelter Island as well. And, in fact, I failed to -- when we were putting the attachments to the bill, I'll circulate to the entire Legislature a letter of support from the Supervisor of Shelter Island.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you. Any other questions? Oh, okay, so I just want to ask you some similar items that I asked the previous candidate about, you know, the importance as we move forward and as we develop and grow as a County, your overall vision of development in Suffolk County and where it is appropriate, etcetera. I'd like to hear your thoughts.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Well, I mean, I guess I kind of go back to something I said earlier and that, you know, growth and development for Suffolk County is good, as far as I'm concerned, as a COO of a business. More people who are living and working out here means more people who can come be our patrons.

That said, if the resources aren't there for them to come visit, they're not going to be our patrons. So it's a little bit, I don't know what the phrase is, if it's a catch-22 or not, but I think there are certainly a lot of good things to be had with growth, with development, with people being able to live and work here. But like you said many times, you know, there has to be that balance between the two. I don't know if that's answer enough for you, but.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Sure, sure. And your understanding of environmental impacts and how important that is to you as you review each proposal and weigh it, what will you be looking for from that perspective?

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Well, I thought that was a really interesting discussion with Mr. Kitt in regards to this. And I think it was -- I believe it was either asked can you fully -- I don't want to maybe misquote you here -- but fully vet --

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Mitigate, yeah.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

-- every project, mitigate every project for environmental impacts. And I think it's -- history has shown us we clearly can't. I mean, one of my colleagues on the ferry is Director of Natural Resources from Mashomack, which is a nature conservancy part of Shelter Island. And he was instrumental in helping remove, I want to say, is it DDT from the environment here, which has pretty much killed all the ospreys off. And through his work, and he's humble about it, but him and many others, now the osprey population is, you know, blooming again. They're great. So was that use of the original chemical foreseen in the beginning? Probably not. You know, I don't think anybody in their right mind would want to do that but -- so there are unforeseen consequences. And, you know, I kind of also go back to what I said earlier, not being an environmental specialist, I don't look at something and say, okay, I've got that answer for you, but I would do my best to try and find those people that could help me get those answers.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you. This Committee, you know, has three focuses: Environment, Planning -- I guess you're with Plan -- and Agriculture. So, you know, we really hope that coming through this

2/1/2016 EPA Committee

committee, you know, we here would be approving, you know, relying on you to, you know, to pick up that torch and really protect the people of Suffolk County when it comes to the environment. So, thank you for your willingness to serve. With that, I look to -- I know Legislator Fleming?

**LEG. FLEMING:**

I offer a motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

We have a motion to approve.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Seconded by Legislator Krupski. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEG. MURATORE NOT PRESENT)** You're approved. And you don't need to attend the General Meeting.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

But a week from Wednesday would be a good idea, probably, right?

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

A week from Tuesday. It's Tuesday; this coming Tuesday.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

I mean the first Commission --

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

The first Commission meeting, yes, yes. Yeah, that's the one.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

Thank you for your time today.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you for your willingness to serve.

**MR. MOREHEAD:**

It's an honor. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

I'm going to turn to Legislator Krupski because he had a little piece of business he'd like to --

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you. Just to give everyone an FYI, there's a parcel in Jamesport that's going to be coming in for preservation, farmland preservation. It's 24 acres of -- I'm sorry -- 34 acres of farmland. And on the front on the Main Road, there's ten acres of commercial. And the applicant's willing to come in to preserve the whole parcel as farmland. It's an important piece in Jamesport. It's right in the hamlet there.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

So you're giving us a heads up you're going to lay something on the table?

2/1/2016 EPA Committee

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Heads up.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

So the second one is a much more standard farmland development rights, an application for 30 acres. It's surrounded by active farmland. It's pretty -- I mean, it's very desirable because it's currently farmed. The same owner has five building lots that were subdivided off of -- they're currently farmed. They were cut off on a previous subdivision when he sold development rights on the farm. He'd like to bring those five lots in for a preservation also instead of having those built. And he also has a parcel, some 120 acres that he'd like to do a preserved farmland.

And if you'd like to take afterwards, after the Committee meeting, take a look at the survey, he'd like to do a minor subdivision there and take a parcel behind a barn and separate that, basically cut the parcel down in size. But that's already preserved, though. And that wouldn't require, you know, purchase of development rights. That's already -- that's already been done.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

He already has an easement on the property.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

We'll look forward to your pieces of legislation supporting the steps.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you for bringing it to our attention.

Okay. With no further -- no further business, we are adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 11:41 AM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**