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SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
EQUESTRIAN TASK FORCE MEETING  
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William Rogers Building  
Clerk's Conference Room  
Hauppauge, New York  
  
February 24, 2010  
3:30 p.m.

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2 P R E S E N T:

3 ROBERT CALARCO, Chairman  
ELLEN STITT, Legislative Aide  
4 JESSICA KALMBACHER, Suffolk County Planning Department  
JOHN PAVACIC, Parks Department  
5 JOHN EDDINGTON, Suffolk County Legislator  
SALLY ROSENBERG, LIHSAA  
6 HOWARD FLYNN, Veterinarian  
ELAINE WAGONER, Patchogue-Medford High School  
7 JANET PLYMPTON, LI Professional Horsemen's Association  
ALLAN CONNELL, USDA-NRCS  
8 NICOLE SPINELLI, Suffolk County SWCD  
DENISE SPEIZIO, Nassau-Suffolk Horsemen's Association  
9 ROCKY DIVELLO, LI Farm Bureau  
GIGI ASHER, SC Superintendent's Association

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1                   2/24/10 Equestrian Task Force meeting

2                   THE CHAIRMAN:    I'd like to thank everyone for  
3 coming out today with the bad weather we have.  Just to  
4 get the meeting started, we have a couple of new faces,  
5 a couple of old faces and a new stenographer.  Let's go  
6 around and introduce ourselves.

7                   My name is Rob Calarco, Chief of Staff for  
8 Legislator Eddington.  I've been co-chairing the meeting  
9 with him.

10                  MS. STITT:        Ellen Stitt.  I'm legislative  
11 aide for Legislator Jack Eddington.

12                  LEG. EDDINGTON:   Legislator Jack Eddington.  
13 I'm happy to see you at the same table with me, Howard.  
14 It's nice to see you.

15                  DR. FLYNN:     Jack, we met.  It's been a while.

16                  MR. PAVACIC:    John Pavacic.  I'm Suffolk  
17 County Parks Commissioner.

18                  MS. SPEIZIO:   Denise Speizio, Nassau-Suffolk  
19 Horsemen's Association.

20                  MS. ROSENBERG:   Sally Rosenberg, Long Island  
21 Horsemen's Association.

22                  MS. PLYMPTON:   Janet Plympton, Long Island  
23 Professional Horsemen's Association.

24                  MS. KALMBACHER:   Jessica Kalmbacher, Suffolk  
25 County Department of Planning.

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2                   DR. FLYNN:   Howard Flynn, veterinarian.  I  
3 might say, Jack, you might invite a representative of  
4 the Long Island Veterinary Association.

5                   MS. WAGONER:  Elaine Wagoner, math teacher at  
6 Medford-Patchogue High School.  Equestrian coach.

7                   MR. CONNELL:  Allan Connell with the USDA  
8 Natural Resource Conservation Service.

9                   MS. SPINELLI:  Nicole Spinelli, Suffolk County  
10 Soil & Water Conservationist.

11                  THE CHAIRMAN:  At the last couple of  
12 meetings, what we have been talking a lot of about is  
13 actual specific operations and some of the different  
14 things that go into the horse -- running a horse farm.  
15 I think what we have been trying to do is develop some  
16 specifics and guidelines to develop some equestrian  
17 zoning recommendations that we can make to the towns.

18                  In a little bit we have a phone call from Jennifer  
19 Conte from Cornell Cooperative Extension up in Saratoga.  
20 She is their equestrian specialist.  She will talk to us  
21 about some of actual specifics as to what a horse needs  
22 in terms of how much food and feed and exercise and for  
23 each different type of horse and those different types  
24 of things, and their recommendations and some best  
25 management practices that they have for operating a

1                   2/24/10 Equestrian Task Force meeting  
2           horse farm.

3                   Also with us today is Nicole Spinelli and Allan  
4           Connell from -- Nicole is from Soil & Water and Allan  
5           from USDA, and they will give us some recommendations  
6           about best management practices for pasture horses and  
7           --

8                   MS. SPINELLI:    It's basically with regard to  
9           natural resource conservation, basically.

10                  THE CHAIRMAN:   What I have here is a handout  
11           from Nicole, some of the best practices that they have  
12           been able to develop.  I'll pass them around, and also  
13           some information from the Rutgers study.  I guess to get  
14           started before our caller calls in, I'll let Nicole get  
15           started with what she has to offer.

16                  MS. SPINELLI:   There is actually quite a  
17           wealth of information already out there on best  
18           management practices for horse operations, and one of  
19           them, which is being passed around now, is a really good  
20           one from Rutger's Cooperative Extension.  I did  
21           reference this document a couple of times in my  
22           write-up.

23                  Basically what my office does is we make site  
24           specific recommendations to all types of landowners, one  
25           of which being horse farms, and we look at, you know,

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2           the condition of the pastures, any runoff concerns, any  
3           water quality concerns, and we give specific  
4           recommendations for that farm.

5           So what I did here was just try and generalize and  
6           do a quick synopsis of the practices that we would like  
7           to see implemented on a horse farm, regardless of what  
8           size they are. I guess we could just go through them  
9           one by one. I'll just quickly talk about them.

10           So the first thing we would look at is the  
11           buildings on the property. One of the simplest things  
12           to do is install gutters on your buildings and down  
13           spouts and direct those down spouts into dry wells and  
14           that will keep all the clean water clean and keep it off  
15           your barnyard area. You know, keep from getting to your  
16           manure pile area that you have that nearby.

17           Another thing that we would definitely recommend is  
18           that each horse farm have a sacrifice area and that is  
19           basically, you know, a paddock where grass is not  
20           maintained because it's heavily used. So depending on  
21           how many horses are on the farm, that would dictate how  
22           many sacrifice areas, because I know sometimes you can't  
23           put certain horses together and things like that. That  
24           sacrifice area you would use -- you would use it often  
25           if you don't have any pasture at all, but you would use

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2           it during times when you can't get your horses onto the  
3           pasture, if you have a lot of rainfall and the pastures  
4           are too wet to be grazed, in the winter or if the  
5           pasture hasn't regrown to a correct height to be  
6           grazed.

7                   Then the next bullet is pasture management. That  
8           is basically just rotating your horses throughout your  
9           pastures so they're not over grazed. Once your pasture  
10          is grazed to a height of around three or four inches,  
11          typically you can move the horses to a different  
12          paddock. And what our office does, we talked about this  
13          at the last meeting, we can make rotational grazing  
14          plans for our horse farms. But it's not to say a farm  
15          has to base their entire operation on pasture. A farm  
16          can have pasture and sacrifice areas, and if it's  
17          successfully managed, it could work for them.

18                   If you actually look at this publication, the  
19          Rutgers one, it goes into a really good description of  
20          different regimes that you could have on your farm.  
21          They talk about a pasture regime and also a dry lot  
22          regime. If you go to Page 4, and I know one of the  
23          things that this task force was looking at was number of  
24          horses per acre, and this tells you that if you are  
25          using a pasture regime, you can have one horse on one

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2           half acre of pasture, or if turn-out time is limited to  
3           fewer than three hours per day, then it goes as far as  
4           to say as if you have unlimited turn-out time, basically  
5           little management, you would need two acres for your one  
6           horse.

7                   I thought this is something that everyone would  
8           want to look at. I don't know exactly what the goal is  
9           to present to the different towns.

10                   LEG. EDDINGTON: I have question and I have a  
11           committee meeting in fifteen minutes, and I just wanted  
12           to make sure I get this in. You're saying pasture land.  
13           I live in Medford and I have a lot of horses around me,  
14           but there is no pasture around. It's like having a  
15           paddock, about half acre paddocks in our areas.

16                   DR. FLYNN: A little less.

17                   LEG. EDDINGTON: There are two, three or four  
18           horses on those areas.

19                   MS. SPINELLI: They're called a sacrifice  
20           area or dry lot.

21                   LEG. EDDINGTON: Is that adequate for two,  
22           three or four horses?

23                   MS. SPINELLI: That is what they call the dry  
24           lot regime in this document.

25                   MR. CONNELL: Page 5.

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2                   MS. SPINELLI:    It's basically a more intense  
3 management, if that person is picking up their manure on  
4 a regular basis, and you can have manure storage area.

5                   LEG. EDDINGTON:    That is part of the  
6 recommendations that we're hoping we're going to be able  
7 to get out of this.

8                   MR. CONNELL:      When you have a situation like  
9 that, that is when management become critical.  You have  
10 a small area and a concentration of horses.  If you  
11 don't manage your manure properly, if there are any  
12 runoff issues --

13                  THE CHAIRMAN:    Jennifer Conte is on the phone  
14 from Cornell Cooperative.  We were talking about manure  
15 issues, dealing with them for smaller horse farms that  
16 don't have enough property to actually turn-out and do  
17 pasture type of systems.

18                  MS. CONTE:      Collecting manure in piles.

19                  LEG EDDINGTON:   This is Jack Eddington, the  
20 legislator.  We were just talking when we were waiting  
21 for you I have to go to another meeting.  I wanted to  
22 ask a question between pasture management and dry lot  
23 regime.  In my area, there are like acre zoning and  
24 there are areas where there is no pasture.  It's  
25 basically a paddock that could be a half acre or

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2           smaller. And there is two, three or four horses on it.  
3           And what we are trying to do is figure out how we can  
4           help those owners meet standards, and that is part of  
5           what we are trying to talk about, to help them do what  
6           they need to do so we can get some kind of zoning and  
7           it's covered.

8           The management of the manure and getting feed and  
9           that is what our goals have been so we can recommend to  
10          all the different towns in Suffolk County some kind of  
11          over all guidelines that are being met.

12                   MS. CONTE: I see the same kind of thing. I  
13          hear about this all over the state, and even in Saratoga  
14          County, especially here in Saratoga, right in the town  
15          there is no land. The same thing, dry lots and small  
16          paddocks. So okay, if you guys are looking for  
17          basically best management practices recommendations --

18                   LEG. EDDINGTON: Correct.

19                   MS. CONTE: For your county to adhere to.

20                   LEG. EDDINGTON: Right. Can you give us  
21          some?

22                   MR. CONNELL: Right now.

23                   MS. CONTE: Not off the top of my head. What  
24          I can do is probably give you basically my opinion and  
25          what I have learned through my work, and I can also give

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2           you some recommendations, but you will find that the  
3           recommendations really don't take that into account.  
4           Like you said, it's a half acre lot with two to four  
5           horses and other recommendations from Agway Markets and  
6           stuff. They say an acre per horse. What we ask people  
7           with dry lots to do with all those horses is they need  
8           to contain the manure somehow or have it taken off the  
9           property. Have you run into that kind of issue?

10                   LEG. EDDINGTON:    The areas that I have  
11           observed, it seems like they pile the manure and it's  
12           almost like recycling; just hope it dissipates to dirt.  
13           In my area, I don't see anybody removing manure. In  
14           fact, the person next to me piles it on the other side  
15           of our fence. Luckily, I didn't move to Medford -- I  
16           enjoy the smell, just put it that way. I want to smell  
17           the country, not the city.

18                   But I think part of the problem is the towns are  
19           easily able to jump on these people because they don't  
20           have some kind of management. I don't think it's so  
21           that much they want to not comply. I think we haven't  
22           been able to say here's what you need to do and here's  
23           how you can do it, and here's how we can help you do  
24           it. That is what I think we're trying to do, offer  
25           solutions to problems that exist before they become big

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2                   problems.

3                   MS. CONTE:     In that instance, you and your  
4                   neighbor get along, but what we find that not in my back  
5                   yard, people like to see the horses, they don't want  
6                   what they perceive as a smell and flies and what the  
7                   manure brings.   Actually break it down into compost,  
8                   take management of that manure, which not very many  
9                   people actually do.

10                  What has happened here and in different areas, they  
11                  required containers.   Some people have a roll-off  
12                  container or they require it to be hauled somewhere and  
13                  have it be spread.   But then that is a cost to the farm,  
14                  and if it's just a small farm, it's a back yard owner  
15                  with two to four horses, it's going to be an expense to  
16                  them.

17                  LEG. EDDINGTON:    Correct.

18                  MS. CONTE:     But is there any businesses that  
19                  do that, that have roll-off containers, they drop them  
20                  at your farm and haul it away, just like you would if  
21                  your ordered a trash container to clean out your house?

22                  LEG. EDDINGTON:    What I'm hearing from the  
23                  committee, yes they are.   Not everybody knows about it.  
24                  A lot of people in the neighborhoods just hope nobody  
25                  complains and they haven't really done it.   Howard, it's

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2           the money?

3                   DR. FLYNN:     That's the big issue, is the  
4           money. It's a lot easier to just pile it then to put it  
5           in a container and have it hauled off.

6                   MR. CONNELL:     It does kind of disappear.

7                   LEG. EDDINGTON:    Although I will admit, the  
8           flies each year, it used to be both of my neighbors had  
9           two horses. Then one of them had three. Now the other  
10          one has four. So each year, I've been there for twenty  
11          years, each year the fly problem has gotten worse, and,  
12          you know, we just don't eat outdoors in the summer any  
13          more.

14                  MR. CONNELL:     The other issue we have, we  
15          rely on a sole source aquifer. When you pile up manure,  
16          there is a potential of nitrates that could leach into  
17          the water, and that is a real concern environmentally.

18                  MS. CONTE:     That is why people around here  
19          don't want Soil & Water to know about their piles. They  
20          are piles in areas in that are less usable for pasture,  
21          like wetlands and other areas.

22                  Yes, it's going to have be something that your  
23          Equestrian Task Force puts together to require people to  
24          have. There have been ordinances where people are  
25          required to build a cement container, which is kind of

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2           crazy. But I think if they don't have complaints by the  
3           neighbors, or if they can maybe turn it into compost and  
4           give to their neighbors, maybe that would be good, but  
5           the best solution we found so far around here is either  
6           hauling it away or having the roll-off containers.

7                   LEG. EDDINGTON:    Are there any kinds of  
8           grants that you're aware of that could help defray some  
9           of the costs?

10                   MS. CONTE:    Not that I'm aware of. The  
11           grants are usually for bigger farms. There are are  
12           grants if you have a big farm and you're near a waterway  
13           or something like that, you can get sensing grants or  
14           that kind of thing, but not grants for manure,  
15           unfortunately.

16                   DR. FLYNN:    Jack, if we were allowed to dump  
17           the manure in the town dump at no charge, that might  
18           help.

19                   LEG. EDDINGTON:    Have you ever heard of  
20           anything like that?

21                   MS. CONTE:    No, but it's a good idea.

22                   MR. DiVELLO:    Manure is the biggest problem.  
23           I'm new to this group. The manure is the biggest  
24           problem. I have a Dumpster. I don't really understand  
25           why, though, if it's legal for my neighbor to receive my

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2           manure, I can pile it on his property, but I can't pile  
3           it on my property because I have horses. It all goes to  
4           the same aquifer.

5                   THE CHAIRMAN:    Maybe Nicole, you should  
6           mention there is a composting process. Manure is not  
7           compost. There is a process. You must turn it into  
8           fertilizer; perhaps that is the trick. Is there  
9           something where -- one of our issues we have to deal  
10          with is finding enough space on a person's property to  
11          do composting on location, or perhaps the solution, what  
12          we need to do is find companies that will do the  
13          composting and then turn around and sell this composted  
14          material, the fertilizer, which I would think a lot of  
15          people, especially local farmers down here in the whole  
16          organic movement, would want to move towards.

17                   MS. CONTE:    There is a lot at Cornell that  
18          specializes in composting. There are step by step  
19          directions in how to compost horse manure. I can give  
20          the sheets to your committee and fax or e-mail them to  
21          you, if that would be helpful.

22                   LEG. EDDINGTON:   That would be great.

23                   MS. CONTE:    I don't know if you noticed, in a  
24          lot of horse magazines lately and in a lot of discussion  
25          groups, there is talk of composting horse manure because

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2       all the farmland is being brought up and neighbors are  
3       closing in around the farms, and the complaints have to  
4       do with the manure and the flies, so people have to look  
5       at it in different ways. If you could all find an area  
6       where somebody would let you compost, that would be the  
7       way to go.

8                   THE CHAIRMAN: Do you have any  
9       recommendations, or does Cornell have any guidelines or  
10      standards as to what type of storage facilities or  
11      locations would be needed, based on the number of horses  
12      a person has on their property, so we can say to the  
13      towns if a property owner plans on having twenty horses  
14      on their property, they're going to have a barn or some  
15      sort of shed or some sort of facility where they will  
16      store their compost material, and how much size, square  
17      footage they would need in order to do that, based on  
18      something like weekly removal or something like that?

19                  MS. CONTE: I have somebody here that I work  
20      with who has a business called Muck Removers, and he  
21      does just that. There is a calculation if you have that  
22      many horses, you need this many cubic feet per week. I  
23      don't have that calculation, but I can certainly get it  
24      for you. If that is the main problem that you run into  
25      there, that neighbors are complaining about the piles or

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2                   they don't even know about the piles?

3                   LEG. EDDINGTON:    Also the amount of horses.  
4                   One town says you can have three per acre, another town  
5                   says you can only have two.  And you know, they're  
6                   literally a street apart.  It gets crazy.  We're trying  
7                   to get this kind of stuff together so we can get the  
8                   towns to all agree on a code.

9                   MS. CONTE:        That is exactly how it is here.  
10                  Some of them, it's like a half acre per horse.  Some  
11                  it's an acre and a half per horse, but we obviously have  
12                  more land and they haven't gotten the towns to come  
13                  together.

14                  But I do know on in the western part of the state,  
15                  a group of horse people got together and made a pamphlet  
16                  for their town legislators, and I can get that pamphlet  
17                  for you as well.

18                  LEG. EDDINGTON:    That would be great.

19                  DR. FLYNN:        Jack, the Town of Islip actually  
20                  takes manure, they will haul away.  Anybody here from  
21                  Islip?

22                  THE CHAIRMAN:    We have gotten that  
23                  information.  Islip will take up to six forty pound bags  
24                  per week of manure, as required for their carters to do  
25                  that on collection day.

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2                   MR. CONNELL:    What about Long Island Compost?

3                   DR. FLYNN:     I dealt with Long Island Compost.  
4                   With a Dumpster, they wanted six hundred dollars. I  
5                   found another guy that will haul it away for two  
6                   hundred. I went back to Long Island Compost. They  
7                   wouldn't talk to me. They wouldn't decrease their price  
8                   at all.

9                   MS. CONTE:     Would those people go in like a  
10                  co-op of farmers where they would have one container and  
11                  stop at each farm where you could split the cost?

12                  THE CHAIRMAN:   We have been talking about  
13                  that with the Long Island Farm Bureau. Denise is from  
14                  the Long Island Horsemen's Association and she has  
15                  something to add to that.

16                  MS. SPEIZIO:    I went to the Long Island Farm  
17                  Bureau on Monday. They're interested in taking the  
18                  manure. It's a question of getting the farmers and  
19                  equestrians together, but Joe Burdella (phonetic) was  
20                  interested in setting up a meeting with our local  
21                  Cornell. Even with the farmers taking our manure, what  
22                  they would be required to do as far as composting it,  
23                  because different crops require different handling of  
24                  the manure. Manure on food crops is very limited.

25                  That would be the next step. The farmers are very

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2 interested in taking it; it's a matter of getting  
3 everybody together.

4                   MR. CONNELL:    The other issue, when you  
5 start talking about composting manure, you need space.  
6 You have to wind row it and manage it properly. The  
7 other big issue is when you compost manure, you have to  
8 be concerned about groundwater, and in doing it on an  
9 area that is going to limit downward movement of  
10 nitrates into groundwater. That is a real critical  
11 aspect.

12                  MS. SPEIZIO:   With the farmers, it would be  
13 that the manure would be composted on the farm areas, so  
14 that would be a large area.

15                  THE CHAIRMAN:   Was there some information  
16 that you had been able to provide to us, Nicole,  
17 possibly Allan, what those composting guidelines are and  
18 things that they can actually develop as far as if the  
19 property owner or the farm owner wants to compost on  
20 location, what they would -- what their required  
21 composting area would be. Elaine?

22                  MS. WAGONER:   I did a research paper and did  
23 the studies on it. I looked for it and I cannot find it  
24 to give you the numbers. One of the things I researched  
25 was to take discarded cement mixers and actually set



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2           anything?

3                   MS. PLYMPTON:    I'm thinking a cement mixer, I  
4           can fill that up in a day.  We're talking about a lot of  
5           cement mixers.  Where do you put that where it's not  
6           unsightly?  It's a great idea, but where do you put that  
7           where it's not unsightly?

8                   As much as we don't like to smell the flies and the  
9           pile itself, do we want cement mixers rolling around  
10          next door to us?  I wouldn't even like that.

11                   MS. WAGONER:    It's not the truck, it's just  
12          the back.  They're talking about you building a cement  
13          base or whatever anyway.  It would be in some kind of  
14          downward place because you have to be able to get to the  
15          top of it.  You could put it in something if they are  
16          asking you to put it in a container to hold it.

17                   MS. PLYMPTON:    The concept is a great idea.

18                   MS. WAGONER:    It's four horses that it can  
19          handle.  That is not a lot, but some people only have  
20          two horses or some have four.

21                   MR. PAVACIC:    How many hours a day would it  
22          be operating?

23                   MS. WAGONER:    You have one that would be  
24          open, you fill it.  That you could turn once a week or  
25          once a day.  That one is not in the process yet.  Once

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2           that is full, you close it, and like she said, she has  
3           composting regulations where you have to turn it so many  
4           times a week. That would be on its own for six months  
5           while you're filling up the other one. I figured out it  
6           was four horses. You could use one for six months and  
7           you could fill it up.

8                   THE CHAIRMAN:    Go ahead Jennifer.

9                   MS. CONTE:     I was looking at some document  
10           put out by Rutgers University. It's called Best  
11           Management Practices for Composting of Manure for Small  
12           Horse Farms. I will definitely send it to you.

13                   One of the things that gets in the way of  
14           composting is how much bedding gets into the manure  
15           pile. They're saying a thousand pound horse basically  
16           creates fifty-one pounds a day of waste, plus another  
17           eight to fifteen pounds of spoiled bedding a day. That  
18           makes sense. You can extropolate numbers. If you have  
19           four horses at fifty pounds a day, six thousand pounds  
20           for four horses in a month. I don't know how that is  
21           going to translate into cubic feet.

22                   MS. WAGONER:    Like three thousand cubic  
23           feet. I had to do all the numbers. It's a long drawn  
24           out process. I cannot find it.

25                   MS. SPINELLI:    If you don't have the

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2           available acreage to stockpile the manure and at a later  
3           time apply it to your land or the space to compost it  
4           it, just needs to be hauled off.

5                   MS. CONTE:     Yes.

6                   MS. SPINELLI:    I guess the solution is how do  
7           we come up with an economically feasible way for the  
8           horse owners to do that.

9                   MS. CONTE:     I don't know the prices of things  
10          down there.  I know it's a struggle for people here.  I  
11          think probably the best idea would be the one you were  
12          working on, in my opinion, that everybody gets together  
13          like a co-op and say if that guy wants to haul stuff  
14          away once a month and he stops at everybody's farm,  
15          they could probably make a ton of money on that.  I  
16          would think they would want to work with you.  You said  
17          there are two people that do that kind of thing down  
18          there?

19                  THE CHAIRMAN:    Janet, you have someone that  
20          you utilized.

21                  MS. PLYMPTON:    I have my own truck and  
22          trailer.  I don't have anything stockpiled.

23                  DR. FLYNN:     Where does it go?

24                  MS. PLYMPTON:    I don't want to disclose my --  
25          it goes to a farmer or goes to being composted.

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2                   DR. FLYNN:     But it is being composted?

3                   MS. PLYMPTON:   Yes.

4                   DR. FLYNN:     That is the greater issue here.  
5                   It's one thing to say we're going to cart it off.  Where  
6                   is it going after it gets carted off?  That is a real  
7                   concern.  If we are just carting it off and dumping it  
8                   in landfills, that is not the solution.

9                   MR. DiVELLO:    My business does that and  
10                   nobody dumps manure in landfills at eighty dollars to a  
11                   hundred twenty dollars a ton; it just doesn't happen.  
12                   My clients who we service, we take it to vineyards,  
13                   farms, whoever wants to utilize it, and they compost  
14                   it.

15                   THE CHAIRMAN:   They compost it at their farm,  
16                   Rocky?

17                   MR. DiVELLO:    Yes.  Long Island Compost takes  
18                   a bunch because my in-laws have some kind of a business  
19                   agreement with Long Island Compost.  And they toss it,  
20                   and they whatever, they airate it and turn, and they  
21                   have a salable, beautiful product when they're done.  
22                   It's black, and earthworms and all this good stuff.

23                   MS. WAGONER:    They say it's very good.

24                   MR. CONNELL:    I think the biggest problem  
25                   that the horse owner has is manure; is that right,

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2           Janet, would you agree with that?

3                   MS. PLYMPTON:    Because of the problems of the  
4           piling up of manure.

5                   DR. FLYNN:     As far as having four or two  
6           horses per acre, I don't think is the issue.  It's  
7           handling.  The issue is really determined by the Health  
8           Department.  The Health Department will come in and say  
9           you can't do that because you have too much manure.  
10          It's not two horses per acre or four horses per acre  
11          that is the controlling issue, it's Health Department  
12          with the manure.

13                   THE CHAIRMAN:    I think that is why one of the  
14          recommendations that we are looking for, and I think  
15          Jennifer said she will be able to help us out, what is  
16          the the cubic feet storage capacity you need to have in  
17          order remove the manure each week.

18                   So if you have four horses, you can you have the  
19          capacity of X cubic feet.  So we can maybe have the  
20          towns say you can have four horses per acre, provided  
21          you can provide X amount of cubic feet on your acreage,  
22          so many feet from your property line for storage of your  
23          material until you transport it off once a week.

24                   DR. FLYNN:     We have a fifteen yard container  
25          that is taken away about every ten days to two weeks,

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2           but I'm not sure how many horses, probably twelve to  
3           fourteen. That varies too, depending on how many sold  
4           and how many are purchased and that kind of thing.

5                   MS. SPEIZIO: I have something similar that I  
6           think Jennifer is looking at. Mine says two point four  
7           cubic feet per horse a day. If you do the math, it's  
8           about twenty eight hundred cubic feet a month for four  
9           horses.

10                   MR. CONNELL: Really what you need to have  
11           is some means of storing of manure on an impervious  
12           surface before it's hauled off so you don't create an  
13           environmental problem.

14                   THE CHAIRMAN: Where it's covered or tarped  
15           in order to keep the flies contained.

16                   MS. CONTE: I think the best protection for  
17           horse owners. If you have a plan in place, you are alot  
18           safer. I mean it's obvious, if you're just doing  
19           whatever. So if you can say, okay, we know that Suffolk  
20           County wants us to have a container, people are going to  
21           come after you. If you have your ammunition that you  
22           have your ducks in a row basically, I think in general,  
23           people will leave you alone and the towns will too. If  
24           you're trying to do things in the right way, that what I  
25           find here.

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2                   The people who cause the problems are the neighbors  
3 who don't know anything about horses. Is that in  
4 general who causes the problems there?

5                   MS. WAGONER:    Yes.

6                   MS. PLYMPTON:   Yes.

7                   MS. CONTE:      They cause a lot of trouble. I  
8 don't know that it's all malicious. Some people think  
9 they are being polluted and the flies and stuff, you can  
10 get fly predators as well. The whole state really needs  
11 to do that. There are a lot of regulations for dairys,  
12 but not so much for horses.

13                  THE CHAIRMAN:   Anybody else have any other  
14 kind of manure related questions for Jennifer? If not,  
15 we will try and move on a little bit because I don't  
16 want to keep you on the phone too long.

17                  One of the other issues that I was hoping you would  
18 help us address is needs as far as what other items  
19 might a horse farm owner need to have the ability to  
20 accommodate on their property? Say if you own ten  
21 horses, is there a certain amount of hay or feed that  
22 you must be able to store on your property, and is there  
23 an idea of how much space that requires so that the  
24 towns would say okay, you can have ten horses on your  
25 five acres provided you have such a type of storage

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2           facility for your feed and supplementals and that kind  
3           of thing?

4                   MS. CONTE:    In general, the small farms that  
5           I work with don't have huge storage facilities, so they  
6           get grain and hay more frequently.  I think the way you  
7           can police it is to show a horse needs twenty percent of  
8           its body weight in forage per day.  I think the only  
9           thing you can make sure that the horses do have food and  
10          clean water and access to it at all times, and some  
11          shelter.

12                   I don't think a requirement of how much space you  
13          have to have would really work because a lot of the  
14          smaller farmers don't have that kind of space.

15                   MS. SPEIZIO:   Where did you get the twenty  
16          percent body weight ratio?

17                   MS. CONTE:    Did I --

18                   MS. SPEIZIO:    I have a thousand pound a  
19          horse.  That means he would have to eat two hundred  
20          pounds of food a day.

21                   MS. CONTE:    I'm sorry, I was reading the  
22          wrong thing.

23                   MS. STITT:     You would have a fat horse.

24                   MS. CONTE:    You get the general gist of what  
25          I'm saying.  That would mean --

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2                   DR. FLYNN:    A lot.

3                   MS. CONTE:    A lot of hay.

4                   MS. WAGONER:   A lot of manure.

5                   MS. CONTE:    Yeah, and really fat horses.

6                   THE CHAIRMAN:   There is really no, I guess,  
7                   guiding standard on that.  I guess that would depend on  
8                   how often the property owners want to ship in hay and  
9                   other supplementals that that horse may need.  The  
10                  reality is this past year, horse farming on Long Island  
11                  is really just not something that happens all that  
12                  often.  We don't have that type of space.  This is a  
13                  once very rural community that is now very suburban and  
14                  property owners and new homeowners crop up around farms  
15                  constantly.  They're kind of encroaching out these small  
16                  operators, especially in Western Suffolk.

17                  MS. CONTE:    They're not getting any nutrition  
18                  from their pasture and it's all going to be hay.

19                  THE CHAIRMAN:   I guess that that is what we  
20                  started on this discussion, that is the dry lot system.  
21                  I would say a very large majority, if not most of the  
22                  horse property owners utilize, especially Western  
23                  Suffolk.  I guess as you travel further east you get  
24                  more farm.

25                  MS. CONTE:    Are you saying you see horses

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2                   that are neglected and not fed enough?

3                   THE CHAIRMAN:    We certainly have that issue.  
4                   That is not the focus or emphasis on the task force.  We  
5                   have people who abandon their horses.  That is not  
6                   really what we were formed for.  We want to present to  
7                   the towns some sort of standard.  I'm just trying to  
8                   look for some sort of guidance to say why we can put ten  
9                   horses on four acres or three acres without it being an  
10                  issue, and not only do we have to deal with that manure  
11                  issue, because that is the most troublesome for most  
12                  neighbors, but other things that the towns may want to  
13                  see are in place to make sure that the horses are being  
14                  properly cared for and not too much of a burden.

15                 If we expect that the property owners are going to  
16                 ship in hay every single day to feed a horse, that would  
17                 be unrealistic.

18                 MS. CONTE:    I don't mean every day, I mean  
19                 couple of times a month.  The smaller farms have a  
20                 storage facility for hay, but it's not as big as an  
21                 entire barn as some of the bigger horse farms have.  I  
22                 had the decimal place in the wrong place.  Between two  
23                 and three point percent of body weight.

24                 In general, a horse probably eats a bale of hay a  
25                 day; would you guys agree with that?

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2                   MS. SPEIZIO:    It depends on the size of the  
3 horse.

4                   DR. FLYNN:      And the hay.

5                   MS. PLYMPTON:   Some bales are twenty-five,  
6 thirty pounds.   Some bales are seventy-five pounds.

7                   MS. CONTE:      You can make the guideline more  
8 scientific, between two point two and three point five  
9 of body weight per day.  You could, depending where you  
10 get -- how big your bales of hay are, how much work your  
11 horse does, you can put this into the equation.

12                   MS. SPEIZIO:    On a regular day, summer,  
13 spring, fall, maybe fifteen to twenty pounds per horse a  
14 day, and maybe increase it a little bit more in the  
15 winter because they eat more.  We also have a grain  
16 feeding.

17                   MS. WAGONER:    Or pellets.

18                   MS. SPEIZIO:    Some horses can survive on a  
19 handful, and I have one that eats eight quarts a day.  
20 It depends on the animal.

21                   MS. CONTE:      It's hard to set up a regulation  
22 as to how much food you have to have on your property.  
23 I think it would be better go by body condition of the  
24 horses.  There is no way to really force people to have  
25 so much on their property that I know of.

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2                   If the horses were in good body condition, it  
3 doesn't really matter how often they get it shipped in,  
4 and there are body condition charts.

5                   THE CHAIRMAN:    I would just like to, maybe we  
6 should talk about how different size horses require  
7 different needs.  A lot of the things that I have seen  
8 so far refer to a thousand pound horse.  Is that a fair  
9 standard maybe we can try and go by, so we are all  
10 working off the same standard?

11                  MS. CONTE:     That is what everybody uses.  
12 They say an average horse weighs a thousand pounds.

13                  THE CHAIRMAN:   If somebody says they have a  
14 draft horse, that is bigger.  We understand there are  
15 variables there.

16                  MS. CONTE:     Yes, and ponies are smaller,  
17 yes.

18                  THE CHAIRMAN:   On average, we're kind of in  
19 agreement that a horse eats fifteen to twenty pounds of  
20 hay a day.

21                  MS. CONTE:     Of food, yes.

22                  DR. FLYNN:     In general, a thousand pound  
23 horse should be eating ten pounds of hay a day, and ten  
24 pounds of grain a day.  You make adjustments.  It's  
25 just a general rule of thumb, depending what the horse

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2                   look like.

3                   THE CHAIRMAN:    If you're getting your  
4                   shipment in once or twice a month, that you should have  
5                   some sort of storage area on your property for whatever  
6                   type of feed you're giving your horse, whether it's  
7                   grain or hay.

8                   MS. CONTE:       Right.  You have to have some  
9                   sort of storage area for grain.

10                  DR. FLYNN:       That whole thing is covered by  
11                  the SPCA, and there are issues that I have seen where  
12                  people had the hay and the grain on the farm and didn't  
13                  feed it.

14                  THE CHAIRMAN:    That is another --

15                  DR. FLYNN:       But then it gets back to the  
16                  condition of the horses.  If the horses are in good  
17                  condition, it doesn't matter that they have five bales  
18                  of hay on the property or fifty.

19                  MS. CONTE:       Right.  Also, I will see that  
20                  here were a lot of negative cases that they don't go in  
21                  and take the horses because there is a round bale  
22                  sitting on their pasture and it could have been sitting  
23                  there for two years.  It's not so much that the food is  
24                  there, but what the horses look like, so I agree with  
25                  the last speaker.

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2                   MS. SPEIZIO:    Our question was not how much  
3                   food we should keep on the property.    We are looking  
4                   for the idea if someone goes to the town with a plan  
5                   proposal, do you think if it included two stall sheds,  
6                   say they're going to have two horses, and another ten by  
7                   ten shed to hold their supplies, and it shows that they  
8                   had a turn-out that was a half acre, or even if it was a  
9                   little bit less, a quarter acre, we're trying to get  
10                  those kind of guidelines together and figure out how  
11                  many horses can live on a parcel of land, whether it's  
12                  one, two or three acres, and still able to take care of  
13                  the manure properly.    And have not really pasture, but  
14                  if there is a pasture, have a separate turn-out area.

15                  It's not so much how much food we need to keep on  
16                  the farm.    We're trying to decide if we had two horses,  
17                  a ten by ten shed would be able to accommodate weekly  
18                  rations.    If you had ten horses, you can't say I'm going  
19                  to hold my food in a ten by ten shed because you would  
20                  have to fill it every day.    If you went to the town and  
21                  said I have four horses and these are the  
22                  accommodations, can I keep it on one acre, is my set-up  
23                  good enough to supersede the town rules.

24                  MS. CONTE:    You basically need some hard and  
25                  fast numbers and some precedents where this has

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2                   occurred.

3                   THE CHAIRMAN:    We're looking for one of the  
4                   things that we're trying to develop are equestrian  
5                   zoning standards.  We are looking for something that  
6                   will give a town reason to say that four horses on one  
7                   acre works because you have a space of so much cubic  
8                   feet to deal with your manure, and also so much space  
9                   and cubic feet to store your supplies and feed, and  
10                  whatever else you need in order to attend to the horses.

11                  I think the County Health Department would have an  
12                  issue if they were just storing grain laying about  
13                  outside because that would have an issue of attracting  
14                  rodents.

15                  MS. PLYMPTON:    If you store grain outside for  
16                  almost twenty dollars for a fifty pound paper bag of  
17                  grain, me personally, I cherish my grain.  It goes right  
18                  into my plastic bins.  I wouldn't think of storing it  
19                  anywhere damp, never mind outside.  If you get a bale  
20                  that is wet, in about five days it's --

21                  MS. WAGONER:    Forget it.

22                  THE CHAIRMAN:    I understand that.  I'm not  
23                  questioning that.  A lot of the stuff means like common  
24                  sense.  I know you run a great operation.  I think in  
25                  terms of what the governmental entities are regulating

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2           here, they need to have some sort of standards that they  
3           can turn to because they don't understand this. The  
4           person that might be reviewing it may not understand  
5           that leaving your hay out is going to ruin your hay.  
6           Without giving some sort of idea of how much space you  
7           need in order to do that, they're not going to be able  
8           to say that seems like a reasonable plan to me.

9                   MS. PLYMPTON: I think it would be smarter to  
10           suggest that feed needs to be stored in rodent protected  
11           steel bins, garbage cans or plastic bins. I have huge  
12           plastic bins

13                   DR. FLYNN: You don't store all your new bag  
14           feeds in bins?

15                   MS. PLYMPTON: I do. All of it.

16                   DR. FLYNN: Mine is in bags.

17                   MS. PLYMPTON: If I do that, the critters  
18           will get to it. My bins last me almost two weeks.

19                   DR. FLYNN: My hay shed is thirty-six by  
20           twenty, holds eighteen tons. If thirty-six by twenty  
21           holds between sixteen and eighteen tons of hay, you can  
22           figure it out, if you want to have one ton, what would  
23           that be?

24                   THE CHAIRMAN: I think that is the kind of  
25           standard we're looking for.

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2                   MS. PLYMPTON:    I think with a ten by ten  
3                   stall you can get about a ton and a half.

4                   MS. SPEIZIO:     A ten by ten and you have two  
5                   horses, I can stock it for better than two weeks.

6                   DR. FLYNN:       For two horses.

7                   MS. SPEIZIO:     A ten by ten is serviceable.  
8                   When Chance was with me, I had three and I stocked  
9                   everything for the three of them in there.

10                  MS. WAGONER:     Two weeks at a time?

11                  MS. SPEIZIO:     That would go every two  
12                  weeks.

13                  MS. CONTE:       Basically, this committee has to  
14                  act as a liaison between legislators and horse people,  
15                  so you have to translate into, I don't know,  
16                  understandable language for legislators who don't know  
17                  pretty much anything about horses or farming.

18                  THE CHAIRMAN:    Correct. That includes  
19                  Legislator Eddington and myself. We have never been in  
20                  the business or around the business. We are learning as  
21                  we go along here.

22                  MS. CONTE:     I don't mean it as an insult.  
23                  That is how it is. As the members of the committee, I  
24                  understand it's so frustrating. Well, of course I keep  
25                  my grain covered up and it's hard. There is so many

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2 variables. Somebody can have a half an acre lot and be  
3 great at managing the horses and the turn-out. Then  
4 there could be somebody that has two acres and it's a  
5 big mud pit and manure and gross.

6                   It's going to be difficult to definitely say what  
7 you can have. If somebody cleans up their manure every  
8 single afternoon, it doesn't matter how much acreage  
9 they have for their horses.

10                   MS. SPEIZIO: Your examples that we were  
11 looking for, we were thinking if you had one horse per  
12 acre you would have different standards as to when  
13 you're going to haul your manure away. You're proposing  
14 to your town, I can manage four on my property if I --  
15 that how we are trying to fill in the blanks. How often  
16 should we haul the manure away.

17                   DR. FLYNN: This publication does give  
18 guidelines. I don't know if you read that.

19                   MS. SPEIZIO: Penn State, I have one. It has  
20 larger areas. We seem to face very unique issues in  
21 Suffolk County. Sole water source is one issue, and the  
22 neighbors. It's a very diverse community. Some country  
23 folk that have been out there sixty years and city folk  
24 who move out and think the horse is pretty, and then  
25 find out a week later, oh, it smells.

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2                   Our biggest challenge is going to be when the  
3 legislators have to go to the towns that all right now  
4 have different zoning codes. We are trying to put this  
5 in writing to get the county to propose to the towns  
6 that these are zoning codes that you could possibly  
7 consider under special circumstances.

8                   MS. CONTE: I can maybe get you examples of  
9 those that maybe would help your situation.

10                  THE CHAIRMAN: Now, Jennifer, obviously you  
11 we have been talking. We're trying to develop this site  
12 plan review process. Is there any other item that  
13 perhaps we need to make sure is on or located on the  
14 site plans for the towns to consider? I mean, do we  
15 need to talk about turn-out areas or paddocks or any of  
16 that sort of thing to determine how much area we need to  
17 have for four horses or ten horses or what have you?

18                  MS. CONTE: What I've seen before is frontage  
19 or feet between properties or feet percent to be off of  
20 the road. So, some towns require fifty feet, some  
21 require three hundred; I don't know. I don't know what  
22 your current code is.

23                  THE CHAIRMAN: Three hundred would put us all  
24 in a lot of trouble.

25                  MS. SPEIZIO: A blanket statement is that the

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2           horses belong behind the house. They can't be in the  
3           front yard. Myself, I have three hundred feet in front  
4           of me that I can use for grazing. We were hoping for  
5           talk of a double fence to be used on the road front.  
6           Have you ever seen that used?

7                   MS. CONTE:    Like a perimeter fence and  
8           actual fence?

9                   MS. SPEIZIO:   Right.

10                  MS. CONTE:    I have seen that used, perimeter  
11           fences are great to use for the horses' safety, and the  
12           public's safety, and you all know that New York State we  
13           don't have -- the liability remains on us. So I think  
14           anything you can do to keep people's fingers away from  
15           pretty horses is probably a good thing to add in.

16                  MS. SPEIZIO:    I think liability is why they  
17           have that rule, as far as the horse being in the back  
18           yard.

19                  MS. CONTE:    If there are so many feet between  
20           you and the next property, it's also going to cut down  
21           on neighbor relation problems, so they can't smell it  
22           and they can't see it. I think if it's out of their  
23           sight, it's out of mind.

24                  MS. PLYMPTON:   My fencing is all ten feet off  
25           my property lines. I think in Brookhaven, I'm supposed

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2                   to be five feet off the property lines.

3                   Interestingly enough, I'm a fish bowl. I have  
4                   quarter acres all around me. Everybody that is around  
5                   this fish bowl seems to think that five foot buffer  
6                   between the chain link and paddock fence is a no-man's  
7                   land. The things that people dump, from plastic  
8                   swimming pools covers to who knows in that ten feet zone  
9                   is amazing.

10                  I want that fencing to be away from their yard  
11                  anyway, but that is an issue. The buffer fencing, the  
12                  buffer should be technically five feet and I'm ten feet  
13                  to be well within the limit, and that becomes a problem  
14                  and that becomes a trashing place.

15                  DR. FLYNN:        I was told by the town not to  
16                  move my fence off the property line because if I did,  
17                  that that would be abandoning the property and the  
18                  neighbor could start to use and absorb it. It almost  
19                  requires that you build two fences.

20                  MS. PLYMPTON:    I have a survey that shows you  
21                  where my property line is as opposed to where my fence  
22                  is.

23                  DR. FLYNN:        It may create a problem down the  
24                  road. Not today. But once they have their pool cover  
25                  on your property, this might become their property. If

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2           we're going to double fence, and I have run into the  
3           same problem, I would hope that it would have to be the  
4           front.

5                   MS. SPEIZIO:     Just the front.   The only  
6           reason I was suggesting is because we have lot of people  
7           that their houses are either way back on narrow lots.  
8           In Brookhaven, I think you need fifty feet for the barn  
9           and ten feet for the shed.   If you start out with a lot  
10          that is only a hundred feet wide, what do you do with  
11          this building, even though you're an acre?   In Ridge, we  
12          have a lot of flag lots, so the double fence was just a  
13          suggestion so they could utilize their front yard.

14                   DR. FLYNN:     Have you looked into the Right of  
15          Farm Law in New York State?   I think Suffolk County is  
16          involved in that too.   That gets into some issues about  
17          offsets and side yards and that type of thing, so that  
18          you don't lose all that side property.   If you give up  
19          ten feet all the way around that property, that is a lot  
20          of property.

21                   THE CHAIRMAN:    I would like to kind of keep  
22          us focused on things that Jennifer is able to help us  
23          with while we have her on the phone.

24                   MS. WAGONER:    Is there sizing.   If you have a  
25          barn, do you have to have standing stalls or box

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2                   stalls?

3                   THE CHAIRMAN:    I guess that is the next  
4                   question we can bring up here.  What kind of stall  
5                   capacity or what have you recommended for horses so when  
6                   we're talking about how many horses you can have on your  
7                   property, is there a barn size that we can make  
8                   suggestions on?

9                   MS. CONTE:        I think in general there has to  
10                   be accommodations for the horses, so if you have a  
11                   run-in shed and you only have a two stall barn, that is  
12                   okay because there is shelter provided for those other  
13                   horses.  Does that make sense?

14                   MS. SPEIZIO:     Yes.

15                   THE CHAIRMAN:     It made sense to Denise, but  
16                   I'm kind of lost a little bit.  If you could repeat that  
17                   for me, that would be great.

18                   MS. CONTE:        Do you know what a run-in shed is?

19                   THE CHAIRMAN:     No.

20                   DR. FLYNN:        It's a three sided shed.

21                   MS. CONTE:        They're not stalls, but the  
22                   horses go into it for shelter.  It's like a little  
23                   lean-to pavilion.  It's not quite that big.  A lot of  
24                   people keep their horses out all the time and they just  
25                   have run-in sheds.  They're considered to have

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2                   protection from the elements.

3                   A good stall size is ten by twelve, but I don't  
4                   know that you can force everybody to have that stall  
5                   size. Just show that you have protection from the  
6                   elements is all you can probably enforce. If people  
7                   want to keep the horses in a run-in shed and it can  
8                   accommodate those horses, I think that is the probably  
9                   the best that you can do.

10                  THE CHAIRMAN: One of the last ones that I  
11                  had as far as turn-out or exercise area or space, that  
12                  the horse needs to use, is there a recommended turn-out  
13                  size for so many horses or practice or best management  
14                  practice of any sort when it comes to that issue?

15                  MS. CONTE: New York State Ag & Markets uses  
16                  the one acre per horse, and that is probably not going  
17                  to happen there. That is not a law, it's a best  
18                  management recommended.

19                  MS. SPEIZIO: Is that in relation to feed  
20                  management, and if they are actually utilizing the  
21                  pasture for their daily rations, that one per acre, that  
22                  is my understanding of it.

23                  MS. CONTE: That is what your understanding  
24                  of it is?

25                  MS. SPEIZIO: Right, one horse per acre has to

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2           do if they're actually feeding off the pastures or not,  
3           not the actual living space.

4                   MS. CONTE:    You want to know for exercise  
5           reasons how big of a pasture?

6                   THE CHAIRMAN:   Does the typical thousand  
7           pound horse need to come out into a turn-out area for an  
8           hour a day or two hours day or one hour a day or once a  
9           week?  Is it realistic to make the suggestion, I guess  
10          that as long as you have shelter or a barn that houses  
11          twenty horses, you can have the twenty horses there even  
12          though you have no place for them to turn-out to?

13                   I think that is kind of what I'm trying to get at  
14          here.  What can we suggest?  Maybe the towns will say  
15          sure, we will permit it because you are within such a  
16          distance of public trails or parkland.  That will allow  
17          you to take your horse out into the trail system.  Is  
18          that kind of standard or is there any kind of standard  
19          we can move towards that type of issue?

20                   MS. CONTE:    I don't know that there is a  
21          standard that is not not based on nutrition.  Just for  
22          exercise purposes alone, I would hope, I mean, I would  
23          hope that people would have turn-out if they had twenty  
24          horses because your horses would be crazy.  I will look  
25          in the New York State Horse Health Insurance

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2           Program. These pamphlets do have good recommendations.  
3           I will see if they have anything regarding exercise. I  
4           will let you know about that. I will have to let get  
5           back to you on that.

6                   MS. PLYMPTON: I would think Howard would be  
7           able to provide us with some sort of idea as to the  
8           average need for exercise, per week, per day, whatever,  
9           per horse. Me, personally, I can live by experience.

10                   DR. FLYNN: You know, Janet, there have been  
11           horses that lived downtown in the city in straight  
12           stalls for years.

13                   MS. PLYMPTON: Claremont. I talked about  
14           that at the last meeting.

15                   DR. FLYNN: Stanhope, the old Melody Farms in  
16           Huntington. I don't think they have any turn-out  
17           area.

18                   MS. ASHER: They do. I'm there three hours a  
19           day.

20                   DR. FLYNN: For?

21                   MS. ASHER: It's not a big area.

22                   DR. FLYNN: How many horses do they have on  
23           the property?

24                   MS. ASHER: They probably have a hundred.

25                   MR. CONNELLL: How many acres.

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2                   MS. ASHER:    I'm not sure.  We have a lot of  
3                   turn-outs.  We have grass turn-outs and then we have dirt  
4                   turn-outs.

5                   THE CHAIRMAN:   That is where --

6                   MS. ASHER:    Three hours day for me is not  
7                   enough.  I would love him -- in the summer, he's out for  
8                   five hours.  I'd love for the horse to be out all day  
9                   long, but we can't because there is too many horses.

10                  DR. FLYNN:    That is a Long Island issue.  
11                  Whether it's manure or number of horses, we don't have  
12                  the property.  You're talking about a hundred.  In that  
13                  area, an acre of property is a half million dollars an  
14                  acre.

15                  THE CHAIRMAN:   In the city where we have them  
16                  in the stalls, I'm not mentioning the fact that they're  
17                  in the stalls, primarily they do get out at some point  
18                  in time.  They don't live in the stall.

19                  DR. FLYNN:    The point that I'm making is the  
20                  straight stall.  They stand up all the time.  They can  
21                  do it very healthily.  It's not ideal.  It's certainly  
22                  less than ideal.  It always gets back to the same issue,  
23                  how are you going to put this down in writing.

24                  THE CHAIRMAN:   Unfortunately, that is the  
25                  task that we are faced with as this committee.  Perhaps

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2           Gigi can offer some assistance. She is from the Town of  
3           Huntington. She is representing the Supervisors'  
4           Association. We need to give them some numbers or  
5           standards that we can work with. Otherwise, we can  
6           tell them you should allow more horses per acre and they  
7           will say, too bad, we have too many residents that are  
8           concerned because of flies or odors.

9                   MS. ASHER: She had to cart her manure away  
10           because she got into trouble, and I'm sure it's not  
11           cheap for her to do it with a hundred horses.

12                   DR. FLYNN: If we had a place where it could  
13           go at no charge, that would help a lot.

14                   MS. PLYMPTON: Or even reasonable.

15                   DR. FLYNN: Farmers get enough of it.

16                   MS. PLYMPTON: Even ten dollars a month or  
17           ten dollars every two weeks to dump their manure.

18                   THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to get back to  
19           size and property needs that we were talking about so we  
20           can let Jennifer go here. We're just trying to look to  
21           find out what is some sort of guideline if we had ten  
22           horses and you're going to have a turn-out area where  
23           you can turn them out for one hour a day or whatever  
24           they might need, and the town can turn around and say as  
25           long as the person has a turn-out area or they can point

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2                   to a park which is in a reasonable distance.

3                   MS. ROSENBERG:    Some commercial show farms  
4                   do not permit turn-outs for insurance reasons.  It's  
5                   very expensive to insure the horses.  They will make the  
6                   board approve of insurance, liability, mortality before  
7                   they will turn-out.  Those horses are using the training  
8                   program that they're getting certain amount of exercise  
9                   every day, an hour hour and a half.

10                  THE CHAIRMAN:    That is what I think we're  
11                  looking for.  If they're getting training of some sort,  
12                  they're riding.

13                  MS. ROSENBERG:    They're getting exercise.

14                  THE CHAIRMAN:    We need to say to the towns  
15                  this area which is -- this is where I need some guidance  
16                  of how big that area should be is utilized for exercise  
17                  purposes or whatever you want to call it.  Denise?

18                  MS. SPEIZIO:    This also goes to addressing  
19                  professional horse farms who work as businesses and the  
20                  individual back yard owner.

21                  MS. WAGONER:    You run into the race tracks  
22                  also and this is another whole issue.

23                  MS. SPEIZIO:    We have our back yard owners  
24                  and small farms and businesses have different standards.

25                  DR. FLYNN:     Should we differentiate between

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2           the two legally in writing?

3                   THE CHAIRMAN:    I think that is probably a  
4           discussion we need to have, but it's possibly a  
5           recommendation we should make to the towns, if you're  
6           talking about a private enterprise or a for-profit  
7           enterprise.

8                   DR. FLYNN:    There are those horses that are  
9           laid up for some sort of infirmity that don't leave the  
10          stall for a year.

11                   MS. SPEIZIO:    That came up because part of  
12          what we were going to approach, what is it, a seven acre  
13          for a smaller farm; we were trying to address that.

14                   MR. CONNELL:    They recognize that as a small  
15          farm.  You talk about the Right to Farm Law.  You would  
16          have to be a seven acre farm.

17                   MS. SPEIZIO:    We were trying to address the  
18          issue with a small horse farm.  We were trying to come  
19          up with something like that.

20                   MS. CONTE:    Jennifer, do you have any other  
21          type of standards that are used in Saratoga or anywhere  
22          else around the state that you know of that designates  
23          horse operations, that differentiate from the standards  
24          the state utilizes in agri-markets?

25                   MS. CONTE:    The agri-market seven-seven-ten

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2           rule?

3                   THE CHAIRMAN:   Yes.

4                   MS. CONTE:   No, I don't know any in the state  
5           that do, actually, because it's an agri-market law, is  
6           my understanding.  To get an ag exemption and all that  
7           stuff, that is what you need to have.  But, you know, I  
8           can always call ag markets and talk to them.

9                   As I talk to you, I think I'm getting a better  
10           understanding of what you guys need from me, and what I  
11           can provide to you.  Here I'm like a resource.  I know  
12           who to ask for these things.  I don't know all the  
13           answers off the top of my head, but I can get you  
14           information.  The seven-seven-ten law is usually pretty  
15           hard and fast.

16                   MS. SPINELLI:   If you were under seven acres,  
17           you can still be recognized as an ag operation if you  
18           have fifty thousand dollars or above.

19                   MS. SPEIZIO:   That does not help the back  
20           yard person.

21                   MS. CONTE:   That is pretty hard for most  
22           horse operations.  That is fifty thousand dollars in  
23           gross receipts, not profit.  I mean, I guess if you had  
24           a big enough boarding operation you could get that.

25                   MS. PLYMPTON:   If you were permitted the

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2           amount of horses on your property. It's a vicious  
3           circle. If you can only have five horses or six horses  
4           on your two acres or two and half acres, you can't come  
5           up with fifty grand. You would be churning out lessons  
6           like, oh my gosh.

7                   MS. CONTE:    Is that your current law is two  
8           acres and five horses?

9                   MS. PLYMPTON:   No.

10                  MS. SPEIZIO:   It depends on which town you  
11           live in.

12                  THE CHAIRMAN:   All the different towns in  
13           Suffolk, like you up there, have different standards.  
14           Some are one horse per acre, some allow one per half  
15           acre.

16                  MR. DiVELLO:   Southold, as it stands right  
17           now, has no restrictions. It's the only town on the  
18           East End.

19                  THE CHAIRMAN:   Out east where we still have  
20           primarily farmland, we don't have those restrictions.

21           Does anybody have any other questions for Jennifer?

22                  MS. CONTE:    What I can do for you or send it  
23           to everybody on the committee, I will look up some of  
24           the things that you need to know and give you the best  
25           information that I can find. Do you want me to e-mail

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2           you?

3                   THE CHAIRMAN:    You can e-mail Ellen and  
4           communicate to her and we will get it back to all the  
5           committee.  Perhaps after we give you a couple of months  
6           to help us out, we can get you on the phone again.

7                   MS. CONTE:    That sounds good.  I'm sorry I  
8           wasn't able to help, but I have some really good stuff  
9           that I can send you.  I think one of the best things  
10          that I can get to you is recommendations that were made  
11          in the western part of the state.

12                  THE CHAIRMAN:    I think you have been a  
13          terrific help.

14                  DR. FLYNN:    You're great.  Thank you.

15                  MS. CONTE:    Bye.

16                  (The conference call was concluded at 4:50  
17          p.m.)

18                  THE CHAIRMAN:    Nicole and Allen, do you have  
19          anything else that you would like to add?  I know we cut  
20          you off.

21                  MS. SPINELLI:    You were talking about things  
22          to look at when you were reviewing site plans for these  
23          operations.  I guess it would be location of the manure  
24          storage area.  You want to look at setbacks from, I  
25          don't know if there would be any wells, but from maybe a

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2           property line or sensitive area like a wetlands or  
3           something like that.

4                   I actually put a little chart in here that I got  
5           from one of the publications. It just says fifty feet  
6           recommended from a property line. It's up to you guys  
7           whether or not you want to pass it along. If you have a  
8           high water table, if your water table is like a foot  
9           below ground, you don't want to store your manure  
10          there. Stuff like that.

11                  The other thing I just want to look at is like a  
12          grass buffer between your sensitive areas is critical.  
13          Any kind of runoff leaving the site needs to be  
14          filtered. If nothing else, it's a critical issue,  
15          especially if you have increased sensitivity of horses  
16          there is potential for nutrient laden runoff leaving the  
17          site that could become a problem. It's getting into  
18          surface water or storm drains.

19                  MR. DiVELLO:    Do you have an extra copy of  
20          that recommendation?

21                  MS. SPEIZIO:   As far as the site plan goes,  
22          and manure storage, you might want to keep in the back  
23          of your head access to it. If someone is carting it  
24          away, they're not showing that they have direct access  
25          to collect it.

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2                   MS. SPINELLI:    It should be convenient to  
3                   where you're mucking out your stalls.

4                   MS. SPEIZIO:     If you're hauling it away, it  
5                   has to be somewhere where a trucker can come in and get  
6                   it.

7                   THE CHAIRMAN:    Gigi, do you think we are  
8                   moving in a credible direction if we were to take that  
9                   and present it to Supervisor Petrone, would it be  
10                  something that the towns would be willing to consider?

11                  MS. ASHER:      I would talk to them about it.  
12                  It's interesting.  It makes sense that out east you have  
13                  different zoning regulations than here and in  
14                  Huntington.

15                  I think my impression for this committee is to try  
16                  and keep the horse industry on Long Island because  
17                  people can't afford to stay on Long Island, and so many  
18                  big farms closed because they can't afford it.  For  
19                  example, there is a farm in Greenlawn which changed  
20                  names.  I think it's Greenlawn Equestrian now, and they  
21                  want to put an indoor arena up and they're being given a  
22                  hard time about doing something like that.

23                  DR. FLYNN:     What road is that?

24                  MS. ASHER:     Pulaski.  It's across from  
25                  Waldbaum's.  Those are things that make it more

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2           difficult for the farms to stay in business because  
3           reality is most people, including myself, look for a  
4           barn that has an indoor arena so I can keep riding in  
5           the winter time.

6                   THE CHAIRMAN:   Perhaps one of the next  
7           meetings, we can ask someone from the Health Department  
8           and I think Janet, you are familiar with the Coram  
9           Equestrian Center. He wanted to build an indoor  
10          facility and was running into trouble with the Health  
11          Department because of how much flow he was capable of  
12          handling from the facility itself.

13                  Perhaps I can have someone from the department come  
14          in and talk about wastewater issues.

15                  DR. FLYNN:    Good idea.

16                  THE CHAIRMAN:   Anybody have anything else?

17                  MS. SPEIZIO:   Only to address the issues, we  
18          have to keep it whether we're looking at businesses or  
19          back yard owners, because the same rules don't apply to  
20          both, and they're not referrable by the back yard  
21          owners, and to keep it horse friendly.

22                  DR. FLYNN:    I might say to you too that maybe  
23          part of our solution to this, I'm a veterinarian, would  
24          be to have a health certificate stating that the horse  
25          has been seen by a veterinarian within the last three or

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2                   six months, and that the horse is in good condition. If  
3                   you have a small farm, that the horses are doing well on  
4                   that.

5                   MS. PLYMPTON:     Sure, you have to have your  
6                   cars inspected.

7                   DR. FLYNN:     Part of the problem you will run  
8                   into, who is going to come out and decide that these  
9                   horses are in good flesh if you don't know what is  
10                  normal? I'm not talking about people that have horses,  
11                  but sometimes the ones that are going to enforce these  
12                  laws don't have any horse background and they're not  
13                  going to be able to do that properly.

14                  If the horse has been seen by a veterinarian six  
15                  months previously, theoretically it should be in some  
16                  sort of good health.

17                  MS. SPEIZIO:     For horse management, this  
18                  would be one thing. To go for a site plan, we can't say  
19                  that it's for a specific animal. You know as well as  
20                  all of us that animal could be here today and something  
21                  could happen tomorrow and there would be a new animal  
22                  standing there. We need standards.

23                  DR. FLYNN:     Agree. It's going to be very  
24                  hard, if you talk about the amount of hay that is  
25                  supposed to be on the property, that may be acceptable

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2                   today and it may be gone tomorrow.

3                   MS. PLYMPTON:    You could have the perfect  
4                   amount of room for your feed and hay, but there isn't  
5                   anything in the building.

6                   MS. SPEIZIO:     I don't think that is something  
7                   we should be addressing.  That is the SPA.

8                   THE CHAIRMAN:    I think there are sufficient  
9                   laws on the books, and if not, I think we can talk about  
10                  that at another meeting, as far as the care of the  
11                  horses.  That is the not what the goal of the task force  
12                  was to accomplish.  Anybody else?

13                  MR. DIVELLO:     Rob, you gave me a homework  
14                  assignment at my last meeting I attended.  You wanted  
15                  contact people for the Equine Affair and Hampton  
16                  Classic.  I'm not sure of the proper spelling.  Maybe  
17                  somebody at the table might know these folks.  Equine  
18                  Affair, Debbie Putnam; (740) 845-0085, and that is  
19                  Equine Affair in Massachusetts.  They put on large  
20                  Equine related affairs.

21                  Hampton Classic is a lady named Rosanna, and I  
22                  wasn't getting it clear on the phone, Porchini.  Anybody  
23                  know her?

24                  MS. PLYMPTON:    What is she supposed to be?

25                  MR. DIVELLO:     She is supposed to be a contact

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2           person who organizes the Equine Affair. This is her  
3           number: (631) 537-3177.

4                   MS. SPEIZIO:    Is she for the Hampton Classic?

5                   MR. DIVELLO:    Yes. I have one quick  
6           question. Perhaps I can get one of you guys as a guest  
7           speaker at the Horsemen's Dinner some time, if that is  
8           possible?

9                   THE CHAIRMAN:    Rocky is with the Long Island  
10          Farm Bureau and also the East End Livestock and  
11          Horsemen's Association.

12                   DR. FLYNN:     As far as the horse business goes  
13          on Long Island, it's a big business. Whether it's the  
14          people doing the boarding, the feeding, or blacksmiths,  
15          it's not just the back yard horses. It's a lot of  
16          money. A lot of businesses are small businesses. They  
17          may not be ten acres or seven acres. I have four acres  
18          and I consider myself relatively large.

19                   THE CHAIRMAN:    We recognize it's a very large  
20          industry. I think one of the numbers we saw is that  
21          Suffolk and Nassau are something along the lines of  
22          sixth and seventh, respectively, of the number of horses  
23          in the county for New York State. We are certainly one  
24          of the larger entities, yet you said the five acre  
25          property is a rather large property, for the most part.

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2                   I think Janet was able to give me ten or fifteen  
3 larger facilities that operate on Long  
4 Island. Obviously, you're the entity that's not the  
5 average size that we are recognizing as the big farm,  
6 but you're nowhere near qualifying for any of the  
7 programs.

8                   MR. DiVELLO:     Just a thought, Rob. I know  
9 you're not an equine person. If you would like to see  
10 how much enthusiasm that the equine world can generate,  
11 you should go to the Equine Affair or Harrisburg Affair  
12 and see what kind of money and product. It's very  
13 exciting and interesting.

14                  THE CHAIRMAN:   We have Jennifer is going to  
15 compile some information and Nicole, I think, over the  
16 next couple of months we will try and put together some  
17 of these different numbers for the next task force  
18 meeting. Perhaps we can shift focus a little bit and  
19 get into what Dr. Flynn was talking about, what are the  
20 different actual different businesses in Suffolk County  
21 that rely on the equestrian industry, whether we are  
22 talking about blacksmiths and farriers and feed and  
23 these different types of entities and start seeing if we  
24 can start compiling some information on that. Is that  
25 something that the Farm Bureau would have?

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2                   MR. DiVELLO:    I can work on that.  Just get a  
3 list of vendors, of people that show up, the truck  
4 dealers and trailer dealers and real estate people that  
5 sell farm properties.

6                   THE CHAIRMAN:   That is one of the things that  
7 was highlighted in the resolution that formed the task  
8 force.  One of our missions is actually to try to, as  
9 best as we can, identify the actual size and scope of  
10 the industry in Suffolk County.  I think part of that is  
11 going to be for us to actually identify how many  
12 different types of vendors there are.

13                  If you guys can help me say what the different  
14 actual businesses are that are related to the equestrian  
15 industry, because I think I already listed all the ones  
16 that I know of, that would be helpful, so we can get  
17 that information and put that into the report.  Rocky  
18 and maybe Janet and Denise, you can help us out with  
19 that for the next meeting.  I think that is where I  
20 would like to move for the next meeting in March.  Does  
21 that work for everyone?

22                  Okay, I guess for our next meeting, if we can meet  
23 maybe one month from today, March 24th.  I thank  
24 everyone for coming out again.

25                               (Time noted: 4:55 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK)

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ss:

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

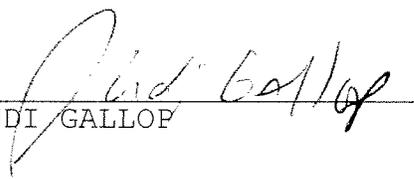
I, JUDI GALLOP, a Stenotype Reporter  
and Notary Public for the State of New  
York, do hereby certify:

THAT this is a true and accurate transcription  
of the Suffolk County Equestrian Task Force meeting  
held on February 24, 2010.

I further certify that I am not  
related, either by blood or marriage, to  
any of the parties in this action; and

I am in no way interested in the  
outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
hand this 9th day of April, 2010.

  
JUDI GALLOP