

**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 at the Evans K. Griffing County Center in the Maxine Postal Legislative Auditorium, 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York on August 29, 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  
Lora Gellerstein, Chief of Staff/Legislature  
Amy Ellis, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature  
Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office  
Katie Horst, County Executive's Office  
Sarah Lansdale, Director/Department of Planning  
Lauretta Fischer, Department of Planning  
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  
Michael J. Domino, Trustee/Town of Southampton  
Nick Krupski, Trustee/Town of Southampton  
Ed Romaine, Supervisor/Town of Brookhaven  
Gail Lynch Bailey  
Herb Strobel  
Jessica Anson, LI Farm Bureau  
Dan Gilrein, Entomologist/Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Frank DeRubeis, appointee/CEQ  
Courtney Blasi  
Barry Udelson  
Gail Lynder Bailey  
Paul Infranco  
Jessica Anson  
Tom Harrison  
Rodney Anderson, Town of Riverhead  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Alison Mahoney, Court Stenographer

**MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:18 AM**

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Welcome everyone to the Legislature's Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee. If we could all rise for a salute to the flag led by Legislator Anker.

**SALUTATION**

Okay, we're going to begin with the Public Portion. Speakers have three minutes when they come up to the podium. And we have cards here. Michael J. Domino followed by Nick Krupski.

**MR. DOMINO:**

Good morning.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Good morning.

**MR. DOMINO:**

My name is Michael J. Domino. I'm Vice President of the Southold Town Board of Trustees. I'm here with fellow Trustee Nick Krupski to support this Living Shorelines Demonstration Project. We've discussed this numerous times at work sessions. We see three components to the system: Dense substrate, which consists of core logs; coconut fiber that Southold Town is supplying; possibly corn stalks or deg phragmites systems will be used in the -- in the future available as an inexpensive natural product; a natural carbon source --

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Yeah. If you could just --

**MR. DOMINO:**

I'm sorry.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

-- speak in -- like, yes, hold the mike a little closer that will help us. We're straining here because the air-conditioner is very loud.

**MR. DOMINO:**

I'm more used to being on that side of the dais. I'm sorry. The substrate would be a natural carbon source and provide structure and nutrient functions available to combine with the nitrogen in the water during its assimilation (sic) and colonization.

The second component is the living plant component, which would be the spartina alterniflora that promotes stabilization through the growth of its root mass, providing strength and structure and providing colonization by many other beneficial marina organisms.

And third and last, the living component will be the bank of the black mussels species dependent upon the salinity for the site selected. The mussels byssal threads intertwine with the spartina roots and promote rapid growth of root rhizome complex that places the assimilated core logs so straight over time and it becomes a natural biota.

Lastly, the water quality component is important to us. We see some -- we hope for some nitrogen uptake just from the dead carbonaceous substrate. We see nitrogen uptake and all the benefits associated with actively growing marine grass, the spartina alterniflora. We see filter feeding by mussels removing algae and bacteria as well as the byssal threads trapping sediment.

8/29/2016 EPA Committee

And, lastly, you see seashore line -- cost effective shoreline stabilization and less siltation from storms, boat prop wash and boat waste, etcetera. So in short we support this project. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you very much. Next we have Nick Krupski followed by Ed Romaine.

**MR. KRUPSKI:**

Good morning.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Good morning.

**MR. KRUPSKI:**

Nick Krupski, Southold Town Trustee. I'm here in support of the Living Shorelines Project. Trustee Domino covered a lot of it, but a couple of things that I'd like to touch on are, this is probably a project that should have been done ten years ago because this is a great source of -- us as trustees, we can bring people down there and we can show them the different -- different ways that you can protect the shoreline. This is going to be the first Living Shoreline Project in Suffolk County and we can use this as a prototype going forward, which is completely crucial because, as you know, if we go to bulkheads, we lose that whole area of the environment, that really crucial niche.

And, furthermore, I've been speaking with some people at DEC, they already have people asking if they can get the mussels for their shoreline project restorations. So it's already on citizens' radars. This is something that we can really use going forward. I've worked with the Cornell folks in the past. They really know what they're doing with the spawning. And they're going to be able to bring this whole thing together. And it is really important the removal of nitrogen and bacteria compared to a bulkhead where you're just going to get it falling out into the Bay.

And so we're here in support of this. If you have any questions, feel free to ask. And also I was wondering if you wanted us to stay till the end for the vote.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Well, certainly if anyone has any questions? I don't --

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Can we take it out of order so if there are any questions?

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Sure, we can take it out of order after the presentation if you -- but if you'd like to stay, we welcome that, of course. Thank you.

**MR. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Ed Romaine followed by Gail Lynch-Bailey. Welcome, Supervisor.

**SUPERVISOR ROMAINE:**

Welcome. And thank you. It's good to be back here. I spent many years here. I still remember that last seat that I sat in both in the '80s and more recently.

I'm actually here about two resolutions being sponsored by Legislator Anker: 1756 and 1757. They deal with the old Kmart property. They're two separate resolutions. The Kmart property has about

## 8/29/2016 EPA Committee

21 acres that -- of the old facility before it was knocked down of what's left of the parking lot area, etcetera, that we're looking to use for active recreation.

And the other resolution deals with 28 acres, which is the northern part of the property, which is heavily, heavily wooded, which would stay as open space.

So these two resolutions talk about two different uses for these properties. Legislator Anker came to me and said, you know, *I'm interested in doing this, I'd like to build a park.* We have a park -- and we have many, many excellent parks in Brookhaven Town, but one of them is The Wedge in Mount Sinai. And I've said that I'd like to see other communities have wedge-like parks, which is a public/private partnership and this is what this would be.

And I told Sarah the County buys it, the Town will build it. Obviously not the open space. The open space will remain as open space, but the 21 acres of active recreation, the Town will build several fields: Baseball fields, soccer fields, multi-purpose fields, probably a running track, a walking track, some other playground, some other things of that nature, very similar to The Wedge. We would build it.

And then the Longwood Youth Sports Association would maintain it. The Town would not maintain it.

We currently do maintain The Wedge. We are not interested in taking on any more maintenance. But we would be willing to build it. And it would be built over several years, much like we're doing with Selden for those -- for that area, we're building several sports fields on County-purchased property, the Grace Presbyterian Church. And over the next 2 or 3 years, I think, we're building 6 or 7 fields over there. We would do the same here.

And I'd be happy to entertain any questions. Obviously we support this effort. We believe this will provide greater recreation for the people in the Middle Island area, Yaphank area, Coram area, from all around, this would be a great facility. It would be great for the sports organizations to have places. There's never enough playing fields. We're happy to address that need. We're happy to make a capital expense out of this. Again, we support Legislator Anker's initiative to begin the acquisition process, which I understand starts with an appraisal. Any questions?

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Anker. Just in time, that was three minutes.

### **LEG. ANKER:**

I just wanted to thank you also for working with, you know, with my office, with the County, with the sports association, the civic association. You know, this has been a long time coming. And, you know, having Mr. Bove in my office, the head of Youth Sports Association, he was almost in tears because this is -- you know, we're calling it the Field of Dreams. And you are now helping us get to that point and I can't thank you enough.

### **SUPERVISOR ROMAINE:**

Thank you. I understand the legislative process. I understand that this will be a heavy lift, particularly with the money involved. So while I'm not holding my breath, we're nevertheless loud whispers from the sideline cheering you on. Good luck.

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you, Supervisor. Gail Lynch-Bailey is next with Herb Strobel on deck.

### **MS. LYNCH-BAILEY:**

Good morning, everyone. Gail Lynch-Bailey from the Middle Island Civic Association. Basically

## 8/29/2016 EPA Committee

here to echo the comments by the Supervisor. So wonderful that he came this morning to speak on behalf of these resolutions.

As has been explained, the northern portion, the larger portion will be retained as open space, which everyone is very excited about. That's the buzz word, open space, everybody's -- there's always money for that.

The lower portion, on the other hand, the 21 active acres of parkland, that's the stuff we really need you to help us with, not only at this first basic step authorizing the appraisal at the committee level, but then going to the full Legislature for the authorization of that part and then eventually the acquisition itself. So I hope to see you -- many of you and many more of you on a regular basis as we work towards the final, final resolution to build the Field of Dreams, as Legislator Anker mentioned. That's very important.

The Longwood Youth Sports Association has been searching for fields of their own since the mid-1990s. They tried at one point to build out at Fireman's Field out in Ridge and were knocked down by the very first Pine Barrens lawsuit many years ago. So we've still been -- we're like, you know, the wanderers. And we're committed to finding a home at long last for LISA. And we're thrilled that the Town has committed to building that. So that's really great news.

I would also add that it seems like this is Middle Island's Day before this Committee because right after that, you're also undertaking resolution 1763, which is about County Road 21 right by the middle school, the Longwood Middle School in Middle Island. This is a very dangerous road, County Road 21 where we've been working with the Traffic Safety Commission and DPW to lower the speed, reduce the number of sand trucks on that area. So this is a very important safety project, an improvement project that we hope you also will make happen for all of us in Middle Island and Longwood. Thank you so much.

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you very much. Next we have Herb Strobel.

### **MR. STROBEL:**

Good morning. My name is Herb Strobel. I'm a resident and farmer in Center Moriches. I'm here in support of resolution 1740, which would appoint Rodney Anderson to the County Planning Commission. I'm fully in support of that resolution.

Rodney would provide -- would bring a different perspective to the County Planning Commission. He is a farmer. He comes from a long line of farmers on both sides of his family going back multiple generations here in Riverhead. He's also very involved with the Long Island Farm Bureau. He knows the issues that -- certainly from an agricultural perspective; then also from a development perspective as well because he's involved with Riverhead Town Farmland Preservation Committee.

And I think it's really important given the fact that the County still has almost thirty-five, 36,000 acres of farmland that there be some sort of representation on the Planning Commission with respect to agriculture because it is such an important industry both directly as well as indirectly. It obviously contributes a lot to our tourism. And I certainly think that the Planning Commission deserves to have this sort of expertise on it that Rodney would bring to that body. So I certainly would appreciate you folks considering that and moving that forward to the full Legislature. Thank you very much.

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you.

## 8/29/2016 EPA Committee

Okay, a couple of things. We have an excused absence today from Legislator Muratore. And I also wanted to take the appointments out of order. There are folks in the audience who are waiting to be appointed to some committee. So we're just going to quickly deal with those before the presentation.

### INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

The first one I'll make a motion to take out of order -- is Connie here? **1691, Appointing a member to the Council on Environmental Quality (Frank DeRubeis). (Calarco).**

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Second.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So we need a second on that. Seconded by Legislator Fleming. On the motion. Good morning.

**MR. DeRUBEIS:**

Good morning.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you very much for being here and for your willingness to serve on the committee -- the council. If you could please just tell us a little bit about yourself and why you would like to serve.

**MR. DeRUBEIS:**

Good morning. My name is Frank DeRubeis. I'm the candidate that you are considering this morning. By way of background, I've been a municipal planner since 1973; worked on both the town level and the county level. Mostly -- many of you may be familiar with the fact that I was the Planning Director for the Town of Smithtown from 1985 to 2014. My concern -- and the reason why I would like this appointment is that I'm still interested in the community. Planning is one of those activities that you undertake because you're interested in the future of your community. And certainly this is an important committee to be considered for those types of activities.

I would like to take note that I approach the environment from a planner's perspective, which is really one of multiple views on the environment and concerning both the issue of preventive actions, such as conservation, but also things like restoration. And I'm very much into when I was the Planning Director on the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, which is really a coastal preservation program, which is relatively comprehensive, includes both the environmental aspects as well as the development aspects of approaching something. And I generally tend to view most environmental issues from a planner's perspective, which is really a comprehensive type of look given the fact that you have a limitation that will basically be by introduction.

I'll be happy to answer any questions from any of the Legislators on this.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Fleming.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

I didn't expect to make this comment, but I have to say, I'm Bridget Fleming, I served on the Southampton Town Board for six years when we were working to get our LWRP across the finish line. And Janis {Shearer} who used to work for you was a great partner. And we used the Smithtown LWRP repeatedly. We held it in high regard and really talked about how helpful having that LWRP in place was in terms of protecting the environment, especially when you, you know, have conflicts in planning between the environmental resources and development.

8/29/2016 EPA Committee

So thank you for your leadership on that. I didn't realize you'd be here this morning to thank, but I appreciate it.

**MR. DeRUBEIS:**

Well, very much, Legislator. But I regret the fact that Southampton stole Janis from me. She was a very talented person and I miss her very much when I was Planning Director.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Any other questions? Seeing none, I will make a motion to approve.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Second by Legislator Krupski. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1691 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR MURATORE NOT PRESENT)** It will now go before the full Legislature, but you do not need to be present at that meeting.

**MR. DeRUBEIS:**

Thank you very much for your consideration.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you.

Next I'm going to make a motion to take out of order **Introductory Resolution 1740, To appoint member of the Suffolk County Planning Commission Rodney Anderson. (Co. Exec.)**

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Second to take out of order by Legislator Krupski. All those in favor of taking this out of order? Opposed? Abstentions? 1740 is before us.

I'm assuming you're Rodney Anderson. Welcome.

**MR. ANDERSON:**

That's what my ID says.

**(Laughter)**

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

So as we just had with the candidate previously, if you could just tell us a little bit about yourself and why you'd like to serve on this Commission.

**MR. ANDERSON:**

All right. Um, well, Herb kind of did a lot of background as to things go. I've been very heavily involved with Long Island Farm Bureau for quite sometime. Ravi, Jessica might know how long. It's been 15, 20 years. I have a pretty good background on a lot of what goes on with things. I've also been on a -- State Director for New York State Farm Bureau. Obviously that keeps us involved in a lot of what goes on politically and what goes on with things.

As Herb said, I have a background in it, two sides of the family; my mother's and father's both;

three-generations on my father's; my mother's I honestly couldn't tell you, it's five, maybe, I'm not sure. Like I said, I have a basic idea of what's going on with a lot of things. Been through some discussions with a few people asking me to get involved with this so I want to give it a shot.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Excellent. Do we have any questions? Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

What kind of farmer are you?

**MR. ANDERSON:**

Well, we do fresh vegetables at my parents' place. Actually my background, my education background is in greenhouse production. And I also do a nursery of my own on the side; a very small nursery that's starting up so --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Where's it at?

**MR. ANDERSON:**

My parents' place is in Riverhead; based in Riverhead, Anderson Farms, right on 58, farmstand. And I bought my grandparents' property in Aquebogue where I'm starting to grow some nursery stock and do things along those lines. I worked for a few nurseries, too, here, Pennsylvania, a couple of different places beforehand. It's 20 years ago, but a little bit of that. And on the subject quite -- I'm not going to say knowledgeable but I have a pretty good idea, my cousin, my uncle are fishermen. And, of course, the Farm Bureau got a pretty good idea on what goes on with just about any kind of crop around here; got a little bit of a background on a lot of that between this and New York Farm Bureau, so.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

So what do you think about preserving farms in the western portion of Suffolk County?

**MR. ANDERSON:**

A lot of it's going to depend on the situation. I mean, if you're in an area that's conducive to that, then you can work with it. There's not many --- as far as I know, not many pieces of land left. But if the opportunity is there, it's always good, even if it's not so much as -- it depends on what a farmer is doing with -- you can preserve farmland but if you don't -- if things aren't done to help preserve the farmer, then a lot of times it's not worth the effort. It's a whole picture. You need to do the whole picture at one time. So even if you're, like you say, western part of the Island, however it works, as long as things are conducive for that farmer to survive and to work things -- usually it's like with a retail farm stand, something like that, then it's worth it because most people want to have that area that (inaudible) --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I've sat here over the past three years and I've watched all this land being purchased out east and almost nothing in the western part. And a lot of that money comes from that quarter cent sales tax, comes from the western part. And I don't think that the west end has gotten a fair shake, you know, whether it be the south shore, the north shore, whatever. And, you know, I continually vote for these things. And it's starting to get a little old, that all we do is buy east-end properties and not west-end properties.

**MR. ANDERSON:**

Okay, I'm not involved in that committee or that group so I couldn't really tell you directly to that.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

All right, thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

I have to ask you first, you said you're five-generations on your mother's side. What was your mother's maiden name?

**MR. ANDERSON:**

Fluen.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Just want to make sure we're not related. Thank you.

(Laughter)

**MR. ANDERSON:**

You never know.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

That's true.

(Laughter)

I just want to thank you for your willingness because you look at the history of Suffolk County how important agriculture was, you know, you go to the courthouse here in Riverhead and you see what's above the courthouse carved in stone, and it's an agricultural scene. I mean -- and agriculture's really the foundation of our economy out here on the east end. And our symbol here is a plow. And the seal of the County is a bull; really strong agricultural symbols. And to have your, you know, your experience and your input on something as important as the Planning Commission is going to be very valuable. So I just want to thank you for -- and I don't look like it today, but I do know how hard it is to take time out from a farming operation and so I appreciate that.

**MR. ANDERSON:**

No problem.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Anker.

**LEG. ANKER:**

I also wanted to thank you, you know, because it is a commitment. And I'm just curious as far as experience in actual planning, have you participated in maybe safe street projects or urban projects that, you know, you might be able to tell us about?

**MR. ANDERSON:**

Not so much particularly, no, not with, you know, local government. Again, I'm on a farmland select committee for Riverhead; so involved with some of that for a few years now. And some of these things -- any group you're involved in, even Farm Bureau, any group, as yourselves know, it takes you a year or two to really understand in depth of what's going on anyhow. But, no, as far as that goes, not really, I've never been involved in any committees with that.

**LEG. ANKER:**

So I'm assuming you'll be learning as you do your --

**MR. ANDERSON:**

Absolutely.

**LEG. ANKER:**

-- you know, your work there. And, you know, we've got some wonderful people in our County, Sarah Lansdale --

**MR. ANDERSON:**

Sarah, (inaudible) support, yep.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Lauretta.

**MR. ANDERSON:**

Yep.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Right, right. So I'm assuming if you do need some information, we can get you guys together and, again, go over some of these amazing projects that we're working on throughout Suffolk.

**MR. ANDERSON:**

Absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Any other questions? Comments? Thank you. I would also like to add my thanks to your willingness to serve and your willingness to take time out to be here.

We now need a motion. Legislator Krupski, I'm assuming you want to make that motion?

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Motion by Legislator Krupski; seconded by Legislator Fleming. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1740 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR MURATORE NOT PRESENT).**

Mr. Anderson, as I said before, this now has to go before the full Legislature, but you do not need to come here that day. Thank you very much.

I'm going to also make one more motion to take out of order **IR 1766, Appointing member to the Council on Environmental Quality Michael Doall. (Krupski)**. I make that motion. I need a second.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Second by Legislator Krupski. All those in favor of taking it out of order? Opposed? Abstentions? 1766 is before us. You can come forward to the podium. Thank you.

**MR. DOALL:**

Good morning, everybody.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Same thing, you might want to lift that -- yes, just if you could tell us a little bit about yourself and why you'd like to serve.

**MR. DOALL:**

Well, I'm born and raised on Long Island. And I love this place, particularly the marine environment. I went to school at Stony Brook for marine biology. I continued to work at Stony Brook for about 20 years until I started my own company in Montauk, Montauk Shellfish Company. I have an oyster farm. So I have 30 years' experience working in the marine environment in particular. This type of environment, policy and planning, I'm a little bit out of my comfort zone, but the reason I want to participate is I want to use my 30 years of experience to try to help make, you know, more informed decisionmaking. That's about it.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Do we have any questions? Legislator Anker.

**LEG. ANKER:**

And, again, I also want to thank you for taking your time and working with the County on these very important issues. And I notice that -- I think you're my constituent; you're Rocky Point?

**MR. DOALL:**

Yes.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Well, that's good to hear. We have a lot of work over there particularly in Mount Sinai Harbor, a lot of work's being done. The coastal erosion, north shore coastal erosion issue is always an issue so I'm looking forward to working with you. Thanks.

**MR. DOALL:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Could you just briefly describe the, you know, the nature of your operation now?

**MR. DOALL:**

I have a oyster farm and so primarily farm-raise oysters. And then the other end of the business is the distribution end. So we distribute our oysters as well as some other local shellfish products through New York City and also the east end of Long Island.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you. Legislator Fleming.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Just a quick comment, thank you very much particularly for everything you do in Montauk and the

8/29/2016 EPA Committee

business out there. I'm so glad to see that as we push for economic development, the marine industries are really the ones that we're looking toward along with local -- locally-sourced foods to really grow our economy. And I think you're a big part of that. And when you say you're out of your comfort zone in terms of the CEQ, I have to say the comfort zone that makes sense to you as a business person and as someone who makes a living off the -- off our waters, I think, that's exactly the kind of focus that CEQ should have. So I hope you're going to find that it actually is something that draws on the experiences that you bring to the table and I appreciate your service.

**MR. DOALL:**

Thank you. Yep, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Thank you. We have -- I'm going to make -- I'll have Legislator Krupski make a motion.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Motion.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

To approve. And seconded by Legislator Fleming. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?  
**1766 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR MURATORE NOT PRESENT)**

As I said earlier, it now has to go before the full Legislature to be voted on, but you do not need to attend the full legislative session. Thank you very much.

**MR. DOALL:**

Thank you. Thank you everybody.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay, we're going to take one more out of order. And I apologize to the presenters. I'll make a motion to take **Introductory Resolution 1703, Amending the Adopted 2016 Operating Budget to transfer funds from Fund 477 Water Quality Protection, amending the 2016 Capital Budget and Program, and appropriating funds in connection with a Living Shoreline Demonstration Project within the Town of Southold (CP 8710.417). (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion to take that out of order; seconded by Legislator Krupski. All those in favor of taking it out of order? Opposed? Abstentions? 1703 is before us. Legislator Krupski makes a motion to approve; seconded by Legislator Fleming. On the motion, if we want to bring forward -- is Frank here or someone from -- Director Lansdale. Welcome.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Good morning.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

Good morning.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. You want to tell us just a little bit about this. I know it was approved by the Water Quality Committee.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

Yes, it was approved by the Water Quality Committee. This is for \$58,000 in 477 funding for the Town of Southold in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County; specifically a living shoreline will be created at the Suffolk County Marine Environmental Learning Center on Southold Town trustee land. The demonstration site will be located on a canal connected to an embayment within the Peconic Estuary. Up to 60 meters of this living shoreline will be planted with spartina plants and rib mussels that will be propagated at Cornell Cooperative Extension's marine laboratories.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Excellent. Do we have any questions? Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

How many feet?

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

Sixty meters.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Sixty meters.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

U-hum.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Ninety yards, is that? So we're spending \$120,000 for 90 yards?

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

It's 58,000 --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Is it matched by the Town?

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

There's a match, that's right.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

It's \$10,000 a -- for ten yards?

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

Yes, I can bring up members of Cornell Cooperative Extension to talk about the budget details.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Excellent. Thank you.

**MR. UDELSON:**

How you doing? My name is Barry Udelson.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Yes, speak right into the -- lift that mike up and identify your name and title.

**MR. UDELSON:**

My name is Barry Udelson. I'm a Marine Resources Specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

To address your question specifically with the budget, the hatchery involvement of producing the rib mussels, which is currently a very new novel procedure, it has been worked a little bit with in Haskin Laboratory down in New Jersey and in Martha's Vineyard. So far these are the only two places other than us that have successfully spawned the rib mussels. They are -- I don't want to overwhelm you with hatchery details, but they are a very novel species and they are very different from the oyster and clam that have been so widely used in the past. And so the labor involved in that has unfortunately part of that, but also the time to grow, because we're growing the spartina ourselves in the hatchery -- not in the hatchery, in the greenhouse, all of that labor is kind of where --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

So it's not -- it's not the planting that's the bulk of it. It's the --

**MR. UDELSON:**

It's everything behind that, yeah. The planting itself with numerous of our employees, the actual labor of that won't be -- but it's the monitoring involved and then there's all of the --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Is this going on currently?

**MR. UDELSON:**

There has been -- not specifically to this, but we have been working on small, like, pilot scaled aspects of it so that we were better, you know -- this has been something we've been wanting to work on regardless. And then when this opportunity came up to apply for this was when we finally jumped on it.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

So you're going to plant the grass and then the mussels in the grass.

**MR. UDELSON:**

The mussels will be applied in various ways. We're trying to look to find the most applicable material to put them on, whether that's burlap material or the spartina plants themselves, or even other species of algae. As you may know, the rib mussels attach with byssal threads. So the idea would be if we could find what is the most appropriate material to basically act as a vehicle so we could transplant this material with the mussels on them to various sites. Now we're doing this at our lab first so that it's obviously easier.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

What's there now at this 60 yards; what's there?

**MR. UDELSON:**

Currently nothing. It used -- you could see where there's a break in the spartina from where it used to be. And the bank at this current moment is mostly barren. But based on elevation, and we had put together a diagram of this, you could actually see the break in the spartina where it used to exist there.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

So you're going to try to re -- are you concerned with -- I just read recently that all the mussels washed up. That was on the Sound side, though, right? The Sound? Was it in Jamesport?

**MR. UDELSON:**

I'm not aware.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

It was a huge mussel -- it was in the paper.

**MR. UDELSON:**

Those were blue mussels. So the rib mussels are specific to --

**LEG. TROTTA:**

These are the freshwater rib mussels, you're talking about?

**MR. UDELSON:**

Well, they're not freshwater.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

Well, they're like -- we used to call them freshwater. They have ribs on them.

**MR. UDELSON:**

Yes, yes, but they are specific to the marsh. And they actually -- with their byssal threads, they help bind the sediment. And they're actually better filters. They can filter out smaller particles than oysters, which is a big reason why we're looking to do this. Because in closed water bodies, you're not allowed to be putting oysters and other commercial species; whereas the rib mussels are considered a nonedible species. At this time we can put a filter feeder into closed areas, which would help.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

They're not edible?

**MR. UDELSON:**

They're considered non-edibles.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

Really? Okay, thanks.

**MR. UDELSON:**

Any other questions?

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Fleming.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Could I just ask you, I'm -- this is fantastic and I'm not familiar with the project. But the spartina, is there a relationship to seagrass or, you know, which is -- eelgrass is a species of sea -- or a genus of seagrass? I'm not sure, but what is the relationship between spartina and seagrass, that a lot of people have been focused on how to get seagrass to take and stay, which is something that's so critically important to marine life throughout the estuary system. I'm wondering if there's any lessons that could be learned from whether or not this project is successful that would then be able to be applied in other areas where we're trying to do larger scale, for instance, eelgrass or other seagrass planting to try to improve the quality of bay water.

**MR. UDELSON:**

So unfortunately the spartina and the eelgrass are not truly related. They're both flowering species of grass, but they're submerged aquatic vegetation such as eelgrass or ruppia. What we would be learning in this wouldn't necessarily parallel; however, by being able to do this successfully, we would be enhancing water quality in other places, which could subsequently lead to other areas

## 8/29/2016 EPA Committee

being able to possibly handle eelgrass restoration. And if it helps the group that does the eelgrass restoration, which I was once part of as well, is currently the one leading this project as well. So all the knowledge would be gained and kept in the same group there.

### **LEG. FLEMING:**

Yeah, I really appreciate it. I have to say I really appreciate that our Economic Development divisions off -- you know, the focus on this kind of varied approach to all the different ways to enhance the ecosystem, you know, they're ecosystems and there are so many moving parts that are inter-related, it's fantastic that Cornell and Suffolk County have been partnered in such a way that you're looking for these innovative ways to approach what is just a living system and has to be dealt with in that way. So thank you very much for your efforts and I applaud, Sarah, your efforts on that -- in that area as well. Thank you.

### **MR. UDELSON:**

Thank you.

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Anker.

### **LEG. ANKER:**

I just have a real quick statement. You can't fight Mother Nature. You have to work with Mother Nature. And that's exactly what you're doing. And I also am very happy to hear that you're working with native species. And I think that will -- I think we're going to see a great improvement with that. And I wish, again, we had done that before. But like I said, you have to work with our natural environment. And I thank you.

### **MR. UDELSON:**

Thank you.

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you. I think we -- do we have a motion? We need a motion. Okay, motion by Legislator Krupski; second by Legislator Fleming. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1703 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR MURATORE NOT PRESENT)**

## **POWER POINT PRESENTATION**

Okay, we have a presentation on the agenda. Dan Gilrein will be presenting an update on Cornell Cooperative Extension's Entomology Program.

### **MR. GILREIN:**

Apologies to anybody behind me there. My name is Dan Gilrein. I'm the entomologist with Cornell. I work with insects. I've been in this position for about the past 28 years or so. And I'm really delighted to speak to you today. Thank you for having me talk -- tell you a little bit about what's going on with the entomology programs. It's pretty exciting.

What brings me to my position is really a protection of the environment. There's concern about pesticides in groundwater and surface water. And that has a lot to do with the kind of work that I do and the projects that I take on.

I don't know if some of you saw, but in a recent addition of the Suffolk Times, an east end farmer, Tom Wickam, was lauded for the -- receiving the Agriculture Environmental Management Award, the first time any such award has been awarded to anybody, any grower on Long Island. Part of the reason he won this award was his participation in our program, the entomology program. And I

want to give a shout out to our Ag Stewardship Program and my associate Faruque Zaman, who have been instrumental in working with Tom on his implementation of this mating disruption that we're going to talk about here.

So I want to talk about sex. I'll also want to talk about insects. And this is always an interesting topic to get into. Mating disruption is an interesting aspect, some new technology that we have brought to Long Island for the benefit of growers. And it's really kind of taken off in its own way. As many of you know, the only thing worse than finding a worm in an apple is?

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Finding half a worm.

**MR. GILREIN:**

Half a worm, yes, exactly. So, of course, we work with growers who understand that their consumers do not tolerate insect infestation in produce. It's viewed as a contamination, they can't sell it. So we have to help growers produce to a standard that -- in which they can make money and make a living. We work with both organic growers as well as what used to be called conventional. I think that's really -- -- those definitions are becoming much more blurry at this point.

So one of the targets of these has been our fruit moth and codling moth in production of tree fruit: Apples and peaches and pears and so forth. Mating disruption is based on the fact that insects get together to mate based on chemical communication. The female moth gives off a chemical called a pheromone that lures the male in. They don't have places that they can get together except in the orchard. They don't have twitter and other -- others sorts of technology so they use chemical communication to do it. Their vision is not very good. But their sense of smell is extremely good; far, far better than ours. So the females will give off this chemical, this pheromone and will draw males in sometimes from miles -- miles away. So short distances works really well within an orchard.

These chemicals had been -- in some cases, they're very specific to the certain insects that you're targeting. And they have been synthesized, the ones for oriental fruit moth and codling moth. And we're using these -- versions of these pheromones to disrupt mating. So if you're just one little moth releasing a pheromone, you can lure a male in. But if you have this hormone that is saturating the orchard, you don't really know where the true source of the pheromone is coming from, and it can be almost anywhere. So you can't orient it to the lonely little female off in one corner that's emitting a pheromone and you're confused. So males end up very frustrated. The females end up non-mated with this strategy.

So the way we put out this pheromone is through little dispensers. You see this twist tie. It's a double tube, has a wire on one side and a chemical on the other. And the pheromone is inside that twist tie. And as I say, these only work for very specific sorts of insects; in this case we're going after oriental fruit moth with this particular tie. And on the lower right, you'll see that there's a pheromone trap. This is a trap loaded with a small dose of the pheromone. And we use that as a check to make sure that the disruption strategy is working. And when we fail to trap moths in the pheromone trap, then we have a pretty good idea that the strategy is working very well.

So this kind of a new technology needs some monitoring; it needs some assistance. It's not something you just go out and you just do, but you can do it with some help and encouragement and guidance. There's certain things you need to know about where to place the pheromone, how much -- how many you've put out and so forth. You can get it to work very, very well. We've had growers replace maybe spraying 3 to 8 times per season for oriental fruit moth with zero to two applications. They're also -- as part of this program, we're anxious that they use products that we

## 8/29/2016 EPA Committee

think are going to be more environmentally sound, less damaging to the biological controls, the natural enemies. And they made a huge change in selection of the products that they're using for control of these when they do need to do it. And sometimes you still need to come in. So there's been real great progress with the tree fruit growers. And this includes -- we have growers in Northport. We have them on the east end sort of -- there are places in between, so we've got growers wherever they are using this.

This is not only applicable to tree fruit. We have a program we're working with oriental beetle disruption, mating disruption in nurseries so the strategy is also available for this insect. We have nurseries in Melville. We have some out east that are working on this. And where this pest occurs, it's become a very, very popular strategy. So you can see in the container production nursery here, a big area. And you can get some pretty serious damage from oriental beetle, killing the roots of these plants. So the grubs of this particular beetle, which you know of as of a pest in turf grass, can also be a serious pest in container-grown plants. And you can see all the roots are chewed off on that particular plant there.

The oriental beetle, the target of this strategy is the one on the left in that center photo. You're probably familiar with the Japanese beetle. Oriental beetle is much, much more common but it's more insidious because it doesn't come out in the day time and feed on plants. But it's really, really abundant and it is the dominant core pest in our lawns and it is a serious pest, as I mentioned, in container-grown plants. So you can see some grubs at the base of one of the pots there.

So the dispensers that are used for pheromone mating disruption for this are a little different. They're on the upper right there and you can see these little bubbles that contain the pheromone. We put out a plot that looks kind of like this. This is, if you can imagine these are the houses in a container nursery, all those little stars are where we would put these pheromone bubbles. You attach them to the plants or you can attach them to the structure on these hoop houses. And you put it out in sort of a checkerboard pattern. And, again, when you saturate the area with these pheromones, the males can no longer find the females where they're coming from. And you can prevent mating and provide control. And this is a strategy that organic growers can use. This is a strategy conventional growers can use. And everybody that uses it and learns how to do it well really likes it. It's a great opportunity, I think.

And we had one -- this is just from one particular nursery, the figures of one case, we had really a high level of loses. They were losing about \$37,000 in azaleas one year alone and they were using a product that is known to be a contaminant groundwater, imidacloprid, to try to get control. And they weren't having a great deal of success. The cost of that was \$5500 just for that one particular situation. And with the mating disruption, their losses in azaleas have dropped to below 5%. And the cost for this has decreased by -- to less than half. So it's kind of a no-brainer. It does take some effort to make it work well but you can make it work well and we've been doing that.

Another -- besides the -- of course the concerns for groundwater and surface water that are driving a lot of what I do, I'm very concerned that we build in some kind of sustainability to our agriculture and our landscape horticulture system. So I'm working with people to make better selections of the products and the methods that they use to preserve the biological controls, which we know are out there. And we know they're out there because when you disrupt them, the pests come surging back in a very big way.

A lot of you think that maybe we're strictly involved with agriculture and it's an east end phenomenon, but that's really not true. I mentioned a particular apple orchard we worked with in Northport. This map shows you some of the horticulture businesses, the nurseries and greenhouse certified nurseries that -- some of which we work with very closely. We'll be visiting one in Dix Hills later this week. I work with Otto Keil. Of course they have office -- they have operations in

## 8/29/2016 EPA Committee

Huntington, elsewhere around the County.

This does not show you at all the arborists and landscape professionals that I work with, which dominate in the western part of Suffolk County so -- but we are -- not only with the Cornell Agricultural Program, I spend probably more than half of my time working with landscape specialist in -- and arborists in the western part of the County. And actually all over the County.

As I said, one of the main things that's driving what I do is concern for groundwater and the environment and surface water contamination. And this is a map. This came out from the DEC based on data from Suffolk County showing areas with imidacloprid in ground. You can see some of those are highlighted on this map. All those little dots are test wells. The good news is that imidacloprid detections have dropped substantially since 2006 from about 7% of wells with detections to 4.4. But the other part of that that's really good is that the highest levels in 2011 were about almost 13 parts per billion in there now. The highest levels are seeing a 2.2. So it really looks like the levels of this particular insecticide are dropping pretty dramatically and we really hope that that trend continues. This is an insecticide that is used, not just by farmers but it's also very widely used in the landscape industry, too. It's one of the main targets for a lot of work that I do.

Give you an example of that. You probably heard about southern pine beetle. This is a picture taken at Connetquot State Park. There was an absolutely enormous infestation, which probably many of you did not -- were not aware of because the Pines on the perimeter of the park largely were left un-attacked but about 70 to 80% of the Pines have been killed in the park. This infestation, which is really new to Long Island, it was never known in New York before a couple of years ago, we first reported this and worked with the park managers here on it, but it generated probably in the millions of beetles that then spread out to landscaped areas nearby. Bayard Cutting Arboretum to the south had had a serious concern. And as you know, they have a famous conifer collection and we wanted to work with them as well as with the arborists in that whole community so they understood the risk to the pines; also to the Norway spruces in the area around.

As you know, as you can get some very valuable trees, and we saw trees being attacked all the way up towards Oyster Bay, Huntington, all the way -- all over the western part of the County in particular probably with beetles that came from the Connetquot infestation. And this is a sign of attack that you can see these beetles that are brought in there. I can't tell you how many -- probably hundreds of inquiries I've had about this from arborists and landscape professionals who want to know what to do, should they use imidacloprid as a systemic insecticide drench with this work? And the answer's no, but people were ready to pull that trigger.

So a lot of cases I'm trying to help people not do and not use material like this when they don't need to and it won't be effective, when there certainly are other choices and things that they should be doing. So that took a major educational effort on our part. And I'm proud to say that I think it worked very well. I think people got onto this very early before it became a disaster in landscapes. Another case where imidacloprid is widely used as a pesticide for control of hemlock woolly adelgid. And this is an extremely valuable specimen. You can't go re-plant with hemlocks like this as you want. But this is actually of Bayard Arboretum. And they had -- use a horticultural as an alternative to imidacloprid, which we recommend very often. But this was applied in the fall. And as you can see, they had some injury as a result. So we worked with them and said you really need to apply that in the springtime to get very good control. So we work with them, just to give you an example of the kind of thing we work with arborists. So if you're going to use alternatives, you need to know how to use them right and in the right way so you can not have injury like this. And the good news is that this was only a temporary injury. The plant looks perfectly normal today despite that happened before.

## 8/29/2016 EPA Committee

This is a case where you see a scale insect. And it's called white prunicola scale. We deal with arborists and landscapers all over the County from the Hamptons towards Huntington. This particular pest, a very serious one, on the right it's on a peach tree. This is from an orchard in the western part of the County. And the left is on privet. And this can cause serious dieback and it killed the plants that it goes on.

One of the standard practices that we've introduced is powerwashing for scale insects. Because a lot of people are wanting to use imidacloprid and other systematic insecticides and not getting very good results. And I said if you just go out there with a powerwasher or with your sprayer because you happen to have that in your hand and just use water and you're operating at 100, 150 PSI, you can take off a lot of these scale insects. Part of the reason that you need to do that is also because the scales build up to very high levels on top of one another. And you just cannot get control with anything in that case until you get them off. But people have found that just by powerwashing, you can remove the bulk of the population of scales and not even use an insecticide and get very good control. So, this is the kind of thing that created things that I do that I thought I would share with you a little bit.

So I was only given maybe about ten minutes. I have a few more, but I want to maybe allow time for questions, if you have any comments. If you want more, I can show you a few more examples of things that we do, but, ah, maybe that's good.

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Sure, a couple of more.

### **MR. GILREIN:**

A couple more things, okay, we'll talk a little bit more. Some of you know that we work with the 4-poster study. This was a project we had completed in -- basically in 2012, really, when we took the last data on this project. And it was done on the east end. This is a -- basically a baiting station for deer. And the deer is at a feed. You can see they're rubbing their head and ears on these rollers that are treated with a tickicide. This is the same tickicide that is being used as a broadcast-type spray in landscape very, very widely, all over Long Island. And ticks are becoming an increasing problem in the west end. We have a lot of problems with ticks now in the Huntington area, on Lloyd Harbor and Centerport. I get complaints from there now all the time.

So what we're trying to do is use this as host-targeted technology. It was proven to work, but we did the study to show that it actually performed as intended. It is now being used on Shelter Island and Fire Island. Connetquot State Park has used it. Northaven is also adopting this, too. I don't necessarily recommend this because it is expensive. There are some issues with it, but for individual communities it is an answer. It does provide very good control over a period of time if used well and used consistently. So I don't think there's any one answer to our tick problems, but this is a piece of that answer and something that we worked on to show that it would be effective and safe when used correctly. So there's just -- one of the reasons we have a lot of ticks is, of course, we have a lot of deer and that's largely responsible for the high tick population.

Just, again, a little bit on fruit orchards, we've had some growers that had very, very high loses in tree fruit. Up to 30% from this pest called plum curculio. You can see the little maggot inside the peach there on the right that's next to the pit. And you can see some of the early damage to apples there. And when you get that, the fruit tend to fall off. And they were using a material that is not very effective and not -- the timing was also not very good. So we worked with them to try to improve that. This is Laurie McBride with our stewardship program. And we were doing monitoring in the spring to help improve the timing for control of this particular pest. And also use a different material, something that is much more environmentally benign, much more effective, a little more expensive, too. But when you're losing 30%, that's pretty expensive, too. So we really turned that

situation around for actually a couple of different growers to make it better.

You might have heard of this new invasive pest, a spotted wing drosophila. This is not your grandparents' fruit fly. This is the fruit fly with fangs, I like to say. Because this one actually attacks fruit that are unripe or just at the beginning of ripening, not like the ones you've left on the counter for hours and hours. These are -- these will actually go after fruit before it's even ripe. And this is -- came into the area several years ago. We were the first ones to report it in the State of New York. And my associate Faruque has been working on this quite a bit to try to define what kind of a threat this is for us. We have a very valuable, of course, grape industry. And we have a lot of people with backyard tree fruit that are concerned. So we want to show that the most susceptible are the small fruit like raspberries and blueberries and you can see some of the maggots inside raspberry fruit there. And there's some on the outside of the fruit, you can see some damage going on there as well. But we're also able to show that grapes were not a host. And this is during the year when there were a tremendous amount of fruit flies in vineyards because of other damage, other disease problems going on. And there's a lot of confusion so people were very ready to go out and spray at a moment's notice because they were seeing a lot of fruit flies, but it was not this one that was causing the problem; so we were able to prevent people from spraying for something that wasn't going to work anyway and wasn't a problem.

This is a problem for some growers to the Bellport area. They were dealing with this. This is cabbage and it's being killed by cabbage maggot. This is a serious pest that's feeding on the roots of the plants. And we were working with them to manage it. You can see that there's a road cover over some newly planted plants here. And this totally excludes this particular pest without the use of an insecticide. The one insecticide we have for this, we'll probably be losing within the next couple of years so we need to find alternative strategies. And this is one that we've shown that does work very well. We have organic growers that are using this. This year we're also testing instead of this spun bonnet polyester, we're testing a netting-type fabric which will be better for air circulation, air movement and also light penetration. So we're continuing to refine this technology.

So that's a little more of what I had here. Just another new pest that we're dealing with, brown marmorated stinkbug. You can see the damage this caused. This is also an invading home pest. You have a lot of people with complaints about this coming into their homes. And when we heard about this being a serious problem in the mid-atlantic, we were geared up to deal with it here as well. And one of the things we've done is worked with some USDA and other researchers around the country to look at this new strategy for monitoring and detecting nests because you want to learn when this is on the move and when it's beginning to move into farm fields or other locations to time your control accordingly. So we've been working with that and evaluated new attractant and trap for this, and it seems to be working very, very well. So those are some of the -- I guess I'll end it there, but this is some of the things that we've been involved with and give you some idea of what the entomology program at Cornell has been up to.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Excellent. Thank you. We do have some questions.

**MR. GILREIN:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Anker.

**LEG. ANKER:**

This is really fascinating. And there's a couple of -- I have a couple of questions for you. So I have a number of small pets, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs, whatever. And I have a pet food. And I had a

moth issue, a lot of moths everywhere. And so I recently went out to Home Depot and got the moth traps. And, again, I researched, trying to figure out -- because I don't like, you know, a lot of chemicals, whatever, especially around the pets. And I found these moth traps worked so well, phenomenal, that yesterday I went to get more. Unfortunately I do have quite a few moths. So the question is following your presentation -- or following up with your presentation, can they -- can they, whoever they are, do the same thing for mosquitos and also for ticks?

**MR. GILREIN:**

Yeah, that's an interesting question. And I think that the moth you're dealing with is probably Indianmeal moth. And you're probably dealing with a fairly confined infestation, maybe you have that feed in one small spot. And what you're actually trapping with those traps are the males. Hopefully you're trapping them before they've had a chance to mate with any of the females, but that's not always a given. So you may continue to still have a problem; maybe a lower one or diminished one.

In the case of ticks, we don't really have a similar strategy unfortunately. I have talked about that maybe instead of using the tickicide on those rollers, using a pheromone that would disrupt the mating because mating of ticks goes on on the bodies of the deer. So could we possibly do that? So that's still in discussion. We don't -- there is some work on pheromones of ticks, not a lot yet. We need to know more about what that is and how that might work before we put that to work. But that's definitely on the entomology radar of something we'd like to look at.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Mosquitos? At what about mosquitos?

**MR. GILREIN:**

It probably would not work nearly as well with mosquitos. The mosquitos are moving very, very far from the breeding sites where they are. You'd probably have to saturate a very large neighborhood, get cooperation from many, many neighbors in this effort. And you do have Scott Campbell and {Elle Rockland} with the Vector -- who is also with Vector Control, Scott Wood, the Department of Health, you have two entomologists that work with mosquitos. And I know that we thought about this, too, but I don't think the strategy is probably -- is possible for mosquitos as it is for other some of these other pests.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Yeah, because you have the bug lights.

**MR. GILREIN:**

U-hum.

**LEG. ANKER:**

And they attract the mosquitos. You know, and that seems to work. So I'm thinking if they can do the same thing like they did with the moth traps, so basically they're little boxes and they have sticky stuff on them and they're attracted to the boxes and unfortunately, you know, they die, they stick to the box.

**MR. GILREIN:**

Yeah, yeah.

**LEG. ANKER:**

But, again, we're talking about Zika and Lyme's Disease --

**MR. GILREIN:**

Yes, yes.

**LEG. ANKER:**

And some horrible diseases. And we do need to find better ways of dealing with these insects.

**MR. GILREIN:**

I completely agree with you. And we -- entomologists, I think I can say, we go to sleep at night thinking of this and we wake up in the morning thinking about what we can do to make it better, to improve the situation.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Yeah, but -- and one other -- one other question. Speaking of the birds and the bees, I'm going to go with the bees and the butterflies. So I had proposed and actually passed a resolution to try to increase our native pollinators both the plants and also the insects. Because being part of the Soil and Water Conservation District Committee, we're hearing from our farmers that they have to import bees to pollinate their vegetables and fruits. What can be done, and, again, there's so many ideas of what's causing the devastation of bees and butterflies, but can you -- I know this is -- you can get into a other whole presentation about that, maybe another time, but is there a brief summary of what can be done to help prevent the devastation of those pollinators?

**MR. GILREIN:**

It's a good question. As you know, it's complicated. We have received a grant from USDA to work on this very issue. So we'll be starting that this fall and that'll be over the next five years or so. And it's part of a much larger group of people around the northeast that have been working on this, too. And there's others around the country that are also involved.

One way that I am trying to address that even today is just as I showed you with the plum curculio is to -- when you do need to control a pest like that, make a more thoughtful selection about what you're treating and your timing. So if you're not timing it right at bloom, for example, when the pollinators are present and active, that would be a good thing to do. And then when you need to choose something to control, try to choose something that is going to be -- have the least amount of impact on these pollinators that you need so importantly. Also we want to look and see what's going on in landscapes beyond just agriculture, what's the native habitats of these, is there ways we can, you know, improve the world for them and make it a friendlier place besides.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Yeah, I know Round-up has -- is phasing out certain chemicals that seem to be problematic with these pollinators. Again, whatever we can do to go away from those types of chemicals that basically affect all insects. My daughter, when she was younger, she did a science project about why did the lobsters die off? And they're actually part of the -- what insect world are they from? And the concern was, is it the pesticides washing into the water that's creating these issues of the lobster die-off? Any comments on that?

**MR. GILREIN:**

Yeah, I think we want to keep those things from being issues at all. I am interested in looking at all of these things in a much more ecological, sort of holistic way. Looking at it from the insect point of view or the other arthropods, from the lobster's point of view, what do we need to do to make their world a better place for the biological controls, for the lobsters that we do want, and it's -- more selectively, more surgically take out the ones that are causing problems with mosquitos and ticks. Plum curculio is the oriental fruit moths --

**LEG. ANKER:**

Right.

**MR. GILREIN:**

So that's how I -- that's how I look at it.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Yeah. And we appreciate your work with this. Suffolk County is known for its innovation and taking initiatives. And, I guess, I can speak for the Committee, we are truly in support of finding a new technology and new ideas to help with our farming community as well as our entire environment. Thank you.

**MR. GILREIN:**

And our landscape professionals, too. I work -- as I say, I work a great deal with them and it's a big part of my audience as well.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

And they're a huge industry.

**MR. GILREIN:**

Huge industry; huge industry, yes, indeed.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

I know Legislator Fleming and Legislator Krupski have questions as well. Legislator Fleming.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Hi, Dan. Very interesting as always. Thank you so much for coming in and just -- since you mentioned the 4-poster, I'm happy to report that this afternoon at Public Works, there's a bill to reestablish the

Tick Control Advisory Committee. I know you were very active and helpful in that. And I'm hoping you'll be able -- not putting you on the spot, we've talked about it, it would be great if you could be part of that again.

I just wanted to follow up on what you were just saying about the industry. We're going to be considering obviously funding for Cornell as we approach a very, very difficult budget cycle this year. But I know so much of what we -- the support that we get to from Cornell, sort of doubles and triples in value because of the work that you do. So could you talk just a little bit more about outreach to the industry, particularly with regard to something you said that was so interesting, that so many of these less -- or more benign practices, less impactful practices are at the same time more effective. And especially in my district, there are so many large estates where the clients just want it to look good. And if the industry knows methodology that's less environmentally impactful and more effective, because that's what the client wants, then we're -- you know, it's a win/win. So we're talking about water quality, we're talking about air quality. Airborne contaminants, we don't talk about much but certainly pesticides. Just tell us a little bit about Cornell's, the specifics of how you get, you know, the newsletter and all the things that you do to educate the industry.

**MR. GILREIN:**

U-hum, okay, sure thing, yeah. You can pretty much divide what I do into three categories: Would be diagnostic work; I get samples; I get cell phone images; I get calls people describing things, people sending in samples, people coming by the office.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Are these, then, landscapers who are doing that --

**MR. GILREIN:**

They are farmers, they are landscape professionals, they're arborists, they're people all over the Island. Now with the cell technology I have arborists calling me or sending me an image while they're scanning in front of their clients wanting an answer that second so they can talk to their clients. So there's a lot more of that going on now than ever before and it's going to increase.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

I don't know that everybody realizes, but I just wanted to make sure people know that Cornell pamphlets are kind of the go-to for a lot of people in the industry. And I think it has a very wide ranging impact because of it. Sorry to interrupt.

**MR. GILREIN:**

We have -- we have information certainly posted on our website. We need to do more of that, but we have fact sheets and other information in there. We have publications that we put out. I do articles. We have, as you mentioned, we have a fruit and vegetable update newsletter. I also write one called "Branching Out." It goes to the arborists and landscape professionals and actually all over the northeast. That's a very popular publication I contribute to.

And I do also presentations. I did probably, I would say, 50 presentations. I did 40 about this past winter, about 50 or so over the course of the year to landscape professionals, master gardeners, agriculture businesses, you name it, all of these. And we have a very active applied research program to try to solve problems, figure out solutions for things that are bugging people.

So let me give you one example of that. Arborvitae leafminer is a major, serious problem in both nurseries and in landscapes. This causes some pretty serious damage to arborvitae because it's widely used in landscape as a border hedge from the Hamptons to Huntington, everywhere across Long Island. And it's a great plant. It's tough but it has this one achilles heal. So we've done some trials to see what we could use to control it. One product that is used by both organic growers as well as so-called conventional is a fairly natural material called spinosad. And we needed to show that this material could work but it had to be timed fairly carefully. So we have done -- we've done two trials now. And others have done some work, too. It showed that this could work very, very well.

So last week I had a call from a landscape professional who was treating in a nursery in your district, by the way, using the organic version of this because the nursery wanted it to be organic. And he brought in samples. And we took a look at them last week to see what kind of effectiveness did he have. The infestation had been very, very severe last year. And this year it looks very, very low because he followed those guidelines. But we had the research to back it up. He was very careful about the timing and -- so there's a success story in that.

So that's the kind of thing that we do to try to solve those kinds of individual problems where people might be using imidacloprid or a product that is much more toxic or not so environmentally benign or there's health issues associated with it; to change that, turn it around into something that is -- you can manage and do more successfully with a much safer sort of approach. So that's an example.

And then we talk about at the meetings, we handle the samples, the identifications and confirm that that's what it is. So the whole thing comes full circle.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

I think it has a lot more impact than people realize and we appreciate your efforts.

**MR. GILREIN:**

Thank you. I'm not very good about tooting my own horn, I must admit. I like to be sort of quiet about it, but we're back there working with our landscape and other industries all the time.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

You know, I just have to -- I have to say that Dan's -- you know, Dan's work has been made a huge impact really in agriculture. And you gave a great presentation about how far reaching the County -- with the landscape work that you're doing, how important all that work is also. And I think Legislator Anker made a good point when she brought up the issue about the pollinators. Because your comment was that it's really a holistic approach because people think about honeybees, they think about pollinators and they, you know, they make the honey and we make the money. So they are the ones that are in the high profile pollinator. But there's so many others. And I see them out there all the time. They're so many other pollinators that are -- the natives, they're important.

**MR. GILREIN:**

Squash bees, for example, yep.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Sure.

**MR. GILREIN:**

So important here, yeah.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

And they -- they're doing an awful lot of work in the field and -- but your work is -- like you said, the holistic approach, you're providing habitat for all those native species. They need a place to live and reproduce and overwinter. And this year we've got hives -- someone has hives on one of our farms. And they said that's their best location. But because of your work, you know, we are very conscious of what we apply and when we apply it because you want those pollinators to have a chance to do their work. So thanks for all your work, Dan.

**MR. GILREIN:**

Thank you, u-huh.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. I know -- I can't remember how many years ago it was, but I did take a tour of Cornell's operations. And I was most fascinated when I saw -- you know, saw what you were doing with the pheromones and there's so much potential. What does it take -- I can imagine that it's very complex and that each insect has a different cycle and, you know, all kinds of important matrixes to be considering, different, you know, different timing and things. But can you talk a little bit to how difficult it is to go from one beetle to another beetle --

**MR. GILREIN:**

U-huh.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Like that each -- you'd have to -- new studies for each insect. Am I right in that it's not a simple -- oh, you know, pheromone blocking works so now we can use it on every insect out there. There's probably a whole lot of research that goes into each individual insect that you're trying to

control for.

**MR. GILREIN:**

For sure, that's absolutely true. Some of my counterparts work, say, just with cotton or corn or small grains like barley and wheat or rice. And that's all they do. I work with maybe a hundred or 200 kinds of insects in very different circumstances. And one morning I may get a call from a cabbage grower; the next five minutes I may get a call from Huntington or Smithtown who's got an issue. And maybe they're trying to grow fruit trees in a Smithtown estate, you know, and they have an issue how do we deal with that, which is very different from how an orchard would deal with it in a agricultural situation. And then I might be having to answer questions about ticks.

I mean, it's extremely variable from one minute to the next. And it's very demanding to try to understand what you need to do about these different things in each individual context. The context has a lot to do with the solutions that you can offer, whether it's an estate, a backyard home garden, it's a public property in a park, it's viable conifer collection that Bayard Cutting Arboretum, it's an orchard, it's a pumpkin farm, you know. Or they have -- it's a you-pick versus a non-you-pick orchard. You have to understand a lot about the context and be sensitive to that.

And then you have to know what their preferences are. This one nursery really wanted an organic solution to arborvitae leafminer. That was the only thing that was going to be successful. They were already to go out with neem oil. Well, that wasn't going to work. We know that wasn't going to work. So we were able to offer them an answer that -- they we're skeptical but ultimately it provided the solution they were concerned about. So, you know the context as well as all the complexities about these things, it's very demanding at times.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

So what would it take -- I mean, I know that -- so clearly you're working with farmers and industry. The County itself, and we do have entomologists that we hired and we, you know, like you referenced, we have a whole staff of folks that work on similar issues. But is there partnerships, you know, the two insects that I can think of that are, you know, highest on the priority list, at least for me, are ticks and the southern pine beetle. You know, is there a way to -- you know, what would it take -- or what's happening now in terms of coordination between Cornell and the County; and what would it take to ramp up studies or pheromone mating disruption studies or research into, you know, how we can better control those two particular insects on a really widespread, Countywide, not just in one corner or one piece of property, but, you know, on a really large scale scheme. Is that -- or is that already happening, I guess, is the question.

**MR. GILREIN:**

Some of it is already happening. Certainly the mating disruption was something that is Countywide and we did get a grant from New York State to help support some of that work. So we brought in that kind of money. And we tap into expertise that's outside of the area, experience and information that is already existing with that. So we're part of a much larger sort of thing.

And any entomology adventure that I do, the 4-poster study was already backed by research that had been done elsewhere in the eastern part of the U.S. and has shown to work very well. And we worked with some of the research staff that originally were involved in that in developing that device. And we had partnerships with staff at the university on the wildlife component of that study.

For the pollinator work that I mentioned, that we're part of a larger study so we're working with people involved in that from Pennsylvania, Connecticut, elsewhere around the northeast. So we're part of a much larger group of people that have different pieces of that puzzle that we're involved with. And that will be a countywide sort of approach, too.

## 8/29/2016 EPA Committee

So some of these are very much a large part of a larger scheme or a larger plan, larger funded effort. The brown marmorated stink bug was another one. That whole project was a federal project that's involved in many states, West Virginia up to New England. And we were involved in that, in the development of this new pheromone, new strategies, management, techniques. So we -- entomologists are very good about collaborating, working together and sharing information across boundaries. We don't -- the boundaries are very blurred to us. We, you know, it's the biology that matters.

So there always could be more, you know, more money, always a good thing. We go get it where we can and then we brush up against limitations of time, that sort of thing, but ah --

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you. Legislator Fleming.

### **LEG. FLEMING:**

I just want to note that in response to what you're saying, Kara, that, you know, I'm grateful for the support of the Legislature that included the new Capital Program for the tick research and management. It's only \$100,000 but it is in the Capital Program now for 1719 and it will be funding equipment for the tick-borne disease lab -- well, it's the arthropod borne disease lab, but specifically Dr. Scott Campbell with whom Dan works and the newly reestablished Tick Control Advisory Committee is specifically charged with advising the lab on that program. And Dan is a part of that committee as well as others in the bug groups.

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Right. What I was trying to get at, the research, like really figuring out, you know -- I think -- you know, I think we really need to focus more research funding. I don't know if the County gets involved in going for the grants from the federal government or asking for those; probably do. But, you know, I think that we do need more basic applied or -- basic or applied research on larger scale ways to fight the tick problem and the beetle problem that's destroying, you know, areas of our county parks and state parks. So I know it's a funding issue but it's --

### **MR. GILREIN:**

The County has hired a tick entomologist, {Moser Kakora} and he's great. He's -- a lot of really good work, really interesting things. And I think the County's letting that process sort of work through. He's doing -- prioritizing areas for monitoring. He's already looking into things like tick-borne pathogens, what your other wildlife might be carrying. He's trying to answer some basic questions that have not been addressed and -- so you're getting some really good information from that. And I'm sure you'll be seeing more of that in the very, very near future.

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Yeah, maybe we should have them come as well and give us, you know, an idea of where they're going and making sure that we're partnering, you know.

### **MR. GILREIN:**

Yes.

### **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

And to have the partnership with the University Cornell and the Cooperative Extension and the research that you're able to do. And, you know, we just need to make sure that we're all working together on those.

### **MR. GILREIN:**

Yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Those are the two ones that popped into any head.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

The mosquitos.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

The mosquitos, yes. Good, good point. Three.

**MR. GILREIN:**

Yes. And as Bridget knows, we got together -- entomologists all got together to talk about the tick management issue in late July about how we were going to coordinate all of our efforts. We do communicate together very, very well. And you've got excellent staff involved in that. So I have very good feelings about how that's going to go. I don't expect we're going to see miracles in the next week or next month, but I think that there'll be a more reasoned, thoughtful approach and strategy that will come out of this.

In terms of the southern pine beetle, we have USDA Forest Service staff working with DEC. And I am involved with them on the science panel to address that particular issue. It's both a forced issue, which is where DEC's efforts and USDA's efforts are focused. And mine have been more with the arborists' and landscape professionals' side. But I made myself involved in that process so that I was aware and engaged with what the forced side of that issue was all about to make sure that our landscape professionals and arborists, and homeowners who had valuable trees, were well served as that infestation and problem proceeds.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Right, but I was specifically just wondering if there was a pheromone -- potential pheromone solution, the mating disruption so that we don't have to cut down trees.

**MR. GILREIN:**

Right, right.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

And in the, you know, whether it be the State park or the County park and granted, you might not be there yet, and on that large scale, like you said, maybe the context, some things work better in more confined spaces and, etcetera, etcetera. But I don't know how far along that research on that beetle is if it's even possible. I think we talked about this at -- may be it was at CEQ or --

**MR. GILREIN:**

There is a -- the pheromone system for southern pine beetles is much more complicated than any of the pests that I've mentioned so far. It's very unusual. It's been very heavily studied. So far that strategy has not worked very well. It has been tried. I don't think it's been tried to death, but it's been tried. And it's not been extremely promising at this point. I think there's more about that that we don't really quite understand. There will be a conference on southern pine beetle. I've worked with the Pine Barrens Commission. Polly is working with them and has got a meeting next March planned, particularly for land managers. And that will be among the topics that will be discussed at that meeting. So there will be more -- more to come on that. I don't think we've said the last on it yet, but it's something that we have thought about.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you. Okay. Any other questions?

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Just super quick.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Super quick, Bridget.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Just in terms of your -- not the pine beetle, but the tick question, your question as to whether the County pursues any other funding from other levels of government, it is kind of the goal of this tick -- new tick management and resource -- I'm sorry, research and management program, to capitalize on science to start to lead the charge and hope to leverage that into state and federal funding. I mean I hope that if we get it right, people can start to look at Suffolk County and say this is -- this is -- Suffolk County got it right, you know, Suffolk County has gotten their tick population under control because it's a national problem. And so we've got Dr. Campbell and we've got Moses in the lab, we got the capital funding for their equipment, we've got people like Dan around the table and the committee if it's approved this upcoming meeting, but we probably do need some -- at least some very limited additional staffing in the lab in order to take advantage.

What they're going to be doing is gathering data regarding what species of ticks are, what locations, at what stage of life, carrying what pathogens and how they get to human contact. With that we may be able to fashion more targeted solutions like the pheromone disruptors, like the 4-poster if it's appropriate, like culling, whatever; and maybe it's a combination of all those things with all these experts at the table that's going to finally get that tick population under control and let folks from around the country say, "oh, Suffolk County got it right." But it is going to need the support -- some at least limited funding support from us. I believe it can be leveraged into much greater dollars at the federal and state level.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Thank you very much.

**MR. GILREIN:**

Thank you.

**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Back to the agenda, Table Resolutions, **Introductory Resolution 1309, Adopting (a Local Law No. -2016,) A Local Law to limit nitrogen content in lawn fertilizers. (Lindsay).** This has to be tabled for a public hearing so I'll make a motion to table; second by Legislator Anker. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1309 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR MURATORE NOT PRESENT)**

**Introductory Resolution 1605** -- and we can put up that screen at some point -- **Authorizing the acquisition of land under the New Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program (effective December 1, 2007) open space component - for the George Georgoussis property Pine Barrens Core - Town of Southampton. 1605. (SCTM Nos. 0900-215.02-01.00-023.000 Hampton Hills and 0900-306.00-02.00-028.000 Dwarf Pine Plains).** (Co. Exec.) Welcome. Spotlight is on Sarah and Laretta. Okay, 1605.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

There's a map that you see that outlines the parcels in question. I'm going to turn it over --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I'm looking for the map now. It's on the website here?

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Um, Laretta sent out an e-mail on Friday?

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

That's right, Friday. We're going to project that as well.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Thank you. Bring that screen back down. (Laughter) Good thing that thing's fast. They needed it up to be able to walk through like that. (Laughter)

**MS. FISCHER:**

This acquisition includes two parcels of land both within the Pine Barrens core area: One within the Hampton Hills addition to the north of Sunrise Highway, which is 2.05 acres; and the second one is in the dwarf pine plains south of Sunrise highway, and that is 1.84 acres. As you can see, there's extensive holdings of the County both north of Sunrise and South of Sunrise. And we are looking to acquire these two in -- to add to our additional holdings for those two properties within the core.

These are -- just for your edification these are both old file map areas. And with regard to maintenance and enforcement by parks, it's a very hard area to enforce with properties both owned privately as well as the County, the State and the Towns, but we're trying to consolidate our holdings so that we can eliminate those issues as best we can in these areas.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

So the issue came up at the last meeting about the value of purchasing these. And obviously when you buy open space, you're looking at, like, what Laretta just said, the issue with enforcement. And then the responsibility and liability of owning more land that -- and there was just a newspaper article about somebody dumping on municipally-owned land and it's a problem because it had been going on for awhile and now they found out. Now who's going to do what about it.

But with the Pine Barrens Law, could you explain it? Because I think if -- in my understanding, that it's -- it would be a regulatory taking. And it's really -- really affront to private property rights if you have a law that says now you can't do anything with your property and you're not going to be compensated for it. So could you explain how the law works and how it's really our obligation under that. And to just basically to -- rather -- to protect basic property rights that we have to buy this and provide value for the landowner.

**MS. FISCHER:**

Sure. Yes, under the New York State Pine Barrens Act, the Pine Barrens Commission was formed along with regulations and requirements of both the State, the County and the three Towns that encompass the Pine Barrens region, which is about a hundred thousand acres of which 50,000 acres, approximately, is within the core of the Pine Barrens. And these are part of the core where there were mandates put forward on each level of the governments involved to acquire these properties and to make these privately-owned parcels whole.

And you're right, in the sense that this very limited allowance of development in this area, you would have to go before the Pine Barrens Commission for any kind of hardship. And these are very difficult parcels to provide access to for any type of development; however, the mandate was to

provide acquisitions on all levels of government to create these areas of public ownership and protection of this watershed.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

And it provides for -- sort of a -- it provides for regulatory relief by paying people a set price. And how is that price determined?

**MS. FISCHER:**

The price is generally determined by the value of the credits that are provided by the Pine Barrens Commission. And they vary by town, by location as well as time. They do change. But primarily the value of the properties are based on those values.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

And do they change overtime?

**MS. FISCHER:**

Yes, they do.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

And who regulates that change of value?

**MS. FISCHER:**

That's the Pine Barrens Commission.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Any other questions? Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

So we -- this is privately-held property that is -- essentially has no access.

**MS. FISCHER:**

There is access through paper streets. It's -- not that it's landlocked specifically, but the access is limited because of the overgrowth and the forest habitat in the areas, especially in the dwarf pine plains which is a globally rare environment and very hard to navigate.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

All right. So we have this in the middle of nowhere; there's no road going to it. Is this person asking for money for this or what has to happen?

**MS. FISCHER:**

Yes. Yes, it's a voluntary program. They come to us and ask if we would be interested in acquiring their property. And we move forward and bring it to you after the appraisals are completed and we move -- the -- just to back up a little, the old Drinking Water Protection Program was specifically created just to acquire properties within the core. And these are those types of properties.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

All right. So if this person wanted to build something on this, they would have to go to the town -- first of all, there's no road to get in. They'd have to pay for the road to get in there, I'm assuming, right?

**MS. FISCHER:**

Possibly, yes. I would say yes.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

So they're essentially worthless because they're not going to pay for a road to be built in. So, I don't -- you know, I'm not -- how could I -- why would I spend money on something that can't possibly be ever redone?

**MS. FISCHER:**

Well, I think you look at it in a bigger perspective here. If this was one large piece of land, we would have bought this years ago. The problem with old file map areas is that they're individually owned by various people. It's been hard to amass and collect and acquire all those pieces of that puzzle. So environmentally we would have wanted to acquire this. And it would have gotten a large rating because of its location within the groundwater core area. And so what we're trying to accomplish is connecting the dots, making it whole. And in the future making these areas more manageable from the parks' perspective; very hard to manage when you don't know if someone's taking an ATV in these areas and whether they're on County land or not. And so from many different perspectives, mostly from an environmental perspective, that's the reason we want to buy these.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

It's safe to say that no one could ever build on these two lots. It would be a huge undertaking to build on these lots.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

But, I think that's -- that's the point of us buying them. I mean, the legislation was passed 20 years ago and it provided for. So if you're the landowner, you need some protection against the government taking your property rights. So because they said it's almost impossible to build on them, there's the provision, for your protection as a property owner, is that there's -- there's either a market in the credits or else the government will buy your property.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

See, I look at it different. I look at it as they bought a stock and now it's not worth anything so the government should not be liable for making them whole on it.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

But it's the government that made your stock not worth anything.

**MS. FISCHER:**

Yes.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

So that's why -- that's why the government's actually making you whole and protecting your property rights in this case.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I can't support this.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. I'm going to make a motion to approve.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Second by Legislator Krupski. All those in favor?

**LEG. TROTTA:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Opposed? Abstentions? It is approved. **1605 is approved. (VOTE: 4-1-0-1. LEGISLATOR TROTTA OPPOSED. LEGISLATOR MURATORE NOT PRESENT)**

### INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Okay, so **Introductory Resolution 1683, Making a SEQRA determination in connection with the Proposed Pre-Engineered Storage Buildings for Sheriff's Office Riverhead Correctional Facility, CP 3014, Town of Southampton. (Pres. Off.)** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Second by Legislator Krupski. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1683 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR MURATORE NOT PRESENT)**

**Introductory Resolution 1684, Making a SEQRA determination in connection with the Proposed Improvements to Suffolk County Farm Education Center Capital Project 1796, Town of Brookhaven. (Pres. Off.)** I'll make a motion to approve; second by Legislator Fleming. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1684 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR MURATORE NOT PRESENT)**

Can we passover? Oh, she's here. Okay, great. **Introductory Resolution 1690, Appointing member to the Council on Environmental Quality Constance M. Kepert. (Anker)** We will bring forward Connie, if you can walk around the screen, and you can speak at the podium if that's okay, Connie? Thank you. How are you?

**MS. KEPERT:**

I'm good. How are you?

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Thanks for coming all the way out to Riverhead.

**MS. KEPERT:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Although it's not that -- it's not far for you, right?

**MS. KEPERT:**

Not that far.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Good. So what we did previously with appointments, we ask you just tell us a little bit about yourself.

**MS. KEPERT:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Not too much.

**MS. KEPERT:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

You have a lot to say, I know. But also tell us why -- no, well she -- she's got such a long background that is all very relevant.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

And we have the resume.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

And we have your resume.

**MS. KEPERT:**

Okay, good.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

But tell us a little bit about, you know, why you'd like to serve as well.

**MS. KEPERT:**

Okay. Wonderful. As most of you know, I served as the Council person from the 4th District from 2006 until 2015. And as a representative of the 4th District, most of the Carmans River is located within the 4th District except for a very tiny portion, which is in Wertheim Wildlife Refuge so it was already protected. So I did move forward a series of zone changes to protect the river and also acquisition. So that was a tremendous effort to make sure one of our most pristine rivers stays pristine. And that was something that I was very, very proud to help do.

I also cosponsored resolutions that would increase the standard as far as sewage treatment is concerned. So that that moved two to three parts per million within the Carmans River corridor. I was also very, very involved in creating land use plans. The Middle Country Land Use Plan we up-zoned numerous parcels. The effort was to funnel development into centers and to decrease sprawl. I'm very concerned with traffic safety issues also. I sponsored complete streets legislation that required whenever the highway department repaved the roadway, that they look to put bicycle lanes and sidewalks along that roadway, trying to get more people out of their cars and onto cycles.

I'm also concerned with historic preservation. Certainly in the 4th District we have a number of important structures that we work to preserve: The Swezey-Avey House in Yaphank; the Mott House and the Davis House certainly in Coram. So that's some of the things I worked on.

Again, I am very -- I have always been very concerned with the protection of the environment. Before I served as a Council person, I was a civic leader. I was a member of the Open Space Council and worked to help preserve those important parcels that needed to be preserved.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Excellent. And so the Council on Environmental Quality obviously touches on so many of those things that you just mentioned, the historic preservation. There's a whole piece to what they do with regard to historic preservation. And, of course, reviewing the project and their environmental

impacts. Any questions? Legislator Anker.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Again, I want to thank you hopefully, if we can pass this, for your work towards helping the County understand about our environment, but also about planning. I just want to mention that you are the recipient of a national -- it's a national planning association? You know -- what -- because I was actually working in your office at the time and there was maybe, what, 10 people, 8 people in the entire country and you were one of them.

**MS. KEPERT:**

Yes.

**LEG. ANKER:**

And I think that's, you know, that's important. And also your work with smart growth and understanding that the County -- you know, we do -- we will be expanding, but understanding how sensitive the environment is. So I look forward to working with you.

**MS. KEPERT:**

Okay, thank you, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Excellent. So motion by Legislator Anker; second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1690 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR MURATORE NOT PRESENT)** We -- it still has to go before the full Legislature.

**MS. KEPERT:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

But you don't have to be here for that.

**MS. KEPERT:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve. Congratulations.

**MS. KEPERT:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. All right. We previously took care of 1691 as well as 1703 and 1740. We are up to **Introductory Resolution 1756, Authorizing appraisal of land under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007, Old Kmart property - Town of Brookhaven (SCTM No. 0200-379.00-01.00-003.001 p/o) (Northern Portion). (Anker)** Okay, motion by Legislator Anker. I'll second.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

On the motion, Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

I have a couple of questions about this is, the southern portion was proposed to be active recreation; and it was going to be managed by not a municipality; is that correct?

**MS. FISCHER:**

The southern portion, we received town resolution from the Town of Brookhaven that they would improve and maintain the property for active recreation with a subcontract to a not-for-profit. And let me just get my -- with -- with the Middle Country Youth Association to maintain it or other similar groups to maintain the property, so.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Okay, thank you. I thought I heard the Supervisor from Brookhaven this morning say that he had no interest in maintaining the parcel. So that's why I --

**MS. FISCHER:**

Oh, I'm sorry. It's Longwood. It was changed, but it was --

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Okay.

**MS. FISCHER:**

-- mentioned as Middle Country Youth in the resolution or other similar groups.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

So my question was, I guess, then if the County -- in this scenario the County would purchase.

**MS. FISCHER:**

Yeah.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

And then who would put the money into the infrastructure to develop it? And then you're saying that there's a group that would maintain it, but as a fall back you're saying that it would be the town's -- is it -- like legally is there going to be some language that the -- the fall backs -- that the town would maintain it?

**MS. FISCHER:**

Yes, ultimately the responsibility is with the town. And I can read you the section of their resolution, the town resolution to address that.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Well, it would be -- no, no, I'm going to -- I'm going to believe you on that. It's just that -- so in the -- even if we got that far, if we appraised it, made an offer, offer is accepted and then, you know, we approve the acquisition, the enabling legislation for the acquisition would include language that would, in fact, require the town to do the development and maintenance of it.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

Yes, that would be part of the resolution.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Okay. What about the maintenance and policing and clean-up, etcetera on the northern parcel of open space?

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

Well, we received a letter from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on Friday indicating that they are interested themselves in pursuing the northerly -- the acquisition of this particular resolution, the northern portion, 28 acres, for an addition to the Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest. So I just wanted to make sure that everyone on this Committee is aware of that letter.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Was that -- is that a more -- and I'm not familiar with the area, and with this map that's presented to us, it's difficult to see. That would be contiguous of looking at a trail system?

**MS. FISCHER:**

Yes, the State is looking to also acquire two parcels to the north. They also own to the northwest. And that connects up to the Rocky Point Preserve.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

In light of that, in light of the State's holdings there and management of those holdings, would we still want to do an appraisal on that parcel? Or would we want to let the State step aside and let the state --

**MS. FISCHER:**

Yeah.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

-- acquire that and manage that as part of their larger holdings there?

**LEG. ANKER:**

I'm going to withdraw my motion to approve and motion to table because, again, I'm not a hundred percent clear, is the State going to acquire the entire parcel or are we going to partner? I think we're still in communications with the State so we're still in a bit of a, you know --

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Who in the State? Who are you working with?

**MS. FISCHER:**

We're working with Heather {Amster} from DEC Region One.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Region One.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Right. And Senator Ken LaValle also had called and shows great interest in acquiring that property.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Would that require them to pass legislation at the state level; or is it something that they just do through the DEC?

**MS. FISCHER:**

I can read you their explain -- their discussion on this.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Well, I guess my -- to my point, because Sarah's question -- I'm sorry -- Legislator Anker's question was to if they may require a match, a local match. And if we do an appraisal now and it takes them

8/29/2016 EPA Committee

a year or more, we don't want our appraisal to get stale. So, you know, there's kind of -- we might want to table until we know more about their timeline for purchase so that we don't spend the money on the appraisal.

**MS. FISCHER:**

They're planning to start their appraisal process in early fall. We don't have more specifics.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. So it might be better just to hold off so that -- our appraisals are only good for one year within our process. And it would be silly to spend twice on an appraisal, so. Okay, so she changed her motion to a table and I'll second that. All those in favor of tabling? Opposed? Abstentions?

**1756 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR MURATORE NOT PRESENT)**

**Introductory Resolution 1757, Authorizing appraisal of land under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007, Old Kmart property - Town of Brookhaven (SCTM No. 0200-379.00-01.00-003.001 p/o) Southern Portion. (Anker)**

**LEG. ANKER:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Anker. I will second that motion to approve. On the motion. So -- not yet. You have rating sheets and all of that, right?

**MS. FISCHER:**

Yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay.

**MS. FISCHER:**

They're attached to your e-mail that we sent.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Yes.

**MS. FISCHER:**

Okay. This is the southern portion which -- of the 49 acres is 21 acres. And it's being considered under Drinking Water Protection Program for active recreational use. Proposed uses include soccer fields, ball fields, a playground. And a preliminary concept plan was presented and is shown actually also as the next slide. That was presented by the Longwood Civic. This is their plan for the active recreational part, the 21 acres. And, again, as we discussed, the Town did send us a resolution stating that they would improve and maintain the property --

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

I don't see a walking -- they talked about a walking trail.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

That's through aisle four. (Laughter)

**MS. FISCHER:**

Right. For the active recreational criteria, they do meet it. The walking trail would be an additional

use of the site, which is not a problem.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

The walking trail is depicted as number 3, 4 and 5.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

There's going to be a circle in the walking trail?

**UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. I just thought it looked like it could be -- that's for driving cars, but, no, that's a walking -- okay.

**LEG. ANKER:**

And also -- do you mind, I just want to make a comment. This is very rough, very rough --

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

True.

**LEG. ANKER:**

-- rendering. Like what we did with the Mount Sinai Heritage Park, we worked with the community; we worked with the civic association; and we refined the park. And that's what we're going to do with this particular park. And, you know, whether we call it Field of Dreams or the Longwood Park, we're looking forward to really, you know, working together and refining.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

I just walked at Heritage Park on the trail this weekend with a friend who I met from Wading River. She drove west and I drove east and we met there and walked for hour-and-a-half. It was really wonderful. There are a lot of people using that trail and it's a great thing.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I have a question.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

What's off to the right there, on the right-hand side of that?

**MS. FISCHER:**

The Breslin -- this was a former old Kmart facility that's been taken down. The -- I guess --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

So that's not part of the 21 acres?

**MS. FISCHER:**

No, no. That's a separate lot. And if you -- yeah, if you go up north, you'll see the location of the properties.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

So he's going to keep that?

**MS. FISCHER:**

Yes.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

He's not selling that.

**MS. FISCHER:**

Not to our knowledge but -- at this time.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

Now, to, Counsel, we're allowed to buy with this 477 program?

**MS. FISCHER:**

It's not --

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

George.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

George.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Trotta has a question.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

With this money we're allowed to buy stuff for an active park that we're going to give to an outside organization?

**MR. NOLAN:**

Yes, this is pretty common. And I think the way the law is drafted, it actually envisions this type of arrangement.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

We just did it in Legislator Muratore's district with a partnership between the County and the Town Councilman --

**MS. FISCHER:**

Boyle Road.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Yeah, on Boyle Road. Yes, Boyle Road, right outside -- it's right outside my district, but it's in Legislator Muratore's district. And Councilman LaValle had been instrumental in the vision for that. And I think it's a good model to follow. We have property in my district on Sheep Pasture Road that sits along the Greenway Trail that I'd love to have a partner from the town, you know, if the town's willing to build and we have the property and we find a maintenance partner, I think, these are really good models.

**LEG. ANKER:**

And, again, the public/private partnership, this is the best thing for not only government, but for the community. Because the community is engaged and has the active participation in taking care of

this park. So, it has been so successful in so many areas, especially Mt. Sinai, I can see, you know, taking that park idea, bring it to Middle Island, taking this blighted property, 15 years this property has sat vacant, there was a homicide that took place earlier this year, you know, this is a win/win, not only for the retailer -- or the developer Wilbur Breslin, but also most importantly for the children in the area because they will have a place to go.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Just out of curiosity, who's the private? You're saying public/private.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Well, the private, basically would be the not-for-profit.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Right. So no one's paying taxes on this, okay, so it's really not private.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

All right. So do we have -- do we have -- we have a motion and a second to approve. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1757 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR MURATORE NOT PRESENT)**

Thank you, yes.

**Introductory Resolution 1763, making a SEQRA determination in connection with the Proposed Improvements to County Route 21, Middle Island Yaphank Road, from Longwood Middle School to New York State 25, CP 5138, Town of Brookhaven. (Pres. Off.)**

**LEG. ANKER:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Motion by Legislator Anker; seconded by Legislator Krupski. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1763 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR MURATORE NOT PRESENT)**

We handled 1766 earlier.

Now I'm going to make a motion to go into Executive Session to review the appraisals of proposed acquisitions pursuant to the requirements of the Triple A Program.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Seconded by Legislator Krupski. All those in favor of going into Executive Session? Although I don't -- we have to vote? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, we are heading into Executive Session, which will be held in the back conference room and we will return when we're finished.

**(EXECUTIVE SESSION 12:17 PM - 1:21 PM)**

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay, now we're back. So we're back out of Executive Session. And we -- the Committee is directing our Counsel to prepare a procedural resolution directing --

**MR. NOLAN:**  
Authorizing.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

-- authorizing the Department of Division of Real Estate to make offers on the following properties: The Ricky Hill Carlls River Watershed; the Jahanshan Kerendian Carlls River Watershed property; the estate of Dominic Mennuti Forge River Watershed property; the estate of Sade Winter Forge River Watershed property; the estate of Frances Calderone Beaver Dam Creek property; the John Belsak Tuthills Creek Pine Lake property; the Menu of Homes Mastic Shirley property; the Raymond Kujawski Riverhead property; the John Kujawski Riverheaad property; the Jeffrey and Judith Rottkamp Calverton property; the Nicholas J. DiPierro Finks Farm Wading River property; the YWAM Metro Inc. Peconic River Greenbelt property; and the F&D homes Frank Petelli Nissequoge River addition property.

Thank you. With that we have no further business before the Committee and we are adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:23 PM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**