

ORIGINAL

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SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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EQUESTRIAN TASK FORCE

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SUFFOLK COUNTY

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Southaven County Park

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December 2, 2009

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12:00 P.M.

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HON. JACK EDDINGTON, Chairman

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Reported by: Donna Spratt

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Court Reporter

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~~September 9, 2009~~ 12/21/09

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HON. JACK EDDINGTON, Chairman

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Reported by: Donna Spratt

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2 A P P E A R A N C E S:

3 Rob Calarco, Acting Chair

4 John Pavacic

5 Janet Plympton

6 Vito DiVello

7 Nicole Spinelli

8 Kay Intemann

9 Joe Gergela

10 Ron Chuvalles

11 Denise Speizio

12 Denise Ottavio

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MR. CALARCO: The best thing to do
is go around the room and introduce
ourselves so we all know.

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I'm Rob Calarco, Chief of Staff of
legislator Eddington. I'll be conducting
the meeting on his behalf.

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MR. PAVACIC: John Pavacic, Suffolk
County Parks Commission.

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MR. GERGELA: Joe Gergela, Long
Island Farm Bureau.

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MR. DIVELLO: Rocky DiVello, Long
Island Farm Bureau, East End Livestock
Horsemen's Association.

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MR. CHUVALLES: Ron Chualles,
president, East End Livestock Horsemen's
Association.

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MS. OTTAVIO: Denise Ottavio, I'm
working in collaboration with Nassau
County horse and 4-H group trying to keep
themselves together.

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MS. SPINELLI: Nicole Spinelli,
Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation
District.

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MS. PLYMPTON: Janet Plympton, Long

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Island PHA.

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MS. INTEMANN: Kay Intemann.

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MR. CALARCO: I know at the last

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meeting when we left off, we were going to

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come to today's meeting to focus on what

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it would take to set up an equestrian

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center. There was a little

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miscommunication.

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Joe is here from the Farm Bureau to

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discuss the different issues, regulatory

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issues in terms of what the different

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farms can be used for and manure issues,

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those types things.

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So we're going to kind of shift and

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we'll focus on this issue. Also Nicole

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from Soil and Water can address those

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issues for us. We're going to get a

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little information about different

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regulatory processes that are out there

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that affect the equestrian community.

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Is that okay?

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I'll turn the meeting over to you.

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You can give us background.

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MR. GERGELA: We do have an

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interest in what happens with the

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equestrian center. There is different

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places, whether it be parks or perhaps the

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County farm, I Ron's organization had a

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lot of activities over the years in

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conjunction with the County farm.

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We're willing to participate in

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that discussion and try to help where we

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can. Rocky had asked me to come to this

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meeting a few weeks ago. Myself and a

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couple of my officers, we met with Ron and

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Rocky's group on the North Fork.

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In the last few years, one of the

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issues that is starting to rise at the

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town level of government has been density

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issues; how many horses per acre are

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tolerable, are doable from various

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perspectives.

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We of -- there was some

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misperception out there that the Farm

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Bureau was against residential horse

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owners or whatever. That is absolutely

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not the case.

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At this point in time, we have not

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really been asked at the various towns as to our position on such issues, but at the same token, a number of my leaders are involved in various committees at town government levels.

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It has primarily been in the Hamptons, Southold, Riverhead and Brookhaven regarding concern over density and residential zoning and obviously new construction. New developments come up, the towns are going to be probably a little more restrictive as to uses of property in residential zoning categories.

There's a lot of people that own horses in residential communities. I think it would be very hard for towns to all of a sudden say, "You have too many animals on your property, you're going to have to get rid of them." I don't believe that is going to happen.

However, with developments, there probably will be more restrictions on what you can do with ancillary activities on one's property. It's going to vary town

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to town. Each town has its own master plan, own zoning categories and permitted uses and ancillary uses and all over the place.

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Recently in Riverhead and Southold, it has come before the Farmland Preservation Committee of the towns, and the Farmland Preservation Committee has kind of told the towns that it is not appropriate for them to really have too much say on that, that it's a planning board, town, civic, horse people discussion at the town level.

That's the thing that we are encouraging is for people in these communities to get involved, go to town board meetings, start talking to the planning boards, talking to town level officials regarding that subject.

As it relates to Suffolk County farmland programs, there's a number of things that come in. Number one, Suffolk County preserved farmland. Before people can do structures and certain activities,

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they generally have to go before the committee. They have to present a site plan, they have to present a survey, you know, what type of building they want, how they're going to deal with manure, you know, what are the side and back yard buffers from neighbors' property; all those kinds of discussions come up with the County committee.

New York State statutorily, basically there is no set definition of what constitutes a horse farm. Generally in New York State the definition of agriculture is under section three of one of the New York State Ag and Markets Law, which basically defines anything that could possibly be a farm, but there is no set distinction.

There is a program under the Ag and Markets Law and a lot of horse owners and a lot of what happened, owners participate in what is known as the districts law and a second component of that called land outside ag districts. That is an

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imaginary boundary over a given geographic area.

There is five ag districts on Long Island. There is an ag district in Brookhaven Town which includes all farmlands West of Brookhaven. Land in Huntington, Smithtown, Babylon even those -- it is not in the same township, they can be in an ag district. An ag district gives the farmer several protections.

Number one, most important, is the right to farm protection. There is a process by which the Commissioner of Agriculture can render a legal opinion as to what activity constitutes an accepted normal farming practice.

Secondarily whether it is a real farm or not. That purview goes to the Commissioner of Agriculture in New York. It doesn't matter whether it is town preserved land, Suffolk County preserved land. It is the law of New York State that if a farmer is in that ag district, he has a right to farm protection.

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MS. PLYMPTON: How do you find out if you're in that district?

MR. GERGELA: You have to request to do it. Not done by the Suffolk County Planning Department. There is an entity, Suffolk County Protection Board made up of various agency people. I actually serve as advisor on several committees that's the statutory committee that is made up of County and state. It is a County state entity that has the purview over agriculture.

The second benefit, major benefit, has got to do with taxes and assessment. In the ag district's law and land outside of that district, an individual can get property tax relief if their farm or land qualifies for this particular program.

For horse boarding -- horse boarding which means you're boarding horses for people that you get paid to do that activity -- you have to have seven acres, ten thousand gross income and you sign up yearly for that benefit.

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An ag district, you have to sign up yearly for the tax benefit, but it basically is an eight year program depending on how it works from a statutory perspective but, again, it is for eligibility for assessment only. That does not mean that that's the sole definition.

However, it is the one that governs. Whether it be the town or county or state, they look at that as kind of the definition of what constitutes a horse boarding operation. The law was changed just a few years ago and they instead of ten acres, it is seven.

If you don't have the -- if you have less than seven acres, if you gross fifty thousand gross income, you can do it in another way. There is different ways to meet that criteria. But in the last few years, what we're encountering, obviously there is a lot of residential people that own a horse. They will say you know what, I'm a horse farm. That

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does not make them a horse farm.

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Because they own two horses in a back yard, that does not make it to be a commercial horse farm. There are distinctions for various reasons. Because of that, and like I said where this is driven from is local government getting complaints from neighbors. I'm not even sure who else other than neighbors, but the biggest concerns are storm water run off, which is a major issue regardless at town level, noise complaints from activities whether it be a winery or horse farm an agricultural tourist facility and a regular farm, we're getting complaints from all kinds of people.

There are the nuisance complaints and odor that are a couple of things where all of a sudden in the last few years, people are complaining to local government officials.

As far as how many animals can, you know, be successful on a small piece of property, whether it be a half acre, one

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acre, I am not qualified to make that kind of opinion. That really would fall under the purview of what Nicole is here for and also Ellen Connell from USDA. They're soil experts. That would be the carrying capacity from storm water, erosion, water and land qualities, etc., etc.

That is the agency that would be more qualified to handle that type of issue or secondarily, or in addition to, would be Cornell Extension. They have expertise on that.

The third entity which I think would be good for this in particular on scientific questions is the Commissioner's office. There is a New York State veterinarian and there are people with expertise on soil and water and those types of questions. There are three different agencies that could provide input to help you handle more difficult or, you know, maybe even confrontational type issues.

So there is resources out there to

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help with that discussion. Again, our

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organization, we have five thousand

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members. We have a lot of horse farmers,

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horse boarding operations and individuals

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that are members of the Farm Bureau do.

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What we do, we're advocates for Long

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Island agriculture broadly defined, and we

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try to provide assistance where we can.

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That is why I was invited to talk a

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little bit about some of the issues that

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you're dealing with. The issue over

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manure, obviously it's going to vary farm

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to farm, residence to residence. Some

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people do better than others. Some get

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rid of it right away, some people are

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having problems with manure handling.

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Therefore, that presents a problems.

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An example, Long Island Compost

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Corporation which is in Nassau County, we

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have a program with them on farms where

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we're actually storing compost material.

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They love horse manure. You are a part of

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this, incorporating that into a good

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compost material. I know they're

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interested in taking manure.

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Many farmers have told Rocky

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recently at a board meeting that they are

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willing to take manure from individuals

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that have a manure problem. A number of

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our farmers will be very happy to take

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manure from horse farmers and people that

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have horses.

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MS. PLYMPTON: How do we get them

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together with horse people?

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MR. DIVELLO: Joe, right off the

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bat, we can work on that. Rob Nelson --

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Nolan, where is his farm?

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MR. GERGELA: South Country Road in

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Brookhaven Hamlet. He is got at least

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about forty acre vegetable farm there and

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he actually uses quite a bit of manure and

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incorporates it into the soil for his farm

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operation.

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He absolutely would take it.

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MR. DIVELLO: As long as it is

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clean, uncontaminated, not debris mixed

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in.

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MR. CALARCO: You said there is a

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place in Nassau County, the Compost?

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MR. GERGELA: Long Island Compost Corporation.

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MR. CALARCO: They're currently taking manure?

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MR. GERGELA: Sure.

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MR. CALARCO: Do you know how it runs? Do they pick it up?

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MR. GERGELA: I think they probably could do both, depending on amounts.

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As an example, they're a big time operation. They also have a landscape yard where they sell supplies for the industry; fertilizer kinds of products.

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With the farm program, probably it would go to a farm where they're doing composting. It would be mixed in. It's probably all over the place out here in Suffolk County.

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MR. CHUVALLES: Do you think they do it in East Moriches?

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MR. GERGELA: I believe so.

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There's a number of other farmers that would use compost. My buddy, Lyle

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Wells, as an example, he has been using

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duck manure. He takes it.

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MR. DIVELLO: Most of the vineyards

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out east are trying to go organic. They

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welcome clean horse manure. Pindar,

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Macari, Route Forty-eight vineyards.

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There is several more.

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MR. CALARCO: I think with the

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organic issue becoming such a catch word,

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a lot of farmers would love to be able to

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put that on there.

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Do you think that potentially part

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of the issue here is connecting the two

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people?

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MS. PLYMPTON: The other part might

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be getting it to the sites because some

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people live in Medford. That is a long

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haul if you need to do it once a week or

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twice a month. To go out to the

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vineyards, somehow or other there should

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be some sort of drop off point or where

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dumpsters centrally located.

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MR. DIVELLO: My business does

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that. There are some in your area. A lot

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have container service, but maybe friends with pick up trucks.

MR. GERGELA: That may be something your organization may want to do where you get a number of horse farmers together and then once a week they bring it to a garage or whatever.

I believe it is highly unlikely that farmers will have time to start doing milk runs to pick up manure.

MR. DIVELLO: There is always a solution.

MR. GERGELA: Certainly is interesting. I think that the bigger issue, one of most concern from my understanding, is about the density issue. We're hearing it more and more. Riverhead Town in particular is talking about doing some code revisions on that.

At this point, we are aware of it but they haven't really got to the table and said "this is what we're going to propose."

MS. PLYMPTON: When they do

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revisions, would that challenge the

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already existing farms or establishments?

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MR. GERGELA: Well it could, but I

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believe it would be very hard where people

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already have animals, they're going to

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come along and say "you have to get rid of

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them."

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I don't think that will happen, but

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what I do think is that new developments,

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they will be more restrictive in what you

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can do on your property.

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MR. DIVELLO: They've done that in

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Southold over the past several years.

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There has been a lot of backlash about it

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from the independent horse owners, and

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every time they talk about it -- I don't

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know about the other towns, Riverhead, I

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don't know, they never had that problem

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that I know of.

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Every other house has two horses in

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the back yard. They have a fight on their

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hands trying to do code revisions in

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Riverhead. What has happened is these new

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developments are coming in and they build

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new developments against horse farms or

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houses that have them and new people

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coming in don't like horses but they

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bought houses.

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There should be some type of

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protection for the individuals that bought

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homes in areas that are open to horses

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that have always had horses, that when

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they build these housing developments and

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individuals come in and say -- it happened

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on Young's Avenue. They built a

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development right next to a farm dump on

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the side. They don't like the compost

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heap or from the farm, let the buyer

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beware.

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MS. OTTAVIO: That is the position

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that the town should take. I hope that

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the Farm Bureau would help support that

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industry here.

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MR. GERGELA: When it is time,

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we're going to need representatives from

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the organizations to participate in those

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discussions.

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Also now with the way that

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subdivisions have been going, they do high density and leaving reserves and eve that ag reserve area, you would see some type of farming activity.

In the Hamptons it is predominantly horse farms, more than any other use and you're right, that at the same token, all these people want to live out by us, want to come out and look at farms, they don't want to know they make noise, odors, stuff that you have to run, irrigation motors at five in the morning which spray when you got to spray to protect your investment.

That is something that we're going to have a very hard time about. I don't know how the town would enforce notification as part of the selling and buying of homes. I think it would be very hard to do anything about that.

Certainly the most important thing is to be represented when these discussions are starting to happen. That is what we told the town through Ron and Rocky, that we want to make sure that if

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there is a real proposal, that they have
the opportunity to be at the table.

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MR. DIVELLO: I live in a

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neighborhood that has enough room to have

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horses. On my own property, however, I

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have a covenant and restriction when I

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bought the house that says no livestock.

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I knew this going in.

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I bought it, I understand I'm not

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allowed to keep livestock. I knew this.

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But I'm saying that area, I know you're

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not allowed to have horses. I bought it

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that way.

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When you move next to horse farm,

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that is a problem, or a new development,

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that is where the trouble lies.

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MS. SPEIZIO: That is what we

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experienced in Ridge. We have a lot of

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areas that have been preserved and they've

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built condensed developments, and in an

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effort to preserve the areas around it so

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people move in, they're not horse people

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but the horse people exist.

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We have a lot of horses in Ridge,

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and they don't want the horses there

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anymore. They will literally -- they have

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tortured neighbors to death until they

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just move. They're ruthless. We've

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experienced it a lot by us.

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MR. CALARCO: One of the things

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noted was the idea of possibly

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recommending to the town some sort of

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equestrian zoning areas.

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I know in the western towns, most

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of the horse properties pop up around the

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parks where there is trails for them. It

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is probably different on the east end

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where there is more room.

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Is this something that you think

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the Farm Bureau would look at supporting

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where we designate an area? In Ridge with

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a lot of horse properties, there is

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equestrian zoning areas. We allow a few

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more horses per acre.

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At the same time, people now moving

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in, this is horse country and we're going

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to have horses as neighbors. If we don't

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like it, we should look to move someplace

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else.

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MR. GERGELA: I believe my

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organization would support something like

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that. Again, it's premature to say too

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much about it until something is proposed,

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but at this point in time, the issues

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general arise, and town by town it's going

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to -- Riverhead is more agricultural than

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Southold, Southampton is different now.

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Different world out there, how they do

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things.

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They're fairly restrictive. The

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north Fork is still fairly rural.

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MR. DIVELLO: East Hampton I think

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it was where a member resides where they

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outlawed horses altogether.

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MR. CHUVALLES: They didn't outlaw,

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just put severe restrictions. It wasn't

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East Hampton, one of the hamlets out there

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in East Hampton.

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MR. CALARCO: At one of our prior

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meetings, the Division of Real Estate put

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together zoning codes for different towns.

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MS. SPEIZIO: They did.

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MR. CALARCO: Perhaps that is

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something we want to take a look at is

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what those codes are for different towns

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and try to make recommendations. Maybe

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this is where --

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MR. GERGELA: I was going to say,

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I'd like to hear from Nicole a little

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about what they've been getting at the

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district office. I serve on the board of

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the soil and water district. What will be

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their recommendation as far as how many

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horses a legitimate request to be able to

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have.

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MS. SPINELLI: What my office does

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is we give recommendations and designs for

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sustainable land management whenever there

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is a natural resource concern. As far as

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horse farms go, we look at it as a pasture

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management issue.

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If you have horses and your desire

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is to raise those horses on pasture, the

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maximum numbers of one horse per acre of

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pasture can sustain.

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So if you put -- if you have two

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acres and you have four horses, those

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horses are going to over graze and tramp

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the pasture. You're not going to be able

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to maintain it in a sustainable way.

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Ideally you should have probably up

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to one and a half or two acres per one

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horse, but our bare minimum that we

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recommend is one acre per horse. I

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believe that is the recommendation that

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Ellen Connell gave to the Farmland

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Preservation Committee.

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MS. OTTAVIO: That is based on

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pasture feeding.

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MS. SPINELLI: If you are

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supplemental feeding your horses with hay

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and you're not -- your desire is not to

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raise them on pasture, you can have more

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horses. In that case, we would look at

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are there any erosion issues happening on

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that farm? Are you near a water way? Do

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you have any manure leachate running off

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into your water way?

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MS. OTTAVIO: Many people look at

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that recommendation from soil and water

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and view it as total pasture management

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when if you're feeding animals strictly

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off pasture, having more than one per acre

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is detrimental to the pasture and health

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of the animal, but if you're stabling

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horses and supplementing, there is no

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reason why you couldn't have more than one

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horse per acre which many places do

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because we don't have the open space like

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we do out in Riverhead where we did have

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farms.

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Up in Brookhaven and further west,

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they're in stables. They have maybe one

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and a half to two acres and they're

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housing in some riding schools 12, 15

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horses, feeding them hay and grain, and

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this is where you need the waste

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management. That is a whole other issue

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than just soil and water.

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It is not just pasture management.

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What I've seen happen, I've been an

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advocate for horse farms for a very long

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time. I've looked into many different

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options, and when the town boards look at

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these things and look at the

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recommendations from a governmental agency

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that, say, Soil and water, we recommend

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one per acre, they define their zoning

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based on that.

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That's causing a problem.

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MS. PLYMPTON: Exactly. You're

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looking at someone with seventeen horses

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on three acres. I have grass paddocks. I

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have three dirt paddocks and three grass.

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We mow them, but they go out on those

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grass paddocks but I maintain them to keep

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them grass.

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Are they out there all day? No. I

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also have two riding areas. I have three

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acres. No one that has ever been there

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has said I don't feel like I have

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seventeen horses. They all feel -- it all

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depends on how you manage it.

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To set up standards and box

22

everyone in on those standards when it

23

really is misleading with the one horse

24

per acre theory, that is really

25

misleading. I understand where you're

1

2

coming from because I also have a place in
Kentucky.

3

4

One horse per acre is the way to
go, or less lenient than that, but I think
that you need more horse people that are
living it to -- and showing it to you that
it can be done if it's done correctly.

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MS. SPINELLI: Our recommendations
are on a per farm basis. We do -- when a
farm comes to us, we do an individualized
plan for that farm and if their desire is
to do rotational basis grazing, we do a
plan for that farm.

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We tell them find out how many
horses, how many acres, what species of
grass is planted, and we do calculations
and figure out, give suggestions as to
pasture size, timing of rotation.

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Then it is up to the individual
farmer to implement that plan. When we
give that generalized recommendation of
one acre per horse, we specify that it was
for a rotational grazing system.

MS. OTTAVIO: What I feel has

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2

happened, they're taking that

3

recommendation and saying literally and

4

applying it to the zoning laws. How many

5

towns, most of the towns all have one acre

6

per horse zoning.

7

MS. PLYMPTON: If what the towns

8

have -- it is pretty much not particularly

9

lenient, and there are a lot of places

10

that are not living up to this and can't.

11

MS. OTTAVIO: It is impossible.

12

MS. PLYMPTON: Smithtown, for

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example.

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MR. CALARCO: Does your agency put

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out standards based upon non-pasture type

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operations where they are, you know,

17

providing the feed to the horses and

18

supplementing their diets as opposed to

19

having them operate a pasture system?

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MS. SPINELLI: All of our

21

conservation plans are based on NRCS

22

practice standards, so there is a standard

23

for pasture management and --

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MR. GERGELA: National standard.

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MR. CALARCO: NRCS?

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MS. SPINELLI: National Resource

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Conservation Service.

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MR. GERGELA: Not so much

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misrepresentation --

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MS. OTTAVIO: Taken out of context,

7

because they read that most other people

8

that set the laws are not horse people or

9

farmers. They will read something from a

10

national agency, federal or state agency

11

and say this is coming from our Soil and

12

Water people, it must be because the

13

horses are contaminating our aquifers.

14

That is not the case.

15

It is more of an erosion issue. If

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you're going to sustain animals on

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pasture, you're going to starve them to

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death. If you have 15 on seven acres,

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then you will have a terrible erosion

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issue, cause ruts. You won't have any

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grass left.

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Not that it hurts the aquifers. It

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does not contaminate water. Any

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statistics with that where it says a horse

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farm -- manure from a horse farm is

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contaminating our water ways, because that is where they're basing all zoning laws on.

When you go up to Central Islip, East Islip, which is another haven for horses, they have to have dumpsters for their manure because they have interpreted this or misinterpreted these standards saying this horse manure is contaminating water when it doesn't.

It is probably the richest fertilizer there is; natural, organic rich in many different minerals that soil needs. If it were contaminating the water way, it would be contaminating our food at the same time.

MR. GERGELA: Not so much that as storm water run off and the concern not only from animals but even deer or fertilizer use, homeowners fertilizer use, is the storm water getting into the water ways which is increasing the nitrogen levels in all the bays. It is everything.

MS. OTTAVIO: But what I feel has

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2

happened because I've seen it happen so

3

frequently starting in Nassau County

4

working up west in Suffolk County,

5

everyone that has horses in these areas

6

are challenged in keeping their animals

7

because of zoning laws.

8

We've been a viable industry here.

9

What I would like to see is a committee

10

that is going to help maintain these horse

11

farms, sustainable horse farms.

12

MR. CALARCO: I think what we're

13

trying to do with this task force is

14

develop that recommendation to the towns

15

and say a sustainable per acre horse

16

population for an equestrian center,

17

equestrian area, would be maybe three

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horses per acre. Perhaps that is kind of

19

what we're trying to get out.

20

Nicole, you can help us. There is

21

issues with manure getting into the water

22

ways. Do you have the nitrogen

23

overloading that fouls up the species in

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the water ways, damaged shellfish? There

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is a balance you have to have.

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That is what we're looking to

3

Nicole to give us an idea of what that

4

balance might be or a better idea of where

5

we need to go with this.

6

Do you have based on a system where

7

you're going to be boarding horses and

8

stables and feeding them hay, is there a

9

recommendation that you have that is a

10

standard or is it something that needs to

11

be done on a case by case basis based on

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terrain?

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Fill us in on that.

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MS. SPINELLI: We would look at

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each farm on a case by case basis. We do

16

not like to make general recommendations

17

like that.

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MR. CALARCO: Various beliefs that

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are out there.

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MS. SPINELLI: Basically what it

21

comes down to is the desire and management

22

of the land owner, what is their

23

objective? They would tell us how much

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feed, supplemental feed they're giving

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animals. That would factor into the

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equation, and how many acres are available
for grazing.

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There is actually a whole set of
calculations that we go through that were
devised by the New York State grazing
specialist, USDA. NRCS has one for New
York State. He came up with a series of
calculations on how to determine the acres
that are used based on number of things.

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You have the weight of each animal
and how much supplementary feed you're
giving them. We would go through those
calculations. If the land owner says to
us they want to go rotational grazing, we
would say great. We can help you.

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We look at the pastures, determine
how big they are, determine what species
are in the pasture or if there's no
existing pasture, give them planting
recommendations, and that plan would tell
the landowner "this is our
recommendation," the paddock size, the
rotation plan which would say five horses
on this size paddock. Leave them there

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for a few days, rotate them to the next

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one.

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But then it is up to the landowner to tweak that plan and monitor the grass.

6

When the grass gets down to three or four

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inches, take them off so it has an

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opportunity to rebound, and it really

9

comes down to the individual farm, what

10

their goals are.

11

I guess one of the questions for an

12

equestrian center, they're trying to

13

devise a plan for that. What we would do

14

is figure out what is the goal of this

15

center is. Is the goal to be pasture and

16

to have the horses graze there or just to

17

have, you know, a turn out area and

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supplemental feed for the horses?

19

Other things we would look at is

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where you're going to store and/or compost

21

the manure to make sure that is not an

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environmentally sensitive area. We would

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keep that away from areas where there is

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shallow groundwater, keep it away from the

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highly leaching soils, any streams or

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water ways.

If you don't have room for composting, we would recommend that you get it hauled away, take it to someone who can compost it. Look at the run off from your farm, make sure that is not causing any erosion or, you know, running through your manure pile area exacerbating that issue.

Those are the things we would look at, but it is hard to generalize without being at the farm. Each farm is completely different from the next farm. We walk the farm, talk with the farmer or landowner, and we work with them to figure out what is best for their farm.

MS. SPEIZIO: When you go to make a plan, you take into consideration whether it's a resident, one farm, a back yard horse as opposed to a professional who has a business and has some kind of a bigger interest in maintaining it as a business as opposed to someone where this is a hobby or a side interest.

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MS. SPINELLI: We have not had any homeowner come to us, just farmers.

MS. OTTAVIO: Has there been a study? Perhaps it would be interesting to see if there has been a study done for the back yard horse owner, how it impacts the storm water run off, the manure and what is coming out of the leaching from horses, by area, to look at where there is a lot of horses, fewer horses, does it make a difference, how much of a difference or impact?

Does owning two horses in a back yard, putting manure on the ground having a small compost pile -- these people don't have the space to worry about composting -- how much of an impact is it having on our environment?

MR. GERGELA: It would be minimal probably. The entity that could help with that would be the Health Department, Walter Dawidiak and Vito Minei. Probably would be very minimal from a recreational standpoint.

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It's not only that, but it's the run off. That's where the concern is getting into the surface waters, not so much the groundwater contamination, probably very little, if any.

MR. CALARCO: Nicole, you could speak to when it comes to the run off and effects on water ways, it is really a cumulative effect of not just the horse farm but the private homeowner. That one issue is going to be the key factor in that kind of problem, correct?

MS. SPINELLI: Yeah. Pollution is from multiple sources that are hard to pinpoint.

MR. CALARCO: Never be able to say two horses as opposed to one is going to have a great impact.

MS. SPINELLI: Except if somebody has twenty and a manure pile on the bank of the Carmen's River. That is an obvious source of pollution, but two horses in a back yard where, you know, there is a grass buffer, there is thirty feet to

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groundwater, that is probably not causing
3 much of an issue as compared to the guy
4 who is fertilizing his lawn.

5

MS .OTTAVIO: That would be a
6 recommendation to a back yard person for
7 manure. Make sure you have a grass
8 buffer.

9

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MS. SPINELLI: Something simple
like that. There would be an exception if
11 you're within fifty feet of a wetlands or
12 something like that.

13

14

MS. PLYMPTON: You're doing these
15 recommendations for larger farmers on Long
Island, New York State?

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MS. SPINELLI: Just Suffolk County.

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MS. PLYMPTON: How many do you do a
month?

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MS. SPINELLI: They're not many
commercially horse boarding operations
21 coming to us.

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MS. PLYMPTON: Can't be all that
busy if you pretty much do larger horse
farms because the smaller ones aren't
going to draw attention to themselves.

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MR. CALARCO: How many professional
boarding operations do you believe we
have, members in your organization?

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MS. PLYMPTON; that is not fair to
say either. Those are professionals.

6

7

They could be free lance, and not all the
professionals on Long Island are members,

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9

so to throw out a figure -- how large is
large; twenty-five heads or better?

10

11

Indoor arena, is that size? In
Suffolk County maybe twenty, twenty-five.

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That is a generous figure.

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MR. CHUVALLES: Very.

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MR. CALARCO: If we lowered that
number -- one of the reasons despite --

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the Legislator's interest in the whole

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matter in the first place is right around

19

Medford we have several that are twelve,

20

fifteen horses on a property.

21

MS. PLYMPTON: Lower that number.

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I think you could add -- I don't

23

know about out east, if there are any

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places that have fifteen horses that do a

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little low level boarding, lesson kind of

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thing. I would say probably it's going to
3 add ten to that number that I can think of
4 maybe.

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MR. CHUVALLES: I would say very
generously if you're putting a figure of
fifteen horses on a any given property,
maybe tops -- in Suffolk County probably
fifty tops. That is being generous
counting -- we're talking fifteen horses
on -- seventeen horses on three acres.

Those people aren't that common;
four or five horses on an acre, yes.
Where you define that at, where is the
overload line? That is the thing.

Seventeen horses on three acres is
an --

MS. PLYMPTON: A very responsible
-- in order to have seventeen horses on
three acres, you have to be a responsible
horse owner, cleaning up manure, getting
rid of it, rotating horses, doing that --

There is all kinds of different
variants that can figure in. That is why
if anything comes of this task force, it

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would be to create certain standards for

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everybody, that these standards are

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followed, standards that are followed

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throughout the County, not just each

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individual town but followed throughout

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the County and go from there.

8

MS. PLYMPTON: Standards versus

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codes.

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MR. CHUVALLES: Absolutely.

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MR. CALARCO: We need some sort of

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idea. Obviously seventeen horses on three

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acres is working for you, but is that

14

something that is sustainable?

15

We count on most people or

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operators to be able to do --

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MR. CHUVALLES: Of course not.

18

That's not --

19

MS. PLYMPTON: That is where your

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standards come in. Seventeen horses on

21

three acres, it is quite obvious I don't

22

have a pile of manure. Every week my

23

trailer leaves the yard.

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MR. GERGELA: For some people, one

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horse is too many.

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MR. CHUVALLES: Absolutely right.

3

It is the responsibility of the individual

4

person and setting uncertain standards

5

that these can go by, that is why we end

6

up having issues, especially out in

7

Southold or Riverhead with people not

8

being responsible enough.

9

This is what our organization has

10

always preached; being a responsible horse

11

owner. If you live in a residential area

12

you clean up after your horse. It is only

13

being responsible.

14

You want to keep your horse there,

15

there are certain extra standards that go

16

to it, especially being on Long Island

17

because everybody wants to have their own

18

horse with them as close as possible.

19

Because the land is so precious, they end

20

up having a horse on a minimal amount of

21

-- third of an acre.

22

I have two horses on a half acre.

23

I clean up everyday. I remove manure at

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least once a week, sometimes twice to my

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local farmer who takes it. It's taken

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care of.

Is there smells during the summer when it's really hot? Yes, just from the nature being -- did I have run off issues or anything like that? No, not until the development was developed behind me and they blocked off the natural water way where the water flowed through.

Every time I do have a hard rain, I have a pool of water in the back yard until it drains out over into the field next to me. I never had issues with water until the development behind us was developed.

Setting up equestrian districts is a great idea because developers would also have to be responsible for how they develop the land, not to interfere with the natural flow of the water with the run off. Some of these create the problem of natural run off by developing and not understanding what the natural flow of water was at that particular point.

MR. DIVELLO: I'm going to switch

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hats from the Farm Bureau to livestock.

3

We are very vigilant on offenders, and

4

there are some in every group, the bad

5

guys that make it bad, the guys in the

6

horse program take advantage just like you

7

do with offenders in the horse world.

8

We're not a police group but we go

9

there and try to educate them and try to

10

help them. Why? Because it makes it bad

11

for all of us. That is why we're there,

12

right, Ron?

13

There has been a few. We do not

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stand behind these people. They think by

15

joining or club, we're going to be in

16

their corner. Not if they're doing wrong,

17

we don't.

18

MR. CHUVALLES: Right. We act as

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preventive maintenance. We try to stop

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the problems before. We also have rescue

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problems. We try to work with people so

22

we don't end up with a rescue problem with

23

-- you always have those individuals, but

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there is no -- all we can do is go by our

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recommendations that we have created over

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the years with an organization. We don't have any standards that we can say this is the standards of the County, this is what you should be following.

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If you don't follow these particular standards, then is when codes are going to become effective and you're not going to be able to have animals anyway.

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MR. CALARCO: Your organization now has recommendations that you issue out to your people as far as?

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MR. CHUVALLES: We have recommendations that make common sense. You keep up after your horses, especially if you're in a residential area. Get rid of manure like you should do, don't stockpile it on your property especially in a residential area.

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You have to understand when we talk residential area in the North Fork, we may be talking one house with farmland around it or anything, but it might have a development at one particular corner or

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all various reasons; might be a home right
3 in the middle of a residential area that
4 has horses.

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I know one right now that's ten
6 acres set side. When the developer came
7 in and built homes close together, it
8 became a horse farm. Still you're
9 responsible. Common sense and
10 responsibility of moving.

10

11

You don't use animals to get back
12 at neighbors with noise and things like
13 that. We run into those issues.

13

14

MR. CALARCO: Do you have certain
15 recommendations as far as how much space
16 you need to have for a certain number of
17 animals --

15

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MR. CHUVALLES: No.

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MR. CALARCO: -- to insure the room
20 they need, if they need --

20

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MS. PLYMPTON: You keep going back
22 to the number of horses per acre. It is
23 so hard, although that is an easy fix, an
24 easy way to monitor things, who can or
25 should decide that?

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You can visit two horses on three

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acres and it is a pig sty and visit

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fifteen on two acres and it is not. To

5

keep going back to pigeon holing into

6

making it a code that we have to meet, one

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horse per acre or two per two acres.

8

MR. CALARCO: I think if we're

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going to be able to make a recommendation

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to the towns that they will honestly

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listen to and accept and say we have to

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have some factual basis to say what we

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feel, as the equestrian community, feels

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is something they can live with and the

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standards, perhaps it may not be an

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absolute but it's got to be a standard

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that says -- that gives some sort of

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guidance.

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It is not based on -- I would

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imagine there is a certain amount of room

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you need for horses for "X" purposes

22

unless you make sure you take them out and

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run them so many times a day or --

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MS. SPEIZIO: To add, we have to

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distinguish between a residential back

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yard owner and the horse farm. The space required for each is going to be different.

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When Ron is asking for space, it's not necessarily going to pertain to the residents. That is who the east end really deals with.

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Most members are residential.

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MR. DIVELLO: A lot are.

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Those are individuals and residents. We have to come up with two sets of recommendations; one for residents and one for farms. What you're concerned with for your farms is going to be different for the residents.

MS. PLYMPTON: Of course.

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MR. CALARCO: We need some sort of factual data produced to say how many acres does a horse need to get the exercise?

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If we're talking residential property where the people are only going to take the horse out on trails, a purely recreational type of situation as opposed to a facility that boards and doing it yourself --

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MR. GERGELA: There's a lot of information, for example, Cornell University Vet School. Also Ag and Markets has a New York State veterinarian. Those are the people with the credentials to answer those questions from a scientific standpoint, I'm sure.

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MS. OTTAVIO: Have you spoken to anybody up there in the vet school?

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MR. GERGELA: I spoke to the State vet a number of years ago, not recently.

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MS. SPEIZIO: We spoke with somebody recently. One of the rescues went up with one of the girls to Cornell.

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I have to look at that.

MR. CALARCO: Part of the question is we spoke about manure. How much does a horse produce a day? How do you have to handle that?

How much room, what kind of space do you need to deal with removing that manure and how often with fifteen horses on a property are you going to have to make sure you have it removed from your property? If you only have three acres as opposed to if you have ten acres --

MS. PLYMPTON: That would obviously be under our standards. At a certain point, your horse land ratio, you start to -- more standards have to be met.

MR. CALARCO: That is what we have to develop is provide that information and perhaps we're not going to make recommendations to the towns. They say you're only allowed three horses per acre, but we say, for example, number of horses you need to have "X" standards met, and you can do it either through A, having

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extra acreage or B, having extra removal.

3

That is what we have to determine.

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MR. CHUVALLES: You have three

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horses produce this much manure, this much

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land, manure should be removed once a week

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off property or twice a week. Those are

8

the standards that need to be developed,

9

correct?

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MR. GERGELA: I have go to another

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meeting. There is other things we're

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working on for the horse industry.

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One is inherent risk legislation,

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trying to get that down. It is alive

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again and moving in Albany. Basically

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when you get on a horse, you're accepting

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this inherent risk you might fall off and

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get hurt.

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It is about trying to lower the

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liability insurance cost for people. That

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is another issue we're working on.

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MR. CHUVALLES: Every horse state

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in the union has it except for New York.

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MS. OTTAVIO: And California, the

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only two. The trial lawyers own our

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assembly.

MR. GERGELA: As far as other things, too, I didn't bring any but next time I can bring fact sheets. There is things with sales tax benefits for people with horses. A lot of things my organization has been working on on behalf of horse owners.

Some people have been upset with this issue about manure. The root came from discussions at the local government level. We'll keep working with everybody.

Thank you for the invite.

MR. GERGELA: Happy to work with you guys on manure handling and stuff.

MS. SPINELLI: As far as the amount of manure produced per horse per day, I have seen literature on that if you guys need literature to back that up.

MR. CALARCO: That would be great.

MS. SPINELLI: That is the numbers we work off when designing a compost facility.

We have that information.

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MS. OTTAVIO: I have material on waste management. Both Cornell and Rutgers have wonderful recommendations on composting.

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I have that. I can bring it to you.

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When I worked for Cooperative Extension in Nassau County, I gave that to Muttontown horse people. That area is very sensitive. Rutgers have means for setting standards, telling people how to do things.

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It's all about education, teaching people how to do things right. You avoid a lot of problems. Everyone can get along provided there are no codes and laws saying we can't have horses.

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MR. CALARCO: What we have to go from. You could get us information as far as the numbers that your organization works off with the amount of manure produced by a horse and also the different composting requirements would be needed based on how many horses and how you would

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2

be doing that removal.

3

That would be helpful to us.

4

MS. PLYMPTON: I spent my

5

Thanksgiving in Kentucky. I noticed that

6

a Kentucky horse farm, an enormous

7

equestrian farm and they have ten riding

8

rings, arena. They are going green.

9

They're also going to host the games in

10

September which is the first time the

11

equestrian games will be in this country

12

at all.

13

They're going green. I read

14

they're going green because the manure

15

that they produce -- and their horse shows

16

attract fifteen hundred horses and they

17

have stabling for fifteen hundred horses

18

-- will be used to light one of their

19

indoor arenas.

20

They will save two hundred

21

something thousand dollars in manure

22

removal and eighty-nine thousand in

23

electrical costs. They're using their own

24

manure to do that. I thought that was

25

rather interesting.

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MS. OTTAVIO: Turn it into energy.

3

Basically the way we should all be

4

thinking.

5

MS. PLYMPTON: It was in the

6

newspaper. I thought that was pretty high

7

tech, super high tech. It will save

8

annually that much every year.

9

MR. CALARCO: We're going to want

10

to bring in Cornell Cooperative to find

11

out information, what they recommend, what

12

they provide.

13

MS. SPINELLI: I know the Cornell

14

Cooperative of Suffolk County, they do

15

have a horse agent, but I don't remember

16

her name.

17

MS. OTTAVIO: I was their horse

18

person in Nassau County.

19

MS. SPINELLI: I don't think

20

they're very active.

21

MS. OTTAVIO: Cornell has got great

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resources upstate. Long Island has been a

23

step-child of the Farm Bureau until

24

recently. They don't see Long Island as

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being agricultural, horses as being viable

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on Long Island.

A big part of the problem is when I worked for the Cooperative Extension, I had discussions with USDA not updating the mailing list, so every time they send us, it is the same number all the time.

They never take into account any new horse farms that are here. The North Fork's horse farms and vineyards, all new horse farms have not received the survey to fill out for the USDA.

We need to take a different approach. There is a horse specialist from Cornell, Jeanie Givens (phonetic). They seem to be focused primarily on Four-H youth in upstate New York.

Down here in Suffolk County when I worked for Nassau County, I was the only person with equine background and I was running the horse program at the Four-H camp in Riverhead, bringing more kids into the Four-H youth development and trying to work with different horse organizations to get them whatever they needed.

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I got involved with Nassau County.

3

I don't know who at the Cooperative

4

Extension has any background in equines

5

because they don't. The livestock

6

coordinator does primarily the cattle.

7

She has limited horse background.

8

Your organization uses their show

9

grounds, but they haven't focused down

10

here in years. That is where my --

11

MS. SPINELLI: Is she a Nassau

12

agent?

13

MS. OTTAVIO: No. They eliminated

14

that position, the program. Suffolk

15

County basically eliminated their Four-H

16

person. There was nobody there. That was

17

the tie in. I used to work with Jeanie up

18

in Cornell. She's primarily into Four-H.

19

The best route is go to the

20

University and vet school. That is how I

21

got my information. Maybe we can raise

22

interest. The problem is they don't feel

23

-- they're up in Ithaca, and no one comes

24

down here.

25

The biggest thing, they don't feel

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there is a need for equine education on

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Long Island. The stats are inaccurate.

4

USDA reports there are only two, three

5

thousand horses when you can go to

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Riverhead and count two to three thousand

7

and not cover the whole town.

8

We've got the largest racetrack in

9

the country in Nassau County, Belmont.

10

They built their own research center.

11

Maybe we should tie into them. They have

12

two thousand horses housed there

13

sometimes, over two hundred acres.

14

It is a huge facility. Horses in

15

and out all the time. I regret missing a

16

meeting. We need to stop them from

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leaving the Island. We're not attracting

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the big shows here. We can't get people

19

to come here.

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MS. PLYMPTON: Who wants to cross

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the bridge?

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MR. CALARCO: Part of the issue

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we're trying to address here is the fact

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that one of the reasons whenever --

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they're inaccurate surveys as well as a

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lot of people don't want to say how many horses they have.

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MS. PLYMPTON: Also because of Belmont. When they count Belmont at one time, it doesn't have a lot of horses, when they count it another time, it has a ton. Some horses get counted two times because a month later, all those horses run in Saratoga and get counted for upstate.

Our numbers play a huge part.

MR. CALARCO: Surveys are not county based?

MS. OTTAVIO: No. They send it to preexisting addresses. If you fill out that survey, they'll mail it to you next year. Any new equine establishment that started on Long Island since the last survey, they're not counted because they don't have an address.

No one physically checks to see this is another number that should be considered. How many horses are in back yards? How many are just permanent

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recreational horses? People are using those, they should be part of the survey.

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They're not -- USDA doesn't count them.

5

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MS. PLYMPTON: More there than anywhere.

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MS. SPEIZIO: Are those surveys done the same time every year? How many people move horses seasonally?

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MS. OTTAVIO: We lose a lot of them to Florida.

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MS. SPEIZIO: Then they come back. If they're not done at the same time every year, that head count would shift.

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MS. PLYMPTON: The point that people lie, if you think I write 17 on my paperwork, you're wrong. I have a variance for ten horses on my property.

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What number do you think I write on that paper?

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MR. CALARCO: That is part of the issue when we get these inaccurate numbers. I can understand that is part of the problem. One of the things we're

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looking is to try to create standards that would allow for more horses. If we are --

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MS. PLYMPTON: If you meet

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standards or you're able to meet

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standards, you're able to meet a larger

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number or if you want a larger number, you

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to have be handed "this is what you have

9

to do; have a larger number what you will

10

have to have or be equipped with --"

11

MR. CALARCO: For the next meeting,

12

that is a good focus is looking at some

13

standards, developing some. I've heard

14

there is a New York State vet and also

15

USDA.

16

Is there a local office?

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MS. SPINELLI: They're in my

18

office.

19

MR. CALARCO: Perhaps they could

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come and give us some recommendations.

21

MS. SPINELLI: One in the same as

22

my recommendations.

23

MR. CALARCO: You will be able to

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put some together.

25

MS. SPINELLI: I can look through

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the office, see what we have. I can maybe
3 also contact the USDA grazing specialist
4 for the state, see if he has any other
5 information, maybe sources of information
6 for more back yard horse owners.

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MR. CALARCO: That is the other
issue. When we're talking about
standards, different standards as far as
residential, recreational use and
professional use, because the standard we
would have for somebody strictly keeping
horses in a back yard for recreation who
wants to keep one extra horse to help them
cover their own expenses, what is it that
would be appropriate for them as opposed
to somebody doing a professional boarding
operation?

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MS. SPEIZIO: They would want --
it's nice to have a second horse to
support your own, but also we do have to
take into consideration usually they're
the most defiant ones. They're the ones
that aren't doing what they're supposed
to.

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Professional ones you can be more lenient. Janet is taking care of her place. It is a business. Her place is probably immaculate. The back yards are the ones we have problems with. They require more space and more space.

MR. CALARCO: Take Bohemia, it has an equestrian area there. There are tons of people who own horses in back yards around that area. If we're going to make a recommendation to the towns, say Islip, in this little area of Bohemia, you should make it equestrian zoning out of their property.

The idea behind that is we can provide some leniency to those homeowners to have that extra horse, but if you're going to say they're the biggest trouble makers, the town's probably doing the right thing by cracking down on them.

We have to find some balance. That is why the task force was formed.

MS. OTTAVIO: Standards from one to five horses, standards from five and

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above. If you have one to five horses, those are specific. If you have more than five, you have standards that are a little more specific.

MS. SPEIZIO: It has to go to how many acres you can have horses on; one acre or five on ten. It is going to be different. It has to go to the ratio of acreage per horse.

MR. CALARCO: We're going to ask the town to create a ratio based zoning.

MR. CHUVALLES: Yes.

MR. DIVELLO: Doesn't the Board of Health enforce offending people?

MR. PAVACIC: If you're not law enforcement, how do you gain entry? Probable cause. Either from a town code in enforcement or health department doesn't have police powers. Even a cop.

It is based on probable cause. If somebody is not voluntarily allowing you on their property, the only way to determine is if a neighbor allows you to view from their property.

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MR. CALARCO: You would be looking at enforcement is going to be the towns, and if they can gain access. You have four horses on a half acre, they're going to take enforcement action. If the health department gets involved, if a neighbor is complaining about attracting flies or rats, they will take a look from that aspect.

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MS. SPEIZIO: Even the SPCA, if you get a call, they get a heads up. You call to say, "We received a complaint, we're coming down within an hours time." It is cleaned up.

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You go down the horse is emaciated, there is nothing you can do.

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MR. CHUVALLES: We've done many rescues. That is what we do on our hours off on Sunday. We see a skinny horse, we have to stop what we're doing, get binoculars. We're not enforcement.

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A lot of times it is just education, how come this horse is three hundred pounds overweight and next to him

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his ribs are hanging out, one horse is
twenty-five and this horse is forty.

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MR. DIVELLO: One horse is eating
the other's food. Hard to ever find out
the accurate amount of horses there are in
any town.

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I know every dirt road on the North
Fork. I've been everywhere. My business
takes me there all the time. I'm seeing
horses who I never knew were there before.

9

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MS. OTTAVIO: People have them
tucked away. You would be surprised
somebody's yard in West Islip.

13

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MR. DIVELLO: We have two minis.
Neighbors think they're walking the dog.

16

17

MR. CALARCO: I will try to get in
touch with the New York State vet, perhaps
see if they want to come and have some
discussion.

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21

Rope you in for another meeting.
Nicole, get us some brochures.

22

23

MS. SPEIZIO: There were hand outs
last time you were going to PDF, sent out.

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MR. CALARCO: I will check with

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Ellen. The minutes, as soon as I get them, I'll get them to you. I did not get a copy from the last meeting.

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I'll follow up.

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MS. PLYMPTON: Could you get them to me, too?

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MR. CALARCO: At the next meeting.

As far as helping to develop some ratio-based standards as far as how many horses you need to have per acre, depending on how you maintain that property.

MS. SPEIZIO: There is a lot of information already on the internet. We have to do some research for that.

MR. CALARCO: Before we break, see if anybody has any input as far as an equestrian center, creation of one. That was something we were supposed to be talking about and haven't.

Any discussion anybody wants to have on that?

MR. DIVELLO: Great idea. I hope it's doable. John brought up about

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location here. Seems like a great

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location. Someone else brought up the

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point of being able to do with as far as

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grazing.

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MR. CALARCO: It is part of --

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MR. PAVACIC: I raised last time

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that parkland would be very suitable, one

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would think. Unfortunately, it has

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restrictions on it. If it is already

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wooded. The likelihood of you being able

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to clear the restriction is highly

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unlikely here.

14

As I said before, you're dealing

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with a number of issues in the Central

16

Pine Barrens. You have the Central Pine

17

Barrens commission. Right near that is

18

the Carmen's River.

19

You're dealing with New York State.

20

That alone is going to be a tough issue to

21

deal with. You might want to look at

22

either municipally owned properties that

23

are not in such a restrictive category,

24

something was taken for general municipal

25

purposes that is held by real estate right

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now, not being got for anything or a private piece that -- you heard the term brown fields? They're not always nasty sites, just sites that were impacted for some reason.

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Once they're cleaned up, they could be utilized for something, maybe something like that where you might have a lot of acreage available if somebody is willing to develop it.

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MR. CALARCO: Before we start looking for those locations, we should develop an idea of how much land are we talking about. How many horses is it realistic idea of stabling? Are we going to be stabling horses?

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These have to be fleshed out to see if there are people interested in operating such a location. I don't think it would be something the County would want to run, more of a licensed operation if it was on County property.

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MR. PAVACIC: You need to develop objectives. What does a center do? What

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do you want it to do here on Long Island
or accomplish?

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Put numbers to that. How many
events per year, number of cars, horses,
attendees? What kind of support
facilities? How many bathrooms,
electrical power? How close to major
roadways?

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Those types of things you would
have to build into that would help you
narrow down a location. Once you find
those parameters --

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MR. DIVELLO: At the last meeting,
one point was the condition of this place
right here, the pros and cons of fixing
this place up.

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It's monumental as far as roofs and
physically what has to be done and price.

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MR. CHUVALLES: Doing that at this
particular facility would still put a
limitation on what you could do here
because you're basically still going to be
able to trail ride.

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MR. CALARCO: In talking of

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equestrian center, we --

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MS. PLYMPTON: We're talking about
4 a horse show facility.

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MR. CALARCO: Yeah.

6

MR. PAVACIC: You're never going to
7 be able to. Obviously you're talking
8 about attracting lots of people, many,
9 many horses, many vehicles. There is no
10 way that could ever happen.

11

The size alone. It could never be
12 expanded. We've gotten permission from
13 the Central Pine Barrens Commission to
14 rehabilitate it, have it renovated but it
15 is an existing footprint, can't be
16 expanded in any regards whatsoever.

17

For what is being talked about here
18 major shows. You need to take a fresh
19 look elsewhere.

20

MR. DIVELLO: County farm property
21 is out of the question.

22

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MR. CALARCO: Put it this way, the
County Executive has a proposal for quite
a few acres of that land; four hundred of
those six hundred surplus acres that he

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feels we have.

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I don't know, Jessica could add planning department has been involved in it. I don't know how much extra acres that leaves. I believe that a lot of proposed housing that is supposed to be created is pretty close to where the farm operates now.

Whether or not something could be done adjacent to the farm, I couldn't say. That is certainly a location that in terms of being in public hands already and not having a lot of the restrictions that park land have. Yeah, six hundred acres of County property in Yaphank that are surplus acreage supposedly do not have any restrictions in uses.

Generally municipal property. There is a large proposal on the table right now that is being fleshed out.

MR. PAVACIC: Research the Duck stadium. That is not county park land. It is county land. The minor league baseball team.

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MR. CALARCO: We renewed the
twenty-five year lease.

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MR. PAVACIC: That is an
arrangement that might be used as a
partial model for something.

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MR. CALARCO: Part of what we need
to flesh out here, how many horse shows
would the Nassau County horsemen want to
hold? The Four-H club would want to be
able to have some usage there with the
Livestock Association, different
organizations out there.

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Would you want -- how many horse
shows would you hold? Start holding them
here and would you hold one large show,
how much space, how big an arena, do you
want an indoor arena? We need --

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Looking at proper criteria who can
board horses at the same time. That needs
to be fleshed out in making a proposal.

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MR. DIVELLO: You would be
attracting out of state horse people, you
need an area to camp overnight. It brings
money to the area.

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MS. OTTAVIO: Look into how Jersey horse park works. Kentucky horse park where we were for an equine affair, Springfield, Massachusetts. We need to research there facilities, what type of venues they have.

I have to tell you, thousands of people went to that affair. We left Long Island just to go and see this. It is great, not only for the horse industry but think of what it does for other businesses. People rent hotel rooms, use restaurants, generate more sales tax.

MR. CALARCO: Anybody know the people who put that operation together? Maybe they could come give us a presentation.

MR. DIVELLO: Wouldn't come down from Massachusetts. We can find out that information.

MS. OTTAVIO: Somebody is trying to put one together at Belmont Northeast Equine Expo May 29th and 30th, Equine Expo dot com. I don't know the organizer.

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They want to kick off Belmont

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Stakes. We could find out who this is.

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Sam gave this to me. This is

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something they wanted to start promoting.

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If we had something where we could attract

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in the summer time, get out of state

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horses in there. To do it in one day,

9

they're not going to do it.

10

We go down to the Jersey horse

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park. You can stay overnight. Two, three

12

day horse shows.

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MR. DIVELLO: To come across that

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bridge, it doesn't warrant coming for one

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day.

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MS. SPEIZIO: I have to get to

17

school.

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We brought up for us doing shows.

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We're hoping through the task force, we're

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going to be able to re-establish the

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Four-H equestrian part besides them

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looking into how many shows.

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MR. CALARCO: If we create a

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center, perhaps it will -- they can come.

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One of the problems with Nassau pulling

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out, you lost your location in Riverhead?

We'll call it a meeting. I will try to put together the State vet for the next meeting, try to do -- we want to pick a date today?

Maybe the second week in January? Is that okay to everyone?

MS. OTTAVIO: A Wednesday again.

(TIME NOTED: 1:45 P.M.)

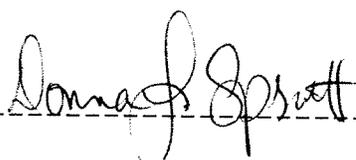
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CERTIFICATION

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 28th day
of December 2009.



DONNA L. SPRATT