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*ORIGINAL*

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
EQUESTRIAN TASK FORCE  
Suffolk County

Southaven County Park  
September 9, 2009  
3:30 PM

Hon. Jack Eddington, Chairman

Reported by: Donna Spratt  
Court Reporter

1

2

2     A P P E A R A N C E S:

3             John Pavacic

4             Janet Plimpton

5             Elaine Wagner

6             Stephen Laton

7             Pamela Greene

8             Jessica Kalmbacher

9             Gigi Asher

10            Samuel Uliano

11            Vito DiVello

12            David Macknee

13            Ellen Stitt

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MR. EDDINGTON: Now it comes to the funding issue. That is what we need to talk a little bit about.

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Dick, since you're here, why don't you respond to what you heard? Is there any issue or --

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8

9

MR. AMPER: I have no idea. I know very little about this. When projects are proposed for the core area, my bosses say go out, see how they can be accommodated. If there is a problem, tell them as early as possible, so it sounds like a really good idea.

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MR. EDDINGTON: What we'll do is we'll make sure that you get an invitation to our next -- you'll be here. If you stay here, we'll set another date. You're more than welcome.

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21

We can keep you -- certainly anything we do we would like to have your support.

22

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24

25

Great to have you along for the ride. Literally along for the ride.

2

Let's go around and introduce ourselves.

3

4

MR. PAVACIC: John P-A-V-A-C-I-C, Suffolk County Parks Commission.

5

6

MS. PLIMPTON: Janet Plimpton, Long Island Professional Horseman's Association, and I'd like to think I represent the horse community at large.

7

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10

MS. WAGNER: Elaine Wagner, high school math teacher, coach of the equestrian team for the Patchogue Medford high school.

11

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14

MR. LATON: Steve Laton, Chief of Operations for the Suffolk County SPCA.

15

16

MS. GREENE: Pamela Greene. I'm Director of the Division of Real Property, and it is G-R-E-E-N-E.

17

18

19

MS. KALMBACHER: Jessica Kalmbacher. I'm from the Suffolk County Department of Planning. I'm here on behalf of Thomas Isles, Director.

20

21

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23

MS. ASHER: Gigi Asher. I'm representing the Suffolk County

24

25

Supervisors Committee.

2

MR. ULIANO: Samuel Uliano,

3

President of the Nassau County Horseman's

4

Association.

5

MR. DIVELLO: Vito DiVello. Most

6

people know me as Rocky. You can use

7

either name.

8

I'm East End Livestock Horse Owners

9

Association and the Long Island Farm

10

Bureau equine representative, and I also

11

like to represent people out east, the

12

equine community.

13

MR. MACKNEE: Dave Macknee

14

representing Philip Cardinale from

15

Riverhead. He's the Town Supervisor.

16

MS. STITT: Ellen Stitt. I'm Jack

17

Eddington's legislative aide.

18

MR. EDDINGTON: Jack Eddington,

19

Suffolk County Legislator, chair of the

20

committee.

21

Okay. Why don't we just continue

22

with what you were saying, Steve, so that

23

the goal is to use the site, to renovate

24

that site. It is for horses and then

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small domestic animals.

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MR. LATON: Correct.

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MR. EDDINGTON: Then it comes to once -- and there's where we're trying to get an agreement with Suffolk County is where we're at right now?

MR. LATON: Mm-hmm.

MR. EDDINGTON: What is the or what do you believe there's the possibility of that happening, that agreement?

MR. PAVACIC: Yeah. We already have an understanding with the SPCA. A letter already went out to them a number of months ago.

The next step would be to -- they provided a formal narrative about exactly what the renovations would entail, and the next step would be to move towards an actual license agreement with the SPCA.

MR. EDDINGTON: You perceive that as a positive thing, this whole project?

MR. PAVACIC: Yes.

MR. EDDINGTON: I think that is what we want. We want to have as much support and to use an area that was

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designed for animals for animals.

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Now the next part is what can this task force do to help that become a reality, because right now we're talking about helping horses.

I think that's a -- could be a good goal of the equestrian task force.

MR. MACKNEE: I would like to know what type of horses are we going to do?

I mean, you do them all, but are they going to be more race horses or are they going to be -- that is where most of the problem occurs with the race horses because they run them too early and break them down.

When they come back, a lot of them come back really good. I had a couple that I rehab'd, you know. I sold them and they were pretty good.

Two things that are really, if you're going to do the race horses are number one, that the people that bring the horses here will have to leave a certain amount of money to, you know, to help

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cover the first four or five months of rehab. I think that's a reasonable deal, and what was the second thing? I forgot.

MR. EDDINGTON: Let me respond to that first part, because I'm just thinking of in the neighborhoods, people that have horses may have been race horses at one time.

What I think the reason they're not being taken care of is because they don't have the money. My concern is -- I like your idea. You should take personal responsibility.

The problem is we wouldn't have to rescue them if they had the money to take responsibility, so I have a little bit of concern. If we're saying I'm not taking care of my horse, I can't afford to do it, I want you to do it and if you say I got to pay four months of boarding, I got a sense there may be four months of that horse not being taken care of.

Do you know what I'm saying? But the idea is good, but what you've now told

2 me, we have to fundraise and maybe we  
3 could get the person who is bringing the  
4 horse to commit to help with fundraising.

5 They have to have a tie into the  
6 community, but if we ask them for dollars,  
7 that is why they're bringing them.

8 Can you see that as a possibility?

9 MR. MACKNEE: Yes.

10 MR. DIVELLO: We can request a  
11 donation if they're not taking the horse  
12 anymore; sell the saddle, tack to get the  
13 money.

14 MR. EDDINGTON: Those are things  
15 that we could start looking at, and then  
16 maybe asking them to put in some hours  
17 helping in the facility, like a co-op type  
18 thing.

19 Because then it keeps a commitment,  
20 and I think -- I don't think people will  
21 feel bad. Then they feel like I couldn't  
22 take care of the horses but I am helping.

23 MR. DIVELLO: Labor of love.

24 MR. EDDINGTON: That might be a  
25 good way, and it will help you with being

1

10

2

able to deal with the facility.

3

MR. LATON: We're not going to

4

discriminate on the type of horses that

5

are going to come into the facility.

6

We're open to take any type any breed, any

7

age.

8

The biggest problem that we have

9

here in Suffolk County are the people who

10

have horses in their back yards that

11

aren't taking care of them, and those are

12

the ones that we go in and deal with from

13

a law enforcement aspect, and we get

14

involved in actually arresting the people

15

and seizing their horses.

16

Those are the horses that are

17

malnourished, that haven't been seen by a

18

veterinarian in a very long time, have

19

hoof problems. We have a horse right now

20

that is fostered out who is 27 years old;

21

Chance, and if you saw Chance today as

22

opposed to the day that he was taken, you

23

would think it was two different horses.

24

That is the big problem that we

25

face here the Suffolk County right now.

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2 We haven't seen the problems with the race  
3 horses as much. It is more with the  
4 people who have horses who are either in a  
5 small business or the back yard horses.

6 MR. ULIANO: Race horses are coming  
7 out of Nassau County. The owners may be  
8 Suffolk county.

9 MR. EDDINGTON: We're not  
10 eliminating. We're not going to  
11 discriminate.

12 MR. ULIANO: No, no. The other  
13 thing was could we look into federal  
14 funding through the National parks  
15 Association?

16 There are large sums of money to  
17 manage horses in the wildlife because  
18 there is as ton of money that President  
19 Roosevelt started many, many years ago,  
20 and we should be able to get some sort of  
21 funding, even minimal just to get us  
22 started.

23 The other thing I wanted to start  
24 to just mention as we go along today, I  
25 just received a twenty page magazine on

1

12

2

all the reasons why we are unable to have  
horses right now.

3

4

MR. EDDINGTON: I like what you're  
saying, but let's just finish with Steve's  
issue and then we'll go on to the other  
issues.

5

6

7

8

MR. ULIANO: This is his issue.  
Over 81 percent of all horse owners cannot  
afford them. That is --

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10

11

MS. PLIMPTON: Here on the Island?

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13

MR. ULIANO: In the country, so  
what we're doing, we're not alone.

14

15

16

17

18

MR. DIVELLO: I just want some  
clarification on one point. You said  
horses and domestic animals, but I want to  
make sure that, like, llamas, emus, that  
is in between.

19

Is that covered in this program?

20

21

22

23

MR. LATON: If we get a farm  
animal, an animal that needs to be  
rescued, we're going to use this as a  
facility to bring them to.

24

25

MR. EDDINGTON: Then they may go  
somewhere else based on --

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MR. LATON: That is okay.

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6

MR. EDDINGTON: In my mind I don't really seem him -- their whole idea is centered around horses obviously, but I don't see --

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8

9

MR. LATON: No exotics or reptiles, no birds. We just couldn't care for them in a facility like that.

10

11

12

13

MS. PLIMPTON: Steve, can you tell me round about, an idea of how many you rescue or how many calls you go on and how often this occurs?

14

15

What are the numbers; what are we talking about?

16

17

18

MR. LATON: We get calls, I don't have exact numbers for you. I can bring them to the next meeting.

19

20

MS. PLIMPTON: Two a month, twenty a month?

21

22

23

24

MR. LATON: We get calls, I'm going to say more than twenty a year. A lot of it is -- people's idea of cruelty is not what cruelty actually is.

25

MS. PLIMPTON: How many do you

2

actually rescue or try to rescue?

3

MR. LATON: Since last December

4

we've taken --

5

MS. PLIMPTON: Other than the CI

6

five.

7

MR. LATON: I'm including that and

8

two more and we're left with the one,

9

Chance.

10

We're having a hard time adopting

11

him because of his age and he has got some

12

problems. He is more of a companion pet

13

right now than anything else.

14

MR. EDDINGTON: I guess all of that

15

will be in the agreement of what you would

16

be taking in and what you wouldn't, what

17

would be not qualified, so, all right.

18

Then the next part is getting some

19

funding. I think Sam said there is some

20

funding possibly out there. Let's talk

21

about the use of the -- I don't know what

22

do you call that -- the arena? Indoor

23

arena.

24

Elaine, that is where your team

25

would be interested in.

1

15

2

MR. WAGNER: Love to have one.

3

4

MR. EDDINGTON: You see as part of  
the agreement as like renting out or using  
it as a fundraiser to help sustain --

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6

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MR. LATON: To use as at  
fundraising tool with the capability of  
having something like that is phenomenal.

9

10

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14

15

I don't know what the terms of the  
agreement would be in letting us rent out  
something, you know, that that would --  
certainly I defer to the Parks  
Commissioner on a question like that, but  
to use it as a fundraising tool or to have  
people come in and use the facility.

16

17

18

19

Certainly it's going to be still  
open to the public. We're not going to  
close our doors to people that want to  
come and use it.

20

21

22

I believe that's one of the largest  
on the Island if I'm not mistaken. The  
indoor.

23

24

MR. ULIANO: Comparable, not the  
largest one of.

25

MR. LATON: So I'm told.

2

MR. EDDINGTON: It is in a good

3

location, and I know there is horse farms

4

around. In my area they probably would

5

want to use it and Elaine said our high

6

school team could use indoor arenas, too.

7

So that is an issue that is being dealt

8

with, and that's helping horses that need

9

help.

10

The other part of this whole task

11

force really is to help horse owners. I

12

got a letter from a person who I thought

13

was going to qualify, but if you look at

14

your agenda, the Bleekney (phonetic)

15

property. They have, like, eleven acres

16

but it didn't qualify because I think

17

their house and area takes on, like, two

18

and a half acres which puts it below the

19

ten acres.

20

MS. KALMBACHER: It didn't score

21

very well with the farm committee.

22

MR. EDDINGTON: That is the

23

problem. All of the farms, the horse

24

farms don't score high, so that part of

25

what we have to do is try to find ways to

1

17

2

help those people.

3

4

What were you going to look into,  
town codes?

5

6

MS. PLIMPTON: Actually Pam said  
she could come up with some.

7

8

9

10

11

MS. GREENE: I came up with a  
couple of things. I'm thinking to touch  
base on what you just said, the biggest  
nut is the fact that everything revolves  
around ten acres.

12

13

Otherwise you're not considered a  
farm.

14

15

MR. MACKNEE: If you have fifty  
thousand dollars that you can prove.

16

17

18

19

20

21

MR. PLIMPTON: Each town is  
different. I can only speak on  
Brookhaven. Maybe you're talking about  
another town, but Riverhead might be  
seven. I don't know about Islip and  
obviously there's the rest of the towns.

22

23

24

But I'm still thinking that ten  
acres is -- how many places in your neck  
of the woods is ten acres?

25

MR. EDDINGTON: Or two acres?

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MS. PLIMPTON: I'm three acres.

3

MR. EDDINGTON: So that's what we

4

have to try to get first of all, but it is

5

a tax thing that is ten acres, right?

6

MS. PLIMPTON: I think a lot of

7

things are contingent on this six acre

8

thing.

9

Local towns tell you how much you

10

can have per acre.

11

MS. ASHER: In Huntington. She did

12

the work, too. It is -- this is our code.

13

That is it, this little blip. It's three

14

horses per acre.

15

Then it just talks about --

16

MR. EDDINGTON: What if you have

17

five acres?

18

MR. ULIANO: Fifteen horses.

19

MS. ASHER: Horses located within

20

thirty feet of any side or rear property

21

line.

22

MR. EDDINGTON: You know, what if

23

you have five acres?

24

MR. ULIANO: Fifteen horses.

25

MR. EDDINGTON: Okay. Three horses

1

19

2

an acre. That's pretty liberal.

3

MS. PLIMPTON: That is for

4

Huntington.

5

MR. EDDINGTON: In Brookhaven, it

6

is two per acre.

7

MS PLIMPTON: No more than two

8

permitted on an acre of land or part

9

thereof. However, and then they tell you

10

if you go to the planning board and soil

11

and water conservation.

12

MS. ASHER: -- one horse on half an

13

acre, you can have up to three in

14

Smithtown.

15

MR. EDDINGTON: Every one is

16

different. You can't have three horses on

17

an acre and a half in Brookhaven. You

18

have to have two acres.

19

If you have an acre and three

20

quarters, you are supposed to have two

21

horses.

22

MR. ULIANO: You have to go to each

23

town that has to slice off the acre

24

somehow.

25

MR. EDDINGTON: That's something

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2 that we have to try to get them to unify.  
3 Otherwise, you got people going crazy.

4 MR. ULIANO: The ten acres needs to  
5 be sliced down. With the economy, we are  
6 not going to go forward for quite some  
7 time. We all know this, so on this point  
8 we need to come down in size and have  
9 smaller farms to be able to operate.

10 Ten acres is just not going to cut  
11 it.

12 MR. EDDINGTON: The ten acre thing  
13 is to buy the development rights, isn't  
14 that?

15 MR. MACKNEE: No.

16 MR. ULIANO: It is the issue in  
17 order to establish a horse business which  
18 is farmland.

19 MR. DIVELLO: Farmland preservation  
20 land is --

21 MR. MACKNEE: One horse per acre is  
22 -- what they want you to make ten thousand  
23 dollars revenue and, like, ten horses.

24 MR. EDDINGTON: Then you qualify.

25 MR. DIVELLO: There is some kind --

2 that is what it was. Now it is down to  
3 seven. I don't know all the specifics.

4 MR. EDDINGTON: Seven acres, is  
5 that what your understanding is?

6 MS. KALMBACHER: Yes. New York  
7 State Department of Agriculture and  
8 Markets Law identifies commercial horse  
9 boarding operations as one with not less  
10 than seven acres, boarding ten horses  
11 commercially bringing in ten thousand  
12 dollars or more in gross receipts from the  
13 commercial boarding horse operation or a  
14 combination of them; an agricultural  
15 operation or less than seven acres with  
16 two thousand dollars or more.

17 It was ten acres and because of  
18 that, the municipalities then modeled  
19 their standards to the New York State  
20 Agriculture and Markets Law. From the  
21 research that I've done, that is why we  
22 have ten acres. Agriculture and Markets  
23 lowered it to seven.

24 There is a preservation program.  
25 We had to look at seven acres or more.

1

22

2

MR. EDDINGTON: It used to be ten

3

and it is now seven?

4

MS. KALMBACHER: It is now seven.

5

MR. EDDINGTON: This is State?

6

MS. ASHER: New York State

7

Department of Agriculture and Markets.

8

MR. ULIANO: When was that changed?

9

MS. KALMBACHER: It was recently.

10

I would say within the last five years.

11

MR. EDDINGTON: What I'm trying to

12

propose is that we have three acres.

13

We've got on my block a six acre, although

14

they don't count it as six acres because

15

he has a house on there. Now it becomes

16

five acres, so that I have like an acre

17

and a half horse place in front of me down

18

the block.

19

I have a five acre thing. I would

20

like to be able to come up with something

21

that, whether it is in a zip code because

22

like -- what is Whispering Pines? That is

23

six acres, so that she doesn't qualify.

24

All these people are -- but they do

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make money but not that much. A lot of

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people that have horses would come here

3

because I know my neighbor has a big

4

trailer. He puts the horses and kids in

5

the trailer and goes to Pennsylvania.

6

I know she would come here.

7

MR. DIVELLO: Absolutely.

8

MR. EDDINGTON: But how do we allow

9

her first to have her horses so that she

10

can have her horses and kids in her house?

11

Right now, she can't seem to fund

12

it all, so I want to get them some tax

13

breaks and then do that thing with the

14

State where they will allow somebody to

15

have three acres and have a horse farm.

16

So how do we do that?

17

MR. MACKNEE: There is a couple of

18

things that I would like to say right now.

19

One -- Amper is not going to like

20

to hear this, but this is from the Ohio

21

Quarter horse Congress. They make a

22

hundred four million dollars on the show.

23

That is not counting the -- it is a

24

twenty-two day show.

25

Fifteen thousand three hundred

1

24

2

horses are shown, two point five million  
in cash and prize packages are included.

3

4

It's a large youth activity which  
is a very good thing.

5

6

MR. EDDINGTON: Don't we have the  
Hampton Classic that does all that?

7

8

MR. MACKNEE: We used to have a  
real nice show out here, but what happens  
is we couldn't keep it going. In fact,  
you can have this. You can read it but  
I'll either have to have a copy or back.

9

10

11

12

13

If you took that into  
consideration, there is new thing; they  
want to do the equestrian center. The  
problem with the shows are that sometimes  
you can make money with them, sometimes  
you can't.

14

15

16

17

18

19

A lot of times you can't make money  
with them because the pay-out is a fair  
amount of money. Now the English shows  
are pretty easy to make money because they  
just give a blue ribbon out.

20

21

22

23

24

But we can give out five hundred  
bucks, eight hundred bucks for the first,

25

1

25

2

you know --

3

MR. EDDINGTON: I'm wondering. I don't think we're looking to make money.

4

5

MR. MACKNEE: No, no, but what I'm saying here is that you're pushing the people out. Like, I'm gone. I'm not even here. I gave up on it, you know.

6

7

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13

I needed to have an indoor because they sold the property next door, and the guy used to let me go take trail rides out and I can't do that anymore and luckily I live in Riverhead; luckily.

14

15

16

That is another thing, but besides that point, in Riverhead I've had as many as 29 horses in my establishment.

17

18

19

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21

I have fifteen stalls. I only have four point five acres and I have nine stalls in the cellar, I have nine turnouts and sixteen stalls up at top. They're ten by fourteen.

22

23

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25

MR. EDDINGTON: You know what? We're never going to be able to get something like that, because it is way over the amount. You know what I mean?

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How many horses did you say?

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MR. MACKNEE: I had 29 at one time.

4

I have six now.

5

MR. EDDINGTON: That's going to be

6

hard. Here is what this task force is

7

about as I see it. You can correct me.

8

One is to help the SPCA because

9

that's going to help the horses and I

10

think help the small horse farmers who

11

can't make it right now because of the

12

economy or something.

13

There could even be a deal that

14

they do pay and you help get the horses

15

back and they take them back. There is

16

all kinds of deals that could be made.

17

But it helps the horses and it helps the

18

small horse farmer.

19

The other thing is like -- people

20

like Janet that have three acres that is

21

deciding whether to buy her kids new

22

school shoes or get rid of the horses, we

23

don't want them to have that type of

24

option.

25

We want to be able to hook them up.

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If they can get some kind of tax break, a tax break, a code that is uniform throughout Suffolk County and not just town by town and then some services like a co-op that will come and remove -- like the guy next to me that has two horses.

He scrapes his corral every month, and the horse manure is on the other side of the fence where my house is. I have flies. It is a problem.

I think if I could facilitate a way that somebody would come and pick it up from hers and his and not cost a lot of money.

MS. PLIMPTON: Or a place to take it.

MR. ULIANO: Just to interrupt you, sorry. There was an original deal where a couple of garbage companies were taking manure and getting composted to either the landfills or -- they were going to every farm. Farmers had to take it because it was free fertilizer.

I'm not sure if that still exists

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28

2

or not.

3

MR. DIVELLO: Yes, it does.

4

MR. EDDINGTON: There is a program

5

like that?

6

MR. DIVELLO: We do that.

7

MS. ASHER: Where I have my horse

8

now is Smithtown. He has a dumpster,

9

fills it once a week and they come. I

10

think it is a hundred dollars a month for

11

her to do it.

12

MS. PLIMPTON: How big is the

13

dumpster?

14

MS. ASHER: Not gigantic.

15

MS. PLIMPTON: Years ago I did the

16

dumpster thing myself. I have seventeen

17

horses in my yard.

18

MS. ASHER: She's got four.

19

MS. PLIMPTON: I did the dumpster.

20

It was far, far less money for me to go

21

and buy a trailer and take -- put that

22

trailer on the road and take it somewhere.

23

That is what we've done ever since.

24

Honestly I think it would be great

25

if you came up with somebody or work out a

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deal with garbage people again. That  
would be terrific.

3

4

We used to take it to Holtsville  
but oddly enough, with my horses, I take  
it there one day and ask to refill the  
eight yard trailer that we have with  
compost. Now, after we had been dumping  
the manure for a year or more, Holtsville  
told us we could only take a garbage can  
full.

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Okay, not a month later, they  
closed the doors to the manure. I thought  
that is interesting. If you have too much  
manure, why are you only handing it out in  
garbage can bolts when somebody shows up  
with a nice big --

18

19

20

21

MR. ULIANO: We had the same  
problem with leaves throughout the county.  
We rotate that. Doing that same thing can  
be done with manure.

22

23

24

MR. EDDINGTON: We might need  
somewhere in Suffolk County to deposit  
this stuff.

25

Can you see if there is a -- I

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mean, I'm sure I can just see selling this on the Legislature. "I don't want your poop." I can see that.

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MR. ULIANO: It's free fertilizer going back to the farmers through the county tax program, so if they utilize -- I forget where the facility is in the Pine Barrens, north of Calverton. That is where they have composting way up on the hill.

12

Hundreds and hundreds of tons.

13

14

15

16

MR. EDDINGTON: But there has been a problem with composting. I know Legislator Romaine had a problem with Yaphank.

17

18

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22

MR. PAVACIC: Most composting, municipal, involves leaves and if you remember a number of years ago, grass clippings were banned because of the odor and it produces a particular type of fungus, aspergillus.

23

24

25

It was a case where somebody was here in Lake Ronkonkoma train station where the Islip composting facility was

2 located and got a very nasty lung  
3 infection because of this aspergillus.

4 It is pretty much with municipal  
5 composting of leaves, not manure, and I  
6 don't know of the facility you're talking  
7 about. In Manorville was the Town of  
8 Brookhaven's manure village transfer  
9 station on Paper Road. I think it's  
10 located off of Chapman.

11 Again, I think it was primarily  
12 leaves because Brookhaven, there is so  
13 much of it is beyond Manorville. It is  
14 for the east parts of the town.

15 Leaves were brought there.

16 MR. ULIANO: Before more than  
17 forty, fifty thousand horses.

18 MR. EDDINGTON: So we're going to  
19 have these piles. They're always going to  
20 go somewhere somehow. One of the great  
21 things about it.

22 I don't know. Where are you taking  
23 yours or would you rather not say?

24 MS. PLIMPTON: That's a secret. I  
25 can tell you I'm taking it to a privately

2

owned composty kind of guy.

3

4

MR. ULIANO: It dries up in a number of days and almost becomes dust. If it's done correctly, you're not going to have a problem.

5

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10

Of course, you don't see any of us dying from some disease from the horses. We're not worried about that. We need an area of compost.

11

12

MR. EDDINGTON: Do you know of anywhere?

13

14

MR. ULIANO: I don't. The only thing I know --

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19

MR. MACKNEE: I take my compost everyday. I have six horses now. After they closed -- they built a golf course next to me and they closed everything down. All the horses went.

20

21

22

23

And what happens is I have only six of my own now and those six, I fill a truck, small truck. It is just a little bit. I -- bang, bang, bang; it is gone.

24

25

I bring it to a farmer, and the farmer pays other guys to bring compost to

2

bring the --

3

MR. EDDINGTON: You have a farm

4

that you sell it to?

5

MR. MACKNEE: No, I don't sell. I

6

give it to them. I could sell if I

7

wanted, but I don't.

8

I drop it off and ride on.

9

MR. EDDINGTON: Sam, I'm going to

10

ask you to let Rocky have a chance.

11

MR. DIVELLO: I have firsthand

12

experience in this because I do that for a

13

living. We provide that service and,

14

granted, it's not for everybody.

15

Some people like to haul their own.

16

It is cleaner to do it by yourself.

17

However in our business, we just provide

18

-- we just charge for the pull, what it

19

cost us for the driver and fuel and that

20

is it.

21

And there is several horse farms

22

that we provide this service for because

23

they requested it. We have no trouble

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getting rid of the manure because it is in

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demand. It makes a beautiful product when

2

you let it sit for ten years.

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We call it black gold. Take a handful of that, you can take a handfull, it is nothing but soil. There is earth worms in it. It rebuilds the soil.

A lot of vineyards out east want to go back to organic, get away from the pesticides and chemicals and nitrogen. They'd rather use manure.

When you let it sit for a while, heat -- letting it sit kills the weed seeds. Not all of them but most.

MR. EDDINGTON: I have a possible solution.

MR. DIVELLO: We provide the service for those who want it. Landscapers take it. A lot of people like manure.

MS. PLIMPTON: In your service, do people have to fill up their own bins? You provide the bins?

MR. DIVELLO: If you want us to go there with a machine, we can fill it. Several horse farms have twenty yard,

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thirty yard dumpsters but plenty of  
horses.

3

4

We go there twice a week.

5

6

MS. PLIMPTON: You take the  
dumpsters away?

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11

MR. DIVELLO: -- have an empty and  
take a full. It is not for everybody, but  
some people don't have the time and they  
do have the capital. That is our  
business.

12

13

14

You would be able to make an  
assessment if it's cost effective because  
you've done a number of different methods.

15

16

17

MS. PLIMPTON: Yeah. Right now,  
I'm taking it away because I think that is  
the cheapest.

18

19

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21

22

23

MR. DIVELLO: It is a good product.

MS. PLIMPTON: Definitely,  
absolutely. We also have a compost pile  
on our farm, but with seventeen horses, we  
leave -- the trailer leaves the yard once  
a week.

24

25

MR. EDDINGTON: There is one thing  
we need to expand on. If we could somehow

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market or -- I don't like to say that. We need to get it out to the horse community.

MR. DIVELLO: The east end vineyards --

MR. EDDINGTON: If I go to my two neighbors and ask them about that, they're going to know --

MR. ULIANO: We have someone that comes over and wants manure for their garden. Taking it to a thousand degree level, a lot of the large farms have always had a problem with this stuff. They have stockpiles beyond belief, as you know.

What they've been doing over the last five, six, seven years because of the building that has been going on here, rather than using soil, they've been using soil mixed with the horse manure so landscapers are going on to the big farms. They're getting everything for free; leaving their equipment there, sift it right up and it goes out by the tractor trailer everyday.

1

37

2

That is one way. Maybe we can have a place to bring the stuff and then it could be sold back out, you know, through the county or us.

6

It is just throwing things around. It can be done, it is being done.

7

8

MR. DIVELLO: I have a waiting list for manure.

9

10

MR. EDDINGTON: I guess all we have to do is make sure that everybody is aware of it. It may be the bigger farms, but I don't know if the one acre or acre and a half with two horses, I don't know if they know that.

11

12

13

14

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16

I mean, I'm assuming that the reason it sits on somebody's places for a while is because they want it to break down. Don't know what to do with it. They'd like it to go away.

17

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19

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21

MR. DIVELLO: Different story up this way than out there. There's a lot more land out that way.

22

23

24

I use it myself on my property. My wife uses it.

25

2

MR. EDDINGTON: That is one issue.

3

MS. GREENE: The Division asked for

4

the equine zoning for every township and

5

every village in Suffolk County, and to

6

the best of our ability, we read all of

7

them and tried to put in one spread sheet

8

what the zoning requirements were.

9

There is multiple zoning categories

10

depending on how the property's zoned. If

11

it's zoned commercial, it permits more

12

than if it's zoned residential or there's

13

different setbacks, but what we started

14

with was a basis to share to certainly

15

illustrate that owning horses in Suffolk

16

County is complicated and it's not

17

streamlined in any sense of the word as

18

far as a comprehensive zoning category.

19

So we have multiple villages within

20

townships, all of which have different

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regulations, so I'm imagining someone

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within a village, within a township, they

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really have to follow zoning of the

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village.

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MR. EDDINGTON: I'm looking at

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Brookhaven. There is a lot of different  
--

MS. GREENE: Human error is a  
factor here. If anyone's aware of any we  
have wrong, let us know. We wanted this  
to be a start to at least have in the  
report.

I would think that would show that  
it's a myriad of zoning categories.

MR. EDDINGTON: If a place -- like  
it says Patchogue does not have an  
equestrian zone ordinance, that means that  
the Brookhaven Town ordinance --

MS. GREENE: Would defer to  
Brookhaven.

MR. EDDINGTON: Thanks.

I don't even know if we could  
legally make a Suffolk County ordinance  
because villages and towns --

MS. GREENE: You're exempt from  
zoning -- if I may -- that the report that  
you're submitting would suggest that there  
should be some more comprehensive  
analysis, and perhaps that is a

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recommendation for the Planning Commission

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to at least bring to this attention or

4

recommend to the supervisors association

5

or some inter-governmental--

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MR. EDDINGTON: Could Planning deal

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with this, then try to talk to the towns

8

and villages; is that how they go about

9

this?

10

MS. GREENE: I would defer to

11

Planning. I think it is the Long Island

12

Planning Commission that is looking in

13

many instances to develop a more

14

comprehensive zoning. You mentioned the

15

towns.

16

MR. EDDINGTON: That might be the

17

way to do this. This is kind of --

18

MS. WAGNER: Can I ask something?

19

You're complaining in a sense about your

20

neighbor.

21

MR. EDDINGTON: Not really. I'm

22

just saying about the fly thing.

23

MS. WAGNER: Let's say you really

24

didn't like any of this and in your

25

position, you could change the zoning and

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2 get rid of all those people and that is a  
3 major concern, because we have money  
4 coming out here from the City.

5 And you tell a person who lives  
6 next to a high school you're going to get  
7 rid of the high school because those kids  
8 bother their property, that is ridiculous  
9 but that is what they do.

10 They come out, they move in next to  
11 a farm and they start a lot of problems.  
12 They take the farms to the court and it's  
13 -- that is a major problem.

14 MR. EDDINGTON: That a neighbor  
15 complains and people decide it is not  
16 worth it and they either get rid of their  
17 horses or move.

18 MS. WAGNER: They have to hire  
19 lawyers to go through the court. If the  
20 person told you that the high school --  
21 we're going to take it to court, you'd  
22 just laugh at them.

23 They knew when they moved there  
24 they were going to be their neighbor, and  
25 yet now that they're there, they're going

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2

to move the neighbor out. That is not

3

fair.

4

It is not a protection for the

5

farmers. They should have the protection.

6

They were there first.

7

MR. MACKNEE: Now you know what a

8

farmer feels like.

9

MR. DIVELLO: There are laws that

10

do protect them.

11

MR. WAGNER: Very hard to establish

12

them if you have somebody that comes in

13

with a lot of money. You're not going to

14

move a high school.

15

MR. EDDINGTON: I understand that

16

some things are easier than others.

17

I always used to say when people

18

complained about airports I said -- of

19

course, I think we probably should have

20

sold those to the hearing impaired. Give

21

them a discount to live there.

22

There's solutions to everything.

23

I grew up in a housing project.

24

When the flies come, I realize I chose

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this. This is where I want to be. I want

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to be surrounded by animals.

MR. WAGNER: If you were a different person, that would have been a major problem for your neighbor.

MR. EDDINGTON: There is a possible solution, at least for the manure. This is something we could work on further and pursue that.

The other piece is so that you can possibly like sell development rights or farm rights. You can't at three acres but at seven, they could.

Am I right on that?

MR. ULIANO: You can sell development rights down to an acre. Down to an acre; no problem.

That is not the problem. The thing is --

MR. EDDINGTON: I like you saying that, but I would prefer to have Planning tell me that rather than you, because my understanding because I have a neighbor that has six acres but they took an acre off because it's an -- Tom was working on

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this and he couldn't sell it.

They told him it had to be ten. I just got a person that had eleven and they were told no, so I'm being told.

MS. PLIMPTON: They couldn't get development rights?

MR. EDDINGTON: Farmland protection as a horse farm, because they had to be ten acres.

MR. ULIANO: But not have the development rights disappear. That is different.

MS. KALMBACHER: There is two different.

The problem is that I'm hearing there is the New York State Agriculture program that the county administers. That program provides protection to land owners of all commercial agricultural operations which includes commercial horse boarding operations and that law helps protect landowners in that program from neighbors complaining about their operation because it says yes, you are, in fact, a

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45

2

commercial agricultural operation and you

3

have the right to do certain things,

4

whether it be produce stuff that smells or

5

makes noises.

6

Then the other program --

7

MR. EDDINGTON: How many acres is

8

that?

9

MS. KALMBACHER: That is now.

10

MS. PLIMPTON: What is the

11

definition of commercial agriculture?

12

MS. KALMBACHER: It is quite

13

extensive. The size is the seven acres

14

with ten thousand dollars for horse

15

boarding and has ten horses.

16

Then below seven acres, it is fifty

17

thousand dollars or more. It still could

18

be a commercial horse boarding operation

19

if they have ten horses and make more than

20

fifty thousand dollars on average per

21

year.

22

MR. EDDINGTON: That is

23

interesting. My neighbor could qualify

24

but obviously he doesn't, because he is

25

not making fifty thousand dollars.

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That is what we want to change, but that is a New York State thing we have to change.

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MS. KALMBACHER: Right.

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MR. EDDINGTON: That is the problem. What I'm seeing in Suffolk is that even the people that have what they call horse farms do it because they love it. They're not making a lot of money.

The guy that owns the farm down from me is two guys. One is a UPS driver. That is how they make a living, and then they have the horse shows and stuff like that to just maintain the cost of the property.

These are the people we're putting out of business because they're not trying to make money but they love what they're doing.

MS. WAGNER: But if it is not a county issue, how are we going to do this?

MR. ULIANO: It is because we have people living on Long Island. You have loss of revenue, loss of taxes,

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foreclosures, more horses going away.

How much more do we have to say?

MS. PLIMPTON: We need to redefine the term horse farm.

MR. EDDINGTON: Get the State to redefine it.

MS. PLIMPTON: At least Suffolk County to redefine it. Don't we have more control over Suffolk County?

MR. WAGNER: We also need a better image. The reason that the vineyards have made it is because they made themselves word status, and they are never going to have to leave.

We need to make some kind of stance that makes it what Suffolk County is about. You come out here from New York City and you get to see or to go --

It has to become more.

MR. ULIANO: One of the things on the horizon for next May is going to be a Northeast Equestrian Show which is like the one that we do in Massachusetts. They're going to bring that to the

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48

2

racetrack.

3

MS. PLIMPTON: To Belmont?

4

MR. ULIANO: Yeah. That is going

5

to help us to be -- hopefully put up

6

booths so we get recognition about what

7

we're doing in Suffolk County. We're

8

going to be able to have a booth.

9

I'm telling it to you now so that

10

it is part of the marketing program.

11

We're going to need to do it; would be

12

good for it as well for SPCA.

13

This is going to happen. I thought

14

it wasn't, but it is going to happen for

15

sure. I'm on the committee that is doing

16

that program.

17

MS. PLIMPTON: What is it called?

18

MR. ULIANO: Northeast Equestrian

19

blah, blah, but they're going to put on an

20

equine show a yearly event, better than

21

the Hampton classic I hope, so it will

22

give Long Island the boost that it needs

23

to the normal community and say, "Oh my

24

God.

25

I walk on the street with my horse.

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2 A lady comes up to me, people come up to  
3 me, Oh my god, where is a horse farm  
4 around here or what shows, blah, blah.  
5 The thing is we're unidentifiable with the  
6 general public.

7 You brought up a good thing.

8 MS. WAGNER: Patchogue Medford high  
9 school is now going to try to pull  
10 themselves out of this rut from our very  
11 bad publicity. That is where the horse  
12 people are at this point.

13 MR. EDDINGTON: I agree.

14 Here's what I would like to do.  
15 We've come up to my hour and a half issue.  
16 I don't like to keep meetings longer than  
17 that.

18 Let's do this. Let's schedule  
19 another meeting, but let's -- I want you  
20 to go home, think of first one issue that  
21 we have is the arena here. What can we do  
22 to help the rescue of horses and animals?

23 Your homework is to come up with a  
24 couple of ideas, possible solutions.

25 Steve, obviously, will be doing lots of

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50

2

other stuff. You can talk to us more  
about it.

3

4

The other thing is I'd like you to  
decide on what other issue -- I was  
talking about manure. That's -- I don't  
know how big of an issue it is, but that  
might be one thing, a task, that we could  
really work towards and let everybody in  
the community know of different solutions.

5

6

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11

I want to make sure that is not a  
problem for anybody then. Maybe where can  
you get supplies?

12

13

14

I want to make sure you guys have a  
lot of knowledge. I want to get to the  
people that have two horses in their back  
yards. You guys may know, they may not.

15

16

17

18

That's an immediate help for them.  
This is what I'm seeing, but I want you to  
go back and if you have other things --

19

20

21

The other thing is maybe we have to  
work with the State. Maybe we have to  
make a presentation to our State  
representatives and talk to them about  
changing that view of how you qualify.

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These are what I'm thinking.

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I want you to take that home and come up with anything else, a focus. It doesn't have to be any of those three I just mentioned other than helping Steve with the SPCA. That is something we're already working on.

This is the international sign for yes if this makes sense to you. Otherwise, we'll just keep going and going. I want to start focusing again. I talked about manure and feed, but it doesn't have to be. It's what you guys decide.

We'll put a list and vote on them next time and start to focus in on things we can start doing right away.

MR. AMPER: I'm always asked is there anything to which I can take exception. I wondered if I missed something that I should be concerned about.

MR. EDDINGTON: I would like the Commissioner to have the last word.

2

MR. PAVACIC: For us, one of the

3

issues has been a number of years that the

4

county had four equestrian owners

5

including here at South Haven and another

6

one local and the remaining two are out in

7

Montauk and West Hills, Sweet Hollow, and

8

they're having difficulties, they're

9

struggling.

10

It is the cost of feed, vet care,

11

insurance, so those are other topics that

12

I can see that fuel costs out here on the

13

Island and are things I think need to be

14

discussed.

15

Also I think distinguished between

16

horse farms or folks who are raising

17

horses versus the folks who have the one

18

acre plot and two horses for their own

19

personal riding use but not breeding.

20

I think that is something we need

21

to --

22

MR. ULIANO: Breeding has a whole

23

federal and state booklet we don't want go

24

near.

25

MR. PAVACIC: There is two aspects

2

here that need to be distinguished and  
fleshed out.

3

4

MR. EDDINGTON: That sounds good  
for the next meeting. You're right.

5

6

Next meeting, when and where?

7

MR. DIVELLO: I like Wednesdays.

8

MR. EDDINGTON: That is okay.

9

MR. ULIANO: After the first

10

Wednesday.

11

Wednesday afternoon is okay.

12

MR. EDDINGTON: We're talking about

13

October sometime? October seventh, I'll

14

put it down temporarily.

15

Where do you want to do this?

16

I don't care. We can do it at the

17

Legislature. I think it was nice to have

18

it here. I'm cool with anywhere else.

19

You want to meet here again?

20

This is kind of informal.

21

MR. PAVACIC: Let me make sure it

22

is not reserved for something else.

23

MR. MACKNEE: What time?

24

MR. EDDINGTON: I'm up to what you

25

guys think.

1

2

Is 3:30 okay?

3

I'll try to get you out no later

4

than five o'clock.

5

(TIME NOTED: 5:10 P.M.)

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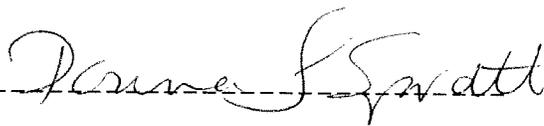
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CERTIFICATION

I, DONNA L. SPRATT, a Notary  
Public in and for the State of New  
York, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing is a true and  
accurate transcript of my  
stenographic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand this 14th day  
of September 2009.



DONNA L. SPRATT