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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

March 24, 2010

3:30 p.m.

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P R E S E N T:

- ROBERT CALARCO, Chairman
- JESSICA KALMBACHER, Suffolk County Planning Department
- SALLY ROSENBERG, LIHSAA
- ELAINE WAGONER, Patchogue-Medford High School
- JANET PLYMPTON, LI Professional Horsemen's Association
- DENISE SPEIZIO, Nassau-Suffolk Horsemen's Association
- GIGI ASHER, SC Superintendent's Association
- WENDY BURLING, Islip Horsemen's Association
- SHARON GUZZI, LI Horse Properties
- PAMELA GREEN, SC Division of Real Property
- JERRY TRAPANI, Friends of Connetquot

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2 THE CHAIRMAN: My name is Rob Calarco,
3 Chief of Staff of Legislator Jack Eddington and Chair of
4 the meeting today. If everyone would introduce
5 themselves for the record.

6 MS. KALMBACHER: Jessica Kalmbacher, from
7 Suffolk County Department of Planning?

8 MS. GREEN: Pamela Green, with the Division
9 of Real Property.

10 MS. PLYMPTON: Janet Plympton, Long Island
11 Professional Horsemen's Association.

12 MS. SPEIZIO: Denise Speizio, Nassau-Suffolk
13 Horesmen's Association.

14 MS. ASHER: Gigi Asher from the Supervisors
15 Association.

16 MS. MISZUK: Rita Miszuk from the Town of
17 Brookhaven.

18 MS. FONTANA: Josephine Fontana from
19 Volunteers for Animal welfare and Vice President.

20 MS. ARNETTA: Frances Arnetta, President of
21 Compassionate Action.

22 MS. BURLING: Wendy Burling, 1st Vice
23 President of the Islip Horsemen's Association.

24 MS. GUZZI: Sharon Guzzi, Long Island Horse
25 Properties.

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2 MS. ROSENBERG: Sally Rosenberg, LIHSAA.

3 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: Angela Marcotrigiano,
4 Islip Horsemen's Association.

5 MR. TRAPANI: Jerry Trapani, Vice President
6 Friends of Connetquot.

7 MS. WAGONER: Elaine Wagoner, coach of the
8 Patchogue-Medford High School equestrian team.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: I welcome all the new guests
10 here today our meetings are open to the public, so if
11 you ever want to come again, we are always interested in
12 input from everyone we can get. It's really part of
13 what is going to help make this task force effective.
14 So to start, Rita contacted us. She runs an animal
15 rescue program and she also has an idea of feral cat,
16 barn cat type program.

17 MS. MISZUK: I brought brochures with me,
18 which I'm going to give to you. The town, within the
19 last two years, the town set up a feral cat committee
20 commissioned by the town board to handle all the animals
21 showing up, not only on public property, but on private
22 property. They multiply every sixty-three days. They
23 have anywhere from two to ten kittens per liter, and at
24 five months, those kittens start multiplying every
25 sixty-three days. It's a real problem with the town as

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2 to how to handle them.

3 Councilwoman Bonner requested from the town that
4 they set up a feral cat committee composed of different
5 agencies. The problem was, each agency had a different
6 agenda, and as typical with government, wanted to
7 conduct lengthy studies into how to handle the problem,
8 and while they were conducting their lengthy studies,
9 the cats continued to multiply every sixty-three days.

10 I tried to impress upon them, and so did my
11 organization, that now we were getting to seasons that
12 birds are migrating and landing in areas they previously
13 thought were safe, and now they're being attacked by
14 these large populations of cats. We had a problem on
15 Cedar Beach, Mount Sinai, Miller Place where the piping
16 plovers could not multiply. The problem was, the DEC
17 and EPA and Coastal Fish and Wildlife stepped in and
18 said to the Town of Brookhaven they were entitled to a
19 ten thousand dollar a day fine until they removed all
20 the feral cats from Cedar Beach.

21 So our rescue groups in the area said we will go in
22 and do it for free and relocate them. The town said no,
23 we borrowed ten thousand dollars from the Parks
24 Department and we are going to send a trapper in. Well,
25 the rescuers caught twenty-seven cats and took care of

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2 them. The trapper was paid ten thousand dollars to
3 catch four cats. That immediately stopped the fine
4 because we at least were showing the town we were doing
5 something to protect the migratory birds and endangered
6 species. The problem is, everyone is out of money. The
7 cats continue to multiply every sixty-three days.

8 Once again, we have a massive problem and the town
9 came up with an idea. It was published in Newsday.

10 When you take a look in your little brochure, you will
11 see a copy which says that the feral cat committee
12 approved a resolution to be presented to the town board
13 on June 1st saying all feral cats, free roaming cats,
14 domestic pets, whatever, had to be removed from all town
15 properties.

16 The feral cat committee did not pass this
17 resolution. What we passed was an idea that we were
18 going to chart the areas where the migratory birds and
19 endangered species were, and the rescuers were going in
20 with the town's cooperation to remove the animals from
21 those areas and relocate them. The town led me to
22 believe if I went to existing horse farms and houses on
23 large acreage and approached them and said to them the
24 town has up to a million dollars to throw into this
25 project, can we buy your property, can we negotiate to

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2 lease your property. We would like to move these cats
3 from the endangered town areas onto these properties to
4 be supervised by rescuers. The problem was, the town
5 let me spend a year looking at properties, only to tell
6 me that they had pulled the budget.

7 Then they agreed to leave us ten acres of land near
8 the landfill and asked me to provide all the barns, all
9 of the security, waste management, water, electric and
10 everything for all the cats to be removed from the Town
11 of Brookhaven property and placed on these ten acres?
12 Well, I don't personally have multi-millions, so I went
13 to Legislator Eddington and Tim Bishop, and Tim Bishop
14 said he would offer us two point five million dollars if
15 the town would admit they had a problem. They said
16 "what problem, we don't have a problem."

17 However, what the town agreed to do was appoint my
18 group as well as Save a Pet to be the ones to admit to
19 Tim Bishop that there was a problem so that they
20 wouldn't have to. The article that just came out in the
21 paper is going to be approved on June 1st, no matter
22 what we, do because nothing else was proposed to them as
23 an alternative.

24 What my group was doing was scrambling for
25 alternatives. We met with Waste Management. Waste

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2 Management is considering using existing waste within
3 the Town of Brookhaven, which we came up with three
4 different plans which will generate half a million
5 dollars; that the town does not have to do anything.
6 They will not incur any debt. We are just fixing
7 problems that we found in the waste management system,
8 so they're considering that. That will be introduced at
9 the work sessions, and hopefully we will come up to be
10 approved June 1st with that money.

11 We have asked that that money now be turned over
12 for different projects in Brookhaven Town, one of which
13 is relocating the cats. We want a free spay and neuter
14 program, a food bank, education program, and we want
15 veterinary care. The town is now calling us cat city
16 and saying what we are going to do is go to anybody we
17 see feeding cats on public land and we are going to say
18 to them we have the right to ban you from feeding here.
19 However, we are are going to give you the right to
20 remove them. However, if you don't remove them, we will
21 eradicate. We will come up with the almost three
22 hundred dollars a cat, the cost to trap, euthanize and
23 cremate every single cat we find.

24 Where they are coming up with the money, we have no
25 idea. They constantly look to the Parks Department to

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2 pull the money out from there. What we are doing is
3 trying to propose an alternative solution. One is the
4 three waste management systems we found, which is to go
5 in and actively remove them. The second one has become
6 popular all over the country, but Brookhaven Town is
7 refusing to consider it without some cooperation from
8 you people and from Eddington. That is a barn cat
9 program. The brochures that I'm going to give you
10 outline what we want to do in a barn cat program.

11 We don't want the cats in the barn with the horses
12 specifically, because most of the time the horses might
13 get skittish, they might kick the cat, injure the cat,
14 the cat might injure the horse, so we don't want them
15 there. But we want to deal with people who have large
16 pieces of property with barns on them, with the idea if
17 you let us move some cats to your property and supervise
18 them and contain them on your property, you will get
19 something in return from the Town of Brookhaven. That
20 is one of the things that I'm here to find out, what you
21 need.

22 We told the Town of Brookhaven that you would need
23 to be certified, that you would get an immediate
24 reduction in property taxes. The town told us that they
25 only control about thirty percent of the taxes that you

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2 pay on your properties. That is good; let's offer them
3 a substantial reduction on the property taxes depending
4 on how many cats they're willing to take and the size of
5 the farm and the area that they're willing to turn over
6 to us. Let's offer them a substantial decrease in their
7 property taxes.

8 The second thing that we offered them was because
9 the organization that I am in, Volunteers for Animal
10 Welfare and Save a Pet, are 501(c)(3)'s, so we can offer
11 you income tax deductions based on the number of cats
12 that you take from us. The town would be paying three
13 hundred dollars a cat to trap, euthanize and cremate.
14 We would give you also a letter stating that if we had
15 to go out and put up a barn and maintain the barn and
16 maintain the land, that is what we feel it would cost,
17 fair market value for us to actually build that barn and
18 maintain it and keep it going.

19 We would be able to give you a tax donation letter
20 for your income taxes saying that you are donating to a
21 501(c)(3) let's say ten or fifteen thousand dollars a
22 year worth of services. You would then be able to take
23 it off your income tax if your accountant feels that the
24 letter can be handled that way. We have dealt with
25 other agencies before like that, and we have had no

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2 problem. We would guarantee to you that no cats coming
3 into you would be sick. They would all be vet checked,
4 spayed, neutered and vaccinated. We would help you feed
5 them, maintain them. We would not let them wander loose
6 on your property. That was one thing that we have to
7 guarantee to the town, that they would not eat migratory
8 birds or endangered species in the area.

9 What the town plans to do when they talk about
10 eradicating, they have multiple ways that they get rid
11 of a cat on town property, or property where there are
12 endangered species. They can shoot it on the spot. An
13 eighteen year old with a valid gun license, no training
14 whatsoever can immediately shoot the animal with a gun,
15 with a crossbow and arrow, or stab it with a knife. If
16 your property backs up to any town properties, they have
17 the right to do this. Now I don't think you are going
18 to want guns being fired or bows or arrows being shot on
19 the chance that these people that are not properly
20 trained, especially an eighteen year old with a lot of
21 testosterone going, firing things that could
22 ricochet into the woods and then pass onto your property
23 Especially if you do horseback riding and have
24 children's groups coming in, or you maintain the horses
25 by riding on your property, you don't want to be shot

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2 accidentally.

3 We are dealing with a group whose idea right now is
4 they think there are twelve thousand five hundred cats
5 roaming in Brookhaven and they want them dead. Multiply
6 that by three hundred dollars a cat. And if you have to
7 hire a professional trapper, ten thousand dollars a year
8 to catch four cats. If he has to catch twelve thousand
9 five hundred cats, how long are we going to be paying
10 him? Also, when people know that they can't support
11 their household pets any more or can't support the
12 animals showing up on their property, they can say hey,
13 Town of Brookhaven is picking up the animals on this
14 beach or this park or this land that backs up to a
15 supermarket or school or nursing home. Let's go dump
16 our animals there. Even though you may not have feral
17 cats or free roaming cats right being a bother to your
18 farms now you're going to.

19 One thing that the town is actively eradicating in
20 the area, if they don't want the animals there, they're
21 going to dump them there. We have a major problem.
22 What we were hoping is if you have mice, rats, moles,
23 voles or any sort of critters that you don't want in
24 your food barn and you want animals that are used to
25 hunting -- these are not house pets that we would be

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2 moving over to you. Some of them may eventually make an
3 attempt to come near you, but most of them are not
4 touchable. These are animals that have grown up in the
5 wild and do not typically trust humans, but they can
6 work on the farm to control animals that might come into
7 your feed barns.

8 We have to contain them. Initially, when we move
9 them there, we have to contain them for four weeks to
10 get rid of their GPS's to find their way home. We would
11 be willing to work with you to use back acreage that you
12 don't use, to use our own barns which you would be able
13 to eventually keep. We would then be putting up
14 enclosed attractive barns near your existing feed barns
15 where the cats would be kept. It would stop you from
16 using any sort of poisons that you may or may not
17 currently be using to control insects and control any
18 vermin coming in.

19 We are are basically coming here to plead for your
20 ideas. We want to make a trade with you so you benefit
21 from it. We are willing to go to bat for you, as an
22 animal rescue group, for anything that you need to have
23 for your horses, especially since the Parks Department,
24 which has been under a lot of negative publicity for
25 what they are doing to the horse farmers and trails. We

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2 are willing to go to bat for you a hundred percent for
3 anything you need that helps you with your animal
4 welfare. In return, if we can show Supervisor Lesko
5 that we have a group of people willing to present an
6 alternative to his eradicate -- to his program, which
7 would be costly to the town and not effective, then we
8 can do for you.

9 I'm throwing this out to you. I will pass this
10 around. If you can take one, there is information from
11 you, not only from our group but from the Town of
12 Brookhaven animal shelters. It shows that one pair of
13 cats in nine years becomes eleven million. People don't
14 believe that. That is with only two point eight cats
15 per litter surviving. We're not seeing two cats per
16 litter, we're seeing up to ten cats per litter, so it
17 could be absolutely worse than this.

18 Their idea of killing the cats, you will be stuck
19 with rats and mice and other species will multiply to
20 offset the fact that they have no natural predator to
21 get rid of them. Any ideas that you have for us, or any
22 letter that Legislator Eddington can at least write to
23 say we made a presentation we are taking it under
24 consideration, we would like you to consider the
25 legislation. We would like you to postpone the vote on

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2 June 1st.

3 By the way, this is not only for cats. You will
4 see on all the beaches and parks and airports, it means
5 no feeding of any animals at all, which means no feeding
6 of birds, no walking your dogs. You are due to be
7 fined. They will have the park rangers and code
8 enforcement officers up and out handing out tickets like
9 crazy because they need to raise money. It not only
10 affects the cats, it's not even if you love or hate the
11 cats. If you hate the cats, you will be more verbal
12 against them multiplying. We don't want to be seen as
13 crazy cat ladies. We want to present a plan that will
14 make them look good, make them money and not cost them
15 money.

16 The three plans that we have presented that they
17 had not thought of before is they have been throwing out
18 or subcontracting out all of the town's ink cartridges
19 and toner cartridges. They're not getting paid back for
20 them. Any one that goes to Staples knows you get paid
21 one to three dollars for a cartridge. They're not
22 getting any money back for them.

23 The second thing that they're doing is they are not
24 sorting out five cent redeemable bottles and cans, yet
25 they are sorting out by hand things that are not

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2 recyclables. The transfer stations are already hand
3 picking. They're not putting on any extra staff by
4 pulling out the five cent cans and bottles, or by
5 instituting a one day a month collection of curb cans of
6 nickle bottles and cans. We have shown the town we can
7 generate at least a half a million dollars from that.
8 It will not cost the town a penny. It will work within
9 the existing system.

10 The last thing that we are also doing, what is
11 called litter mates, which is being instituted by the
12 waste management program, thanks to fellow animal
13 rescuer Lindsey Anselmo, which will pair the local
14 businesses with an animal rescue fund with the pick-up
15 of the garbage at their site. Right now, the businesses
16 are forced to recycle anything except cardboard. They
17 are selling things in their store that have five and ten
18 cent redemption on them, and are throwing them out in
19 the garbage.

20 If they had to recycle, the money will go into a
21 fund that goes into animal rescue. Tim Bishop will make
22 money available. We just have to show him that it meets
23 stimulus requirements. I have put some information in
24 here. We have shown Tim Bishop about how we can
25 generate education programs, recycling, jobs, how we

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2 can rehab existing buildings, if you are willing to work
3 with us, some of the stimulus funds might be able to be
4 applied to your farms. You don't have to pay it back.
5 It's not a bailout like it is to the banks and car
6 dealerships, it just means that you have to be willing
7 to work with the town to solve a problem that the town
8 has. Anything you can do for us any creative ideas are
9 absolutely most welcome, and please let us know how you
10 want the town to pay you back for anything you do.
11 You're entitled, if you are bailing them out, to get
12 something back. Don't do anything for free. We learned
13 that the hard way.

14 MS. PLYMPTON: How about people that already
15 had feral cat colonies for years in their barns?

16 MS. MISZUK: You have to register with us
17 with a letter saying we are already working with
18 existing feral cat colonies, this is what we have, this
19 is what we are willing to do for them. You will
20 definitely be entitled to become part of the program.
21 Any expertise that you have any problems that you run
22 into that you can let us know.

23 I have given you some information from other
24 agencies where they attempted relocation of feral cat
25 colonies in barns. I have given you an application the

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2 application was done by a different group. My group is
3 the one that is going to be handling this. So, I will
4 be more than happy to give you cards with my name,
5 address and phone number on them. Anything you can do
6 for us, we will make sure that you benefit.

7 If the Parks Department does get money and you need
8 something done by the Parks Department, my office is the
9 first one to come down heavily on them to make sure they
10 come across, because the taxpayers never knew that the
11 Parks Department kicked over ten thousand dollars.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: You mentioned that there is a
13 way for the town to provide some kind of tax; how would
14 that work?

15 MS. MISZUK: That would be based on the
16 number of cats that you agree to take, and the value
17 that we are placing on each one of the cats. Right now,
18 we are placing a three hundred dollar value on each
19 cat. If they hired private trappers to come in --

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Is this an exemption that they
21 get because of a tax write off that you have, they get
22 to do from their income taxes?

23 MS. MISZUK: We would be giving them one
24 letter for their income taxes for the value of the land
25 and improvements and services, and the town would give

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2 them a separate tax deduction, based on the fact they
3 have agreed to take the cats that are coming off town
4 properties.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: The town said they will do
6 that?

7 MS. MISZUK: They said if Legislator
8 Eddington and horse groups would draft a letter saying
9 that they would of alternatives to the cost of that
10 eradication that the town would have to pay, they would
11 be interested in applying that towards their property
12 taxes. You would say why would the town give up the
13 property tax revenue. They are not actually giving it
14 up. With our three pronged waste management program, we
15 are pumping money back into the town which would have
16 been wasted, so they're not losing a penny. We are
17 picking up the cost of your property tax savings.

18 MS. GREEN: You're saying an exemption.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: You would have to get
20 permission for that, right?

21 MS. MISZUK: This is a program being
22 organized specifically for the town. It would come out
23 of your town property taxes, not your school taxes.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: I just don't know if the town
25 has authority to grant an exemption.

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2 MS. MISZUK: I don't know that they will use
3 the word "exemption." They will have a fancy word for
4 it

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Some sort of payment program.

6 MS. MISZUK: Tim Bishop is willing to work
7 with us. He notified Mark Lesko and the town board and
8 said he's willing to have a public charrette in town
9 hall so any intersted parties can come with alternative
10 ideas. I definitely recommend calling Tim Bishop's
11 office.

12 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: The cumulative exemptions
13 for the town and federal would be three hundred.

14 MS. MISZUK: What would happen is what we are
15 looking to propose to them, if they are willing to spend
16 three hundred dollars a cat to kill it and cremate from
17 the town, we would expect them to give a three hundred
18 dollar per cat minimum dedcuction for the number of cats
19 that you have on your property.

20 Let's say you have ten cats. If they're valuing
21 those cats at three hundred dollars a cat, you would
22 have three thousand dollars taken off your property
23 taxes. Let's say you have twenty-five acres and you
24 have enough acreage that you can take fifty cats. At
25 three hundred dollars a cat, we will ask them to remove

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2 that from your property tax.

3 MS. PLYMPTON: Who has twenty-five acres?

4 MS. MISZUK: I'm just saying. I've looked at
5 properties that the town was interested in buying that
6 was twenty-seven acres. Then they turned around and
7 said to me we don't have the budget.

8 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: You're a 510(c)(3). For a
9 tax deduction or exemption --

10 MS. MISZUK: There are tax deductible letters
11 that we would be giving you. We would work with an
12 attorney and accountant to give you a letter based first
13 on the number of cats that you are taking, and the type
14 of facilities you are giving us. If you have one barn,
15 if the barn is heated, it's certainly worth more than a
16 barn that is not heated. If it's a large barn and we
17 can get more cats in there, it's worth more to us.

18 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: It's a different figure.

19 MS. PLYMPTON: You don't want the cats in the
20 horse barns?

21 MS. MISZUK: Unless you're willing to say to
22 us -- some of the things I Xeroxed to you, they let the
23 cats in the horse barns. You have to understand, these
24 are feral cats. These are like mountain lions. They're
25 not your typical little fluffy who was raised in a home

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2 and is used to being around horses. They're not used
3 being around horses.

4 MS. SPEIZIO: When you get the exemption or
5 whatever they want to call it, is that annually?

6 MS. MISZUK: Yes.

7 MS. SPEIZIO: Eventually these cats are going
8 to cost more than three hundred dollars. You will be
9 generating some funds to replace the three hundred
10 dollars a year per cat? They can live a few years,
11 especially since we start taking care of them.

12 MS. MISZUK: If you look at the application
13 that was given to us, which was given to us by an
14 existing program, there are different categories in how
15 you want to participate. If you want a certified
16 rescuer on your property feeding them every day, taking
17 care of them every day, that would be one person that
18 you would get to know and trust.

19 If you were taking care of them and providing
20 veterinarian treatment, then the value of the cat costs
21 more than the three hundred dollars, so we would ask for
22 that to be considered.

23 MS. SPEIZIO: I was just confirming that the
24 town was going to give you this exemption or tax
25 reduction annually. It's not just three hundred dollars

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2 once?

3 MS. MISZUK: It's an annual thing. As long
4 as you're part of the program, you would be part of the
5 tax reduction.

6 MS. SPEIZIO: You typically think they will
7 be part three to five years?

8 MS. MISZUK: Typically a feral cat lives
9 three to five years.

10 MS. SPEIZIO: Do you think they are going to
11 sign onto a program? When you weigh the figures, it's
12 three hundred to eradicate it, or nine hundred.

13 MS. MISZUK: Except they will never get the
14 eradication done because the cats multiply every
15 sixty-three days. They will never catch up.

16 MS. SPEIZIO: If we present them with a plan,
17 In the end, the plan is going to cost nine hundred
18 dollars, whether it works or not. What they propose
19 will cost three hundred dollars.

20 MS. MISZUK: What I want from you is how you
21 want it said so that you benefit.

22 MS. SPEIZIO: I'm looking to see if the town
23 will actually agree to it in the end. They will look
24 at the figures and say what we propose costs three
25 hundred and what they are proposing costs nine hundred.

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2 MS. MISZUK: Then it becomes a negotiation.
3 Then we have to say okay, you want your taxes to go down
4 ten thousand a year. The town is offering across the
5 board five thousand a year. will you take it if you
6 take ten cats. What do you want from the town to
7 participate? If you want them to chop your taxes in
8 half, let's say, or two thirds, then you have to tell us
9 I'm willing to work with the town only if the town is
10 willing to chop my taxes from thirty thousand a year to
11 fifteen thousand a year. Now we know we have to get you
12 a fifteen thousand dollars a year reduction.

13 MS. SPEIZIO: My question wasn't presented to
14 find out what we make out on the deal. We all take in
15 feral cats. I don't have any cats personally, I have
16 two dogs. We all take them in. Jerry has done rescue.

17 MS. MISZUK: I have twenty-two; do you want
18 some? That is why I'm here. We need to know how you
19 dealt with the problem in the past. I know people dump
20 animals on your property all the time. You have been
21 generous, very compassionate. You have a wonderful
22 history. Every agency I ever dealt with they told me if
23 you deal with a horse person, your life will be changed.

24 I'm totally frustrated dealing with the town. They
25 promise one thing and do something else. I thank you

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2 guys. Congressman Bishop and Legislator Eddington has
3 gone out of his way to allow us to come here. I thank
4 you guys for listening to us. Congressman Bishop has
5 gone out of his way. The town board is turning a deaf
6 ear. Their attitude is if people are willing it do it
7 for free, we have no problem, so don't talk to us about
8 it.

9 Now we're at the point where we are going to say
10 well, guess what, we're not going to do it for free.
11 The town has said okay, now we have permission to kill
12 everything that you have been taking care of all these
13 years. We are in a no win situation. We need you guys
14 because you have dealt with.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Are you looking for the task
16 force to give a letter of support for the program?

17 MS. MISZUK: I'm asking you to send a letter
18 saying we came and made a presentation. You are
19 considering if there is any way that the task force can
20 come up with a solution other than eradication.
21 However, you want to word it to say we made a
22 presentation, please table the resolution until you have
23 a chance to consider it. It will slow the town down so
24 we can go to every group in the area.

25 People raising plants in nurseries may entertain

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2 it. We are trying to think outside the box. The only
3 way they can approach the town at this point is make
4 them look good and show them how they can make money.
5 That is why we went to Waste Management.

6 When we showed them how they can make a minimum of
7 a half a million dollars a year, suddenly they would
8 talk to us. Before that, we were the crazy cat people.

9 We have to show that we can stop zoonotic diseases
10 passing from cats to people. They're transferring to
11 animals that you have on the farm. Diseases once only
12 limited to cats are now passing to squirrels, raccoons,
13 chipmunks, dogs, birds, they're jumping species lines
14 and mutating. The town was not dealing with it. They
15 didn't want to deal with the cats.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody have any questions for
17 Rita?

18 MS. GUZZI: I was just wondering when you
19 said that the cats were -- are the cats going to have to
20 stay in the barn or will they have any use of property
21 they're on?

22 MS. MISZUK: One of the things discussed in
23 here, there are different ways that different barn cat
24 programs have been done across the state. Some people
25 that have the barns want them only to stay within a

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2 contained area. Other people with large pieces of
3 property say okay, we have some large feed barns on this
4 part of the property. We don't mind if they roam around
5 that part of my property.

6 But the town will say if your property backs up
7 onto town property, if you have migratory birds landing
8 on your property or endangered species on your property,
9 you will not get your tax deduction. If you allow those
10 cats to eat those birds, you have to look and see if you
11 have if your property backs up onto town property. If
12 your cats can move ten feet and go from the back of the
13 barn to a sensitive area that the town owns, then you
14 cannot let the cats run wild. They have to be
15 contained.

16 You need to see if you back up against anything
17 that the town owns. If you back up against a school or
18 shopping center, the town probably owns a strip of land
19 between you and the school. If that cat steps one foot
20 on that land, you have allowed that to happen. You are
21 not going to get an exemption and the town has the right
22 to go on your property and kill it.

23 MS. PLYMPTON: If the cat kills birds on your
24 own property.

25 MS. MISZUK: If the town can prove that it's

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2 a migratory bird or endangered species, you are not
3 going to get --

4 MS. PLYMPTON: There is the loophole.

5 MS. MISZUK: That is in this brochure. If you
6 say I'll have cats on my property and I will keep them
7 contained, is someone from the town going to approach
8 you and say two seconds ago that cat was on town
9 property? No. If you say you are going to contain
10 them, you have gotten around the loophole.

11 MS. WAGONER: I have a question for you as
12 far as like presenting to the town. Have you actually
13 done the cost for them to just kill all these cats?

14 MS. MISZUK: Yes.

15 MS. WAGONER: Their cost is still cheaper
16 than giving it to you.

17 MS. MISZUK: The reason being because unless they
18 make the move to eradicate the cats or relocate them,
19 they are entitled to a ten thousand dollar a day fine
20 from the government agencies, the DEC, EPA and Coastal
21 Fish and Wildlife. That will cost them three point six
22 million a year until they do something, so their program
23 to kill is cheaper than three point six five million.
24 As soon as they institute the program to kill, they will
25 not be fined.

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2 MS. WAGONER: The program to kill, is that
3 program actually a cost benefit compared to you? You
4 are talking three hundred dollars a cat and you are
5 saying they will never catch up.

6 MS. MISZUK: Right.

7 MS. WAGONER: They will be spending how much
8 money a year; increase that every year.

9 MS. MISZUK: We have been trying to show
10 them that.

11 MS. WAGONER: They don't get it?

12 MS. MISZUK: Their attitude is they're more
13 worried about the government agencies coming in to fine
14 them. They have to give, as of June 1st, they have to
15 give these government agencies an answer. Actually,
16 they have to do it beforehand because piping plover
17 season begins almost immediately. They have to say we
18 have an answer to the problem. Yes, we have Legislator
19 Bishop and Eddington and horse farmers who say they will
20 consider helping us or no, we don't have a resolution
21 and we will go in now and kill.

22 Those are our choices, unless we present them
23 immediately with please don't vote on this June 1st,
24 please give us some time to research it a little more
25 and get creative. That is all we are asking is to send

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2 a letter saying please hold off, table it until we can
3 get feedback from the public about alternatives.

4 New Jersey has a foster program like the foster
5 children. Anybody that would agree to take in the cats
6 and be regulated and observed by our groups would be
7 entitled to a foster parent stipend by the town which
8 would save the town money. The town doesn't want to
9 hear about the cats, they want to hear about avoiding
10 the fine and they want to hear about a generation to
11 keep money in the program to keep it going so it doesn't
12 cost them a penny. That is all they want to hear about
13 is the finances.

14 Our group has now addressed the finances. That is
15 why Tim Bishop wanted to have the public charrette. He
16 wanted the general public out saying stop with the
17 resolution June 1st, hear some ideas for the
18 resolution.

19 MS. ROSENBERG: I don't see horse people not
20 allowing cats in the barn. Every horse farm I go to,
21 cats are in the barn.

22 MS. MISZUK: That would be up to you. We
23 don't want to force you to do it if you're
24 uncomfortable. These cats are used to living on town
25 land for years. They are used for hunting at will.

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2 They are used to fencing off an area for their own
3 little colony and defending it.

4 If you introduce them in a barn that has your cats
5 in it, they will look for priority over the cats that
6 you have in your barn, which is why we wanted them
7 separated from any existing cats that you have, and
8 until they have bonded with the people taking care of
9 them and wiped out their GPS.

10 That takes anywhere from two to four weeks until
11 that happens. Then if you wanted to introduce them to
12 your existing cat population, that is fine. We didn't
13 want them on your property to begin fighting with your
14 cat. We don't want to get a phone call saying Rita,
15 that we need sixteen hundred dollars because we have to
16 have our cat repaired because your cat ripped it up.

17 You set the terms and conditions what you want to
18 be committed with and you tell us what you want to get
19 from the town.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Rita. Any other
21 questions? I think what the task force would like to do
22 is probably talk it over before we commit to sending a
23 letter and perhaps I can get in touch with you.

24 MS. MISZUK: I will leave a stack of cards on
25 the table. Any ideas that you have would be gratefully

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2 appreciated. If any of you were thinking of selling,
3 keep us in mind because if we get two point five million
4 dollars from Tim Bishop, we may buy something and run
5 the program ourselves and say to the town okay, we have
6 a big piece of land, we are willing to take this. We
7 are willing to approach it from many different angles.
8 Thank you for your time and everything.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

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

11 THE CHAIRMAN: To recap what we have been
12 working on for Pam and some of our new members, we have
13 had some conversations with Cornell Cooperative. They
14 had their equestrian expert from Saratoga call in and we
15 have had experts from Soil & Water here, and USDA to
16 talk about how we can try to help redefine zoning to
17 present a comprehensive plan to the town that would help
18 the horse owners to be able to utilize their properties,
19 I guess, to the maximum. Sometimes, when we are talking
20 about a business enterprise, maybe a boarding location,
21 or riding school where they would be able to have more
22 than that one horse per acre so that their operation
23 would be cost effective to them so they can have the
24 number of horses that they need. Also, so we would not
25 be impacting the neighbors at all.

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2 We have been dealing with certain things such as
3 how much room you need and how you need to deal with
4 your manure removal and how much room you need for feeds
5 and some of these other things. We have been talking
6 about trying to develop is a site plan based zoning, so
7 that the horse owner would say to the town my property
8 is five acre and I would like to put fifteen horses --
9 I'm just throwing numbers out there. This is how my
10 property is going to be laid out and this is why it will
11 work.

12 What we have found from talking to a lot of
13 different agencies, it seems that a lot of zoning has
14 come about based on what Soil & Water puts out there as
15 a best practices for paddock pasture raising horses as
16 opposed to -- and I'm missing the term.

17 MS. KALMBACHER: Dry lot.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: We recognize for the large
19 majority of the horse owners in Suffolk County, they are
20 going to be dry lot properties. That is what we were
21 working towards, trying to develop along those lines.

22 MS. GREEN: Was it a case by case basis or is
23 it still uniform per town for zoning?

24 THE CHAIRMAN: What we are trying to come up
25 with is our own recommendation to the town to say here

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2 is what we develop for a new way to do zoning for
3 equestrian properties. We talked possibly asking them
4 to do this only in equestrian zones where you are
5 talking about where there is a concentration of horses
6 now, or possibly, and I think more preferentially, to do
7 it on a town-wide basis, where they would say we're
8 going to move to this direction of site plan as opposed
9 to horses per acre, which is what most towns utilize
10 now.

11 MS. GREEN: I'm not sure how you are using
12 the word "site plan."

13 THE CHAIRMAN: I think we have been talking
14 about we are developing standards on if you have ten
15 horses, how much capacity or what kind of storage you
16 must have in order to have a location for the manure so
17 that that does not become an issue for the neighbors in
18 terms of how much is going to be produced over the
19 course of say, I think we were working on based on a
20 weekly type of removal type of thing.

21 MS. GREEN: The accessory buildings or more
22 so than the actual --

23 THE CHAIRMAN: There will be a layout of the
24 property. You will be saying here is our barn, this
25 will provide the capacity of our horses. Here is our

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2 manure storage location, here is the feed storage
3 location, so the town sees there is a plan in place so
4 those ten horses can fit on three acres possibly without
5 causing any problems.

6 MS. GREEN: It's an interesting problem. I
7 think about the residential. There are parameters on
8 size of the house, setbacks on the house, but not number
9 of people that can live in it. Great point.

10 MS. PLYMPTON: I'm loving it.

11 MS. GREEN: Seems like you have an equal
12 protection argument. If we elevate --

13 THE CHAIRMAN: That is the direction we have
14 been moving. We wanted to bring it up, if you have any
15 suggestions. I know you spent a long time with the Town
16 of Islip and probably can provide us a lot of insight.

17 MS. GREEN: The first thing we did, we passed
18 around the zoning to show with ten towns, numerous
19 villages and multitude of zoning categories, it's very
20 difficult to know what the law is for everyone to
21 follow.

22 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: Most of the members of my
23 association are back yard owners. Most of us live in
24 the perimeter of Connetquot. Most of us have a half
25 acre. You're saying now that you're going to change or

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2 try to change that zoning? I am not allowed two acres
3 per equine. I was, as a matter of fact, present when
4 they first did the Islip town code, me and my baby and
5 his bottle and carriages. I know the circumstance why
6 that meeting was called, that great, great unification
7 of people, and I know why they did the two horses per
8 half, and I'm all for that.

9 MS. GREEN: Not more than?

10 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: Not more than. At the
11 time there was no limit on ponies, and some people had
12 multitude of ponies. They were not considered equines.
13 Now they came out with the word "equine" and not saying
14 "pony" or "horse." I'm just concerned that the small
15 owners, not your larger barns, would be precluded from
16 keeping what they have.

17 I moved to Bohemia because I wanted a horse. My
18 house is worth more because I own a horse, and I have a
19 barn. If you take that away from they me, I'm gone.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: We have definitely recognized
21 that there is a difference between the horse business,
22 equestrian business where you're boarding or doing a
23 riding school or what have you, as opposed to somebody
24 who is a recreational owner. So there is certainly
25 going to be differences in that regard. That was

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2 something that we are looking towards working on, right,
3 Denise?

4 MS. SPEIZIO: We are trying keep it where
5 back yard owners are one category and (inaudible)
6 owners another. None is to decrease the amount of
7 annals own a plot. It's to say two horses per half acre
8 is great for you people over in Islip, but here in
9 Brookhaven, you have to have a minimum of one.

10 We are saying if you come in with a site plan
11 showing that you can house four horses comfortably on
12 one acre without it affecting your neighbors, even if
13 you have one acre and your house is set off the property
14 in Brookhaven, you're not supposed to have the horses in
15 the front yard. We're trying to make it okay if you put
16 up the site plan, in the front yard we double fenced the
17 road front and would you consider my application, not to
18 decrease the amount of animals on your property.

19 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: If you have usage and
20 you're not in close proximity to a park or equestrian
21 center, your usage then, is that going to be included in
22 your site plan? If this person who has four or five
23 acres, and they have four or five horses, do they have
24 to have a usage area?

25 MS SPEIZIO: No, we didn't specify the amount

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2 of exercise that the animal needs. No two horses are
3 the same each one requires something different. You can
4 say we have four ponies, this is the exercise ring, but
5 in two days the pony is gone and a bigger horse comes
6 in.

7 We can't approve plans on the existing animals that
8 are there because that is going to change all the time,
9 so we are just looking for something that is --

10 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: What I'm trying to say is
11 if you have four horses in the site plan that is going
12 to be used for that particular place, that they must
13 show an area --

14 MS. SPEIZIO: No.

15 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: That is used for
16 exercise.

17 MS. SPEIZIO: No, an area where they're going
18 to stay on a daily basis.

19 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: Turn-out area,

20 MS. SPEIZIO: Right, turn-out area. No, we
21 didn't want to address the area of exercise because that
22 changes every day.

23 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: I did not understand
24 that. When I read it, seemed if you weren't near a
25 place where you could actually get a horse out, then you

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2 would have to provide an area,

3 MS. SPEIZIO: No, everybody is different. I
4 live in Ridge. I'm by the Pine Barrens and I can ride
5 for eight hours without backtracking. It was trying to
6 make better use of the property that we have --

7 MS. WAGONER: What we are trying to come up
8 with is a well rounded healthy horse, well fed, well
9 rounded, exercised, in good condition, not how the
10 condition is provided.

11 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: That is usually up to the
12 person, that is not up to the town or county.

13 MS. SPEIZIO: The health is for the SPCA,
14 really. We are just looking at the actual property, the
15 buildings that are on it, the layout. Some people, if
16 you have four horses and you can't get rid of manure,
17 you can't bring somebody in to get rid of it, that is
18 what they're arguing with you about. You can't do it
19 because manure, if you say this is my layout, I have the
20 compost area for the manure, it's not a problem. It
21 will be managed. Will you consider my application;
22 those kinds of ideas.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: The task force was created
24 with the intention of how we can keep the equestrian
25 community on Long Island. We have recognized that there

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2 is a large community and there is an economic advantage
3 to us. We are, I think we have ranked number seven in
4 the state as far as counties with the number of horses
5 in the county. So there is quite a bit out there that
6 shows that they're a whole industry to this. That is
7 part of our economy and part of Suffolk County, our
8 heritage.

9 So the point of the task force to try to find ways
10 to make it easier for the horse owners to remain horse
11 owners instead of saying I can't afford to stay here any
12 more, I'm going to pack up and go to Pennsylvania or
13 Kentucky or wherever else. We don't want to put
14 something out there that will have a negative
15 consequence. We are interested in hearing --

16 MR. TRAPANI: I think that is why so many of
17 us are here today, because there was a misunderstanding
18 that you were trying to get a county wide restriction or
19 standard of horses, especially those of us that live in
20 Islip. We couldn't see other towns like Islip's per
21 acre, and we didn't want to see Islip step down. I
22 think that is why you have so many people here today.

23 You hit the nail on the head. The equestrian
24 community in Suffolk County and on Long Island in
25 general generates millions of dollars and thousands of

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2 jobs. It's very important in today's economy.
3 Everybody is struggling, including the horse community.
4 We don't need any more impediments in front of us.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that is a good way to
6 segue to where we were hoping to get today with today's
7 meeting that is starting to define the different
8 industries and different businesses that are the
9 backbone and support of the equestrian community.
10 According to the resolution, one of our charges is to
11 define exactly what kind of impact that is, what kind of
12 economic impact is there. What I was hoping we could
13 try and talk about today is hopefully those different
14 kinds of businesses the people who own a horse have to
15 rely upon to take care of their properties, take care of
16 their horses, what have you.

17 MR. TRAPANI: To start out with, you have to
18 buy feed. You have the feed stores, hay dealers and
19 shavings. Most people take care of the horses
20 themselves, but sometimes you have to hire barn
21 veterinarians, trainers, farriers, people that sell
22 trailers, maintain trailers, trucks. The tentacles can
23 go out forever.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: We have to try and trace the
25 tentacles out and lay that out.

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2 MS. GUZZI: The truckers that provide the
3 feeds.

4 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: I just had to repair
5 fences after the nor'easter and you have people that
6 come and take your manure away.

7 MS. PLYMPTON: The garbage companies, and
8 Lowe's and Home Depot, which I frequent probably three
9 days a week. Sears.

10 MR. TRAPANI: The solution to that is go to
11 Agway, buy their gold hose. It's guaranteed for life.

12 MS. ROSENBERG: You have a private owner,
13 sometimes, who leases the facility. Horseshows, you
14 have a show manager, all the staff that they hire to run
15 the show. In addition to the judges, you have
16 trainers. You have the shippers who bring the horses to
17 the shows. Often there will be vendors on site selling
18 equipment, tack.

19 MS. PLYMPTON: Braiders.

20 MS. ROSENBERG: Farriers at the show, maybe a
21 veterinarian on call.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: You have to recognize that I'm
23 certainly a novice on this. Maybe you should explain
24 what some of the different ones are. Farriers are
25 basically blacksmiths.

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2 MR. TRAPANI: Trims and shoes horses.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Braiders are?

4 MS. PLYMPTON: Braiders for the horseshows.

5 In some disciplines their manes need to be braided,
6 manes and tails.

7 MS. GUZZI: We have the tack shops that
8 employ people that work in them.

9 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: Each discipline has their
10 own needs for tack. You have different tack for
11 dressage as opposed to western. It's a wide variety of
12 tack, it's not just a saddle. There is not such thing
13 as just a saddle.

14 MS. ROSENBERG: The equipment is different.
15 For a jump show you need jumps and timing equipment.
16 For a dressage competition, you just need a small ring
17 with some letters outside, but you need more people to
18 scribe to keep track of results. Each kind of
19 discipline has their own requirements.

20 MS. GUZZI: All the insurance which we pay
21 for the animals.

22 MS. WAGONER: Land and animals.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you know how many
24 veterinarians there are in Suffolk County?

25 MR. TRAPANI: About thirty-five or forty

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2 practicing on Long Island There's about seventy-five
3 full time farriers and I don't know how many part time.

4 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: Then you also have your
5 vet facilities.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a veterinarian
7 association out there that we can make contact with?

8 MR. TRAPANI: There is a Long island
9 Veterinarian Association. They encompass both the
10 equine and small animal vets. I think they're based in
11 Syosset Plainview; I'm not exactly sure.

12 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: If you want to move on in
13 other areas you have your printers. We have horseshows
14 and you have printing. It's a lot of money.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: You said there is about
16 seventy-five farriers. Is there an association?

17 MR. TRAPANI: There is a local association
18 here on Long Island. Blue Ribbon Farrier Supply in
19 Center Moriches is the only farrier supply on Long
20 Island right now. Most of the us buy from there. I buy
21 some equipment from out of state and get it shipped in.
22 Blue Ribbon in Moriches, I can give you the phone number
23 later.

24 MS. PLYMPTON: Advertising, Websites, rag
25 sheets, magazines.

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2 MS. GREEN: Sharon, realtors.

3 MS. PLYMPTON: Trucks, trailers maintenance,
4 of all that. Tractors.

5 MS. GUZZI: We are the only people buying
6 trucks in this economy.

7 MS. PLYMPTON: Security for the equipment.

8 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: Actually containers for
9 the equipment. We have containers that we have to
10 purchase and maintain so that we can have the equipment
11 that we use for our shows.

12 MS. GREEN: Do we know if there has been
13 anything published that says -- Long Island Index or
14 anything like that that says what the impact on the Long
15 Island economy is?

16 MR. TRAPANI: Yes. If you pick up a copy of
17 Horse Directory, in last month's issue it was in an
18 article that I wrote about saving the parks. If you
19 give me an e-mail, I can forward it to you. I have a
20 second one from Rita Gabino as well. I think it was
21 based on the 2006 equine survey that most people didn't
22 fill out, so the numbers aren't correct.

23 MS. GREEN: Submit it to the legislator's
24 office. He will forward it to all the committee
25 members.

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2 THE CHAIRMAN: How many tack shops are there
3 on Long Island, Suffolk County?

4 MR. TRAPANI: At least twenty.

5 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: The tack shops are not
6 just relegated to tack. You also have clothing, you
7 also have pharmaceuticals.

8 MR. TRAPANI: The pharmacist in my
9 neighborhood in North Great River, because there are so
10 many horses in that area, he's a pharmacist. He started
11 carrying things we need for the horses, gallons of
12 mineral oil, medicines for us. If a veterinarian gives
13 us a prescription, that is a regular human pharmacist,
14 not that he set up a whole thing, but he has an area in
15 his store for the horse people. That's how many horse
16 people there are.

17 MS. GREEN: Is it Raan?

18 MR. TRAPANI: Yeah, Raan. He's great. He
19 realizes how many horse people are his customers.

20 MS. PLYMPTON: Electricians and in ground
21 sprinkler guys.

22 MR. TRAPANI: Contractors because horses are
23 always breaking something in the barn.

24 MS. PLYMPTON: Barn builders.

25 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: Instructors, there are lot

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2 of people involved.

3 MS. PLYMPTON: Dentistry.

4 MR. TRAPANI: A few years ago when we were
5 having a manure problem, we kind of did a survey in
6 Bohemia, North Great River and Islip Terrace. We
7 counted over a thousand horses in that little enclave
8 right there in Connetquot State Park. That gives you an
9 idea of the numbers out there. That survey that went
10 out, I would say, maybe an exaggerated number would be
11 two thirds of the people that got it filled it out. A
12 lot of people didn't want to put their names or let the
13 government know what they had and just threw them away.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: That was the federal survey
15 done a few years back?

16 MR. TRAPANI: New York State I think, I think
17 that was 2006 or 7. Even those numbers are impressive.
18 That was the survey that Rita had. I'm sure you have a
19 copy of that.

20 MS. WAGONER: Did we ever get the stuff from
21 Cornell?

22 THE CHAIRMAN: No, she hasn't collected that
23 yet.

24 MS. WAGONER: The town up there actually
25 enforces some kind of standards.

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2 THE CHAIRMAN: She was going to collect
3 information from a couple of different towns upstate
4 that have worked or tried to address some of these
5 issues from their angles so we can see what they have
6 been doing.

7 MR. TRAPANI: Anything off Long Island,
8 except for Los Angeles County in California, all of
9 their horse numbers are based on pasture kept horses.
10 The only thing comparable in the rest of the United
11 States is Los Angeles County. That is where a lot of
12 horses are kept in dry lots and small pens. Many horses
13 on small acreage. That is the closest thing to Long
14 Island is Los Angeles.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: It was interesting, I'm not
16 remembering her name offhand, the person who called in
17 from Cornell last meeting stated up in Saratoga in the
18 area where she is, they had actually started to
19 encounter -- Jennifer Conte was her name -- they started
20 to encounter some of the very same problems that we are
21 encountering up there within some of the townships and
22 villages, that they were actually starting to get the
23 same problems we are having.

24 MS. WAGONER: In the city area.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: While they have looked into it

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2 to a degree and developed some of their own different
3 standards and what have you, she said what we are trying
4 to accomplish here hadn't been done yet across the
5 state. Any other --

6 MR. TRAPANI: I just had a question. You
7 mentioned a distinction between a back yard person and a
8 business. I don't personally, but I know a lot of
9 people, if they have a four stall barn and they have two
10 horses, they rent out the other two stalls. If somebody
11 does that, are they considered a business?

12 MS. PLYMPTON: If they want to qualify for
13 the tax break, right now, it's what, ten acres or seven
14 acres, ten thousand, or you can --

15 MR. TRAPANI: Not even considering something
16 like that, just in the eyes of Suffolk County or a town,
17 are they considered having an illegal business in a
18 residential area?

19 MS. SPEIZIO: That is a zoning thing.

20 MS. PLYMPTON: That is something we would
21 want to address.

22 MS. GUZZI: It's not legal to rent stalls.

23 MS. PLYMPTON: In the Town of Brookhaven
24 there is no boarding.

25 MR. TRAPANI: If you have room for four

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2 stalls?

3 MS. GUZZI: But It's not legal on the
4 residential property. Everybody does it, but it's still
5 not legal. A lot of people smoke pot too, but that is
6 not legal.

7 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: It's medication.

8 MS. GUZZI: It helps my eyes, right.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Just one person at a time.
10 The stenographer is not going to be able to keep up.

11 MS. BURLING: That is one way that I think
12 people are able to afford to keep their horse. They
13 have a horse, they have a border, it helps them cover
14 the cost of their horse and their taxes. It's not a
15 money maker, it's not a business, it helps to keep the
16 horse.

17 MR. TRAPANI: My property taxes are fifteen
18 thousand dollars a year. I don't have any borders, but
19 I know some people that rent out a couple of stalls.
20 After they feed the horses, maybe at the end of the
21 year, maybe they generated a thousand or fifteen hundred
22 dollars, but that is what they have to put toward their
23 taxes at the end of the year. Is that a business? I
24 don't know.

25 MS. PLYMPTON: There are plenty of people

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2 that moonlight in a million different things in a
3 residential area. People do mechanics in their garage
4 or businesses in their basement. It's just another
5 branch of that, but I think it's something we need to
6 address. To offset your taxes and expenses to begin
7 with, big time, we need to allow, loosen up that end of
8 it, the boarding end of it.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Pam, in the town of Islip, do
10 they allow some small businesses to run out of --

11 MS. GREEN: That is what I'm actually asking.
12 It's not that it's a residential area. You have
13 Parkview Riding Academy, it's a business, but that is
14 what the business is. So, around the corner, you might
15 have a home on two acres, and if there is a desire to
16 have a birthday party, for example, I don't know, if
17 that is something that happens or doesn't happen, I
18 don't think that is codified as a business.

19 I think there are two different categories. What
20 I'm curious about, does Parkview, a business like, that
21 do they pay, homestead or non-homestead for tax
22 purposes?

23 MS. GUZZI: They're zoned as a farm.

24 MR. TRAPANI: As far as I know, they're
25 considered commercially.

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2 themselves in a little bit of limbo because if they had
3 a bigger property, there are purchase and development
4 rights as a farm, to maintain the crop, if you will.
5 It's what, a minimum of seven acres which is usually too
6 big.

7 MS. KALMBACHER: There has to be at least ten
8 horses.

9 MS. GREEN: Anything under that, they're left
10 without a program.

11 MS. PLYMPTON: In the town of Brookhaven, you
12 can't have more than eight on your piece of property, so
13 you can kiss that plan good-bye. Unless you have some
14 sort of legal variances or you're grandfathered in.

15 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: Liz has five acres.

16 MS. GUZZI: I think they're going to start
17 saying the same with the illegal rentals of apartments
18 in the Town of Islip, that you can't rent your apartment
19 without a permit. They're going to start saying we are
20 not going to let you rent a stall. That is what is
21 going to happen.

22 MS. SPEIZIO: I never heard of the eight
23 horse max in Brookhaven.

24 MS. GUZZI: That is true for residential not
25 for a farm.

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2 MS. PLYMPTON: Unless you have permits,
3 variances, grandfathered in, blah blah blah.

4 MS. SPEIZIO: You will be a residential owner
5 that is keeping your own private horse on your property
6 or recognized as a business. Whether you're a business
7 or not, that is going to dictate whether you're applying
8 as a business. Have you made an application to be
9 considered a business, I don't think we can say okay,
10 because you have horses and you're renting out a stall
11 now you will receive a --

12 MS. GREEN: Variance?

13 MS. SPEIZIO: Not a variance.

14 MS. GUZZI: What is a home business called
15 when you have a dentist that works out of his house?

16 MS. SPEIZIO: They're recognized as a
17 business. They file taxes as a business.

18 MS. GREEN: Home office, occupation.

19 MS. SPEIZIO: Then you're going to be a legal
20 business, you're a legal business as a farrier.

21 MR. TRAPANI: I work out of my home.

22 MS. SPEIZIO: I had a trucking company. I
23 worked out of my home. It was a legal business. I paid
24 everything as a business. I wasn't just working on the
25 side for cash.

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2 THE CHAIRMAN: When we state that we wanted
3 to make a distinction between the two, it's because
4 there is clearly, if you are an owner who is running an
5 equestrian operation of, just say you're just a border,
6 you're going to have to commit your time to running your
7 business. Whereas, if you're an individual who has a
8 regular -- another occupation that you are spending
9 your, you have to go to work every day nine to five, but
10 on the side you have a horse in your back yard. Maybe
11 you might want to keep one extra horse there.

12 There is a big difference in what you're going to
13 be able to do to commit to maintaining your property
14 because of the amount of time that you have. There is
15 going to be a big difference in number of horses.

16 MR. TRAPANI: Horse people add hours to the
17 week all the time. We have a way of doing that.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: So do people in many other
19 pursuits, but the reality is, when you're operating as a
20 business, the town should be able to have an expectation
21 that you're going to be able to commit more of your time
22 and more hours. Maybe you have staff that helps you run
23 your business to maintain your property, so therefore
24 could allow more horses on your property.

25 Does that make -- I think that is kind of where we

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2 are, why we wanted to make a distinction. I don't think
3 that that person that just wants to keep an extra horse
4 in their back yard qualifies as the same standard as the
5 person running a riding academy.

6 MR. TRAPANI: There are so many people that
7 fall into that gray area. They don't want to run it as
8 a full-time business, they just want to help pay for
9 their own horse, pay their taxes and pay for bills so
10 they have their friend's horse there, even if it's just
11 for company, somebody to ride with. So they're running
12 the risk of paying fines and doing something illegal.

13 If they maintain the property well and have good
14 horse keeping standards and get rid of the manure and
15 keep their place clean, I think there should be some
16 sort of provision that people can do that.

17 MS. PLYMPTON: I'm looking at it also if
18 somebody has two to four stalls in their yard and they
19 allow some people to board there, it's not a business.
20 They're not making money on this. They're offsetting
21 expenses. That is easily enough proved by any kind of
22 paperwork that is all you need to say is I'm allowing
23 some friends of mine to keep their horses here and they
24 pay into my feeding program, they pay into my electric
25 program, whatever my bills are. This is not a business.

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2 You're not -- they're paying you cash to offset your own
3 expenses. That to me is not a business, to begin with.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I think we are looking to make
5 that distinction, exactly how Janet just put it. That
6 person who only wants to keep an extra horse or two and
7 charge whatever to board a horse or two extra is a
8 different distinction. I know there are gray areas and
9 I know there will always be exemptions to the rules and
10 maybe that may be have fifty acres and can't maintain
11 two horses on it without a problem, and there are people
12 that have two acres and can maintain five horses without
13 a problem.

14 We have to propose something with some definition
15 to it that will not quickly lead to us being completely
16 rejected by the towns in that suggestion to them because
17 it's not feasible. We need to come up with standards
18 they can actually utilize. I know you have probably
19 what are one of the best standards that are out there in
20 Islip right now. We feel even that can probably be
21 improved upon depending on the type of property that you
22 own and what you are looking to do with it.

23 MR. TRAPANI: I know properties where people
24 have two acres and two horses on it and the place is a
25 mess, and I know other properties that are two acres and

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2 they have many more horses and it's immaculate. It
3 depends on the person.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: In a large part, it does, but
5 we still have to provide some sort of standard and
6 create some sort of delineation that we can provide to
7 the towns as a basis. We are certainly not looking to
8 make that delineation to hurt any horse or property
9 owners now. We are looking to find something that will
10 be beneficial to everybody.

11 MS. GREEN: Our end charge is to issue a
12 report which will highlight the challenges and I believe
13 to make suggestion to meet the challenges, and that is
14 coming from the suggestions of the stakeholders in the
15 industry.

16 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: You just don't want to
17 take the autonomy from the towns.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: State law dictates that the
19 towns have the zoning. What we are trying to do here is
20 create an optimal or best practices zoning for
21 recommendation to the towns that they can utilize to
22 allow those people who do own horses in their townships
23 to make best use of their properties.

24 MS. GREEN: Just to highlight, because there
25 is just a myriad of zoning municipalities, depending on

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2 where your property is, whether it's Central Islip or
3 Islandia, you work under different sets of rules.

4 MS. GUZZI: There was something on the table
5 at Smithtown, they were talking about proposing -- there
6 are certain areas that are more horsey than others, if
7 you can understand. There are parks. The houses that
8 border the parks are more horsey than a few blocks away
9 or a half a mile away where they can still have a horse,
10 but they were talking about having the areas bordering
11 the park, I think they said within four blocks of a park
12 and reclassifying it as horse country and giving it
13 different like, maybe a little more horse per acre or,
14 not holding them to you have to buy a manure variance,
15 because you do have the park to exercise the horses.

16 That is why the people live there. They utilize
17 the park. I thought that was a very good idea. That is
18 more horse country. I can tell you where I live, there
19 is almost no one in my area that doesn't have a horse.
20 They are there they love the horses.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that was one of the
22 things that we were toying with was an equestrian type
23 of zoning area, so not only does that benefit the people
24 in the area that own horses, it will allow them to have
25 an extra horse or two, but would also allow them -- let

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2 everybody else know who might be buying in the area
3 you're buying in an area where there is a horse
4 population.

5 MS. GUZZI: It will protect our parks because
6 that will show it is horse country.

7 MS. ROSENBERG: I just came back from a
8 couple of weeks in Aiken, South Carolina, that they have
9 exactly what you are talking about. There is an area
10 called Hickcock Woods. It's a twelve hundred acres.

11 There are smaller farms all around it. They have an
12 equine zone. They do have differences in how they can
13 operate. There are dirt trails that hook everything up.

14 The property owners do have to pay for some maintenance
15 on the property. But they do get some breaks. They can
16 have more horses per acre if they're right on the park
17 than a property owner a few blocks away.

18 I spoke to a real estate agent down there and he
19 actually gave me some information and I have a stack of
20 stuff about that.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: If you can forward that along
22 to us. I want to get a little bit back to identifying
23 the businesses. Are there any other industry
24 organizations or trade organizations that go along with
25 the community that maybe we could try and invite to come

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2 to one of our meetings and talk about their
3 organization? We will reach out to the Long Island
4 veterinarians and see what they have. I'm trying to
5 find ways of defining all these different businesses
6 that come with us.

7 MR. TRAPANI: I don't know, you know, an
8 organization of like all the feed and tack stores and
9 whatever because they're all independently owned. There
10 is not an overall, just like the farriers, we are all
11 independent contractors and the shops and hay dealers.
12 Most of the hay here on Long Island comes from off the
13 Island, Pennsylvania or New Jersey or upstate. I don't
14 know if there is an overall group that you could invite
15 of the individuals.

16 MS. SPEIZIO: If we wanted more information
17 about the feed stores, maybe from someone from one of
18 the feed stores would come, like Neptune or Agway.

19 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: I think the gentlemen
20 from the Hay Loft, when he came to one of our meetings,
21 he said that he was going to try to get some names for
22 us from the large feed stores, Purina; one of those I
23 can ask.

24 MS. SPEIZIO: Maybe someone, one of those
25 representatives could help us out.

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2 MR. TRAPANI: Maybe one of their
3 representatives. Purina has a representative on Long
4 Island. They might be able to give you a listing of who
5 they sell to on Long Island, which would give you an
6 idea of how many there are.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Or how many they send to Long
8 Island.

9 MR. PLYMPTON: I deal with Agway. Agway
10 sells all kinds of garden products, not just horse feed
11 and horse products to horse people. Having someone
12 from Agway might be able to tell you how much of his
13 business comes from the horse industry as opposed to the
14 general population.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you have a contact.

16 MS. PLYMPTON: Shirley Fiore.

17 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: Ken from the Hay Loft. He
18 was -- the Hay Loft is in Parkview.

19 MR. TRAPANI: They're also in Coram on Middle
20 Road where Coram Equestrian Center is. The store in
21 Coram has been there at least three years. They just
22 opened Parkview last year.

23 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: It was very informative.

24 MS. SPEIZIO: Maybe we can reach out to them
25 for that.

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2 THE CHAIRMAN: Janet, do you think you can?

3 MS. PLYMPTON: Hunt up Shirley or Ken from
4 Hay Loft? I'll do my best.

5 MR. TRAPANI: I was on a committee a few
6 years ago when we were having a problem getting rid of
7 manure on Long Island, and ran into one department said
8 that it was great, bring it on to the farmers and put in
9 the ground and mix it in with the topsoil and it will
10 make a better topsoil, and another agency almost called
11 it toxic.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Maybe Denise can talk to this.
13 That it was one of the first issues we talked about in
14 the task force.

15 MS. SPEIZIO: Do you know Rocky on the East
16 End?

17 MR. TRAPANI: Yes.

18 MS. SPEIZIO: He's from the Long Island Farm
19 Bureau. We went twice. The farmers are interested in
20 making some arrangements with us to take the manure.
21 They're willing to take it. They have a restriction
22 with the use of manure on food crops. They want to look
23 into that. They're not familiar with what the actual
24 regulation is.

25 The plan is put a link from the task force on Long

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2 Island Farm Bureau's Website soliciting for farmers who
3 are willing to accept donated manure. It's not a
4 business arrangement. The farmers can register through
5 a link that we can hook up with other organizations,
6 Islip, Suffolk, whoever is handling the information
7 would be sent out to our Website. Farmers would deal
8 with them one-on-one so we won't be creating a job. We
9 would just be responsible for our own groups.

10 They are interested. They're looking into it at
11 Cornell to find out what the regulations are. I was not
12 able to set up a meeting with Cornell this month.

13 MR. TRAPANI: We had several sand and gravel
14 places that were accepting manure and the Department of
15 Health and DEC same came in and said they couldn't
16 accept it any more, and that is when the argument got
17 started.

18 MS. SPEIZIO: We hoped, if we went through
19 the Long Island Farm Bureau, they would have a way of
20 managing that end of it.

21 MR. TRAPANI: That is a whole 'nuther
22 industry that you can put down, is the manure removal
23 business. I know a lot of people that have Dumpsters
24 and have to have it carted away and that is an added
25 expense.

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2 MS. SPEIZIO: With the farmers, it's Long
3 Island, so it would service Nassau and Suffolk County,
4 depending on the location. Some of them are willing to
5 come and pick it up. If you have a machine to load
6 their truck, they're willing to come and get it. You
7 have to organize it in a sense, find out where the farms
8 are located, who are closest to you and speak to them on
9 an individual basis to set something up. Not everybody
10 can haul it away.

11 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: I don't recall the name but
12 there was an independent enterprise, a group of
13 gentlemen were getting together. They were dropping the
14 manure off and they were making it into fertilizer, it
15 was about three or four years ago.

16 MR. TRAPANI: You can bring it to Long
17 Island Compost, but you have to pay to take if there.

18 MS. GUZZI: There is a guy, Jerry Chason. He
19 works at C.W. Post. He has a manure cooker on the
20 property. He has like four hundred horses on the
21 property. He cooks the manure. I don't know how you
22 cook manure.

23 My husband is a blacksmith. He has gone there and
24 picked it up. If you don't know about manure, you can't
25 use it and put it in your flower beds, you have to

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2 compost it. He resells it for a fortune. They bag it.
3 My husband picks it up and puts it into my flower beds.
4 It's beautiful. That is what I thought the county needs
5 to do, to go around and pick up the manure and pick it
6 up for free because they would make a fortune on it.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Long Island Compost already
8 has a lot of problems with the Town of Brookhaven
9 because of the their operation, because of the odors
10 that emanate and the effects on the neighbors. I don't
11 know if one centralized or a couple of locations. I
12 don't know if you would be able to find a location.

13 MS. GUZZI: I don't know how Jerry does it at
14 his place. There is no smell, the place is georgeous.
15 It's gated, sectioned off. It's the greatest idea
16 ever.

17 MS. ROSENBERG: In Nassau --

18 MS. GUZZI: People line up to pick it up.

19 MS. ROSENBERG: In Nassau County the
20 composting is approved. In fact, the county recommends
21 you do that. There is a place in Jericho and they
22 installed the concrete pads there to do composting,

23 THE CHAIRMAN: I think what Denise is
24 suggesting is setting up an online exchange. Maybe the
25 farmer has the capacity to compost on his property and

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2 he will come pick up the manure and some sort of
3 exchange will occur, so we can avoid having an actual
4 physical exchange location, instead have an online
5 exchange where the different parties can reach each
6 other. I think there is a desire on both ends. It's
7 just putting them together.

8 MS. SPEIZIO: We want to avoid the hassle of
9 removing the manure and in a cost effective way. With
10 the farmers, it's not going to be a cost. I don't want
11 to say zero cost, but it would be a whole lot less than
12 the municipalities.

13 MR. TRAPANI: I think that is part of what
14 this task force needs to do, because what I ran into is
15 that the DEC had a different view of manure than what
16 the Department of Health did, and they were totally
17 opposite. Everybody has to get on the same page that
18 manure is not toxic, it can be good. That was the whole
19 big problem then.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that is certainly one
21 of our charges, and one of the first things we recognize
22 is one of the biggest costs to a horse owner is how do
23 they dispose of the manure.

24 MS. SPEIZIO: It's two issues. It cost a lot
25 of money and that is a lot of the issues with the

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2 neighbors, if you have non-horse neighbors.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other --

4 MR. TRAPANI: There is a silly law in Islip.
5 I've got horses on my property, so I can't compost it,
6 but I can give it to my neighbor, who doesn't have
7 horses, and they can compost it.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: The town takes away your
9 manure.

10 MR. TRAPANI: Six bags. That is not enough.
11 Why can't I compst it for my wife's vegetable garden?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: That is part of what we are
13 trying to do.

14 MR. TRAPANI: I can give it to my neighbor
15 and he can compost it.

16 MS. PLYMPTON: I think whoever the powers
17 that be are that we were trying to pull this together
18 for would be much happier if we went with some sort of
19 networking idea rather than we need stations to man it
20 and whatnot.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that is absolutely
22 correct.

23 MS. PLYMPTON: To sell it.

24 MS. MARCOTRIGIANO: You would never get the
25 manpower for that.

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2 MS. PLYMPTON: I mean to sell the idea to the
3 powers that be.

4 MS. SPEIZIO: They're willing to make
5 arrangements on an individual basis. When I was there
6 and I was talking to some people can haul it away. I
7 have a small dump truck. I can bring it somewhere
8 someone else can't. Or older people that can't handle
9 that kind of work themselves, they're willing to set up
10 an arrangement on an individual basis.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Obviously, if you own a small
12 horse property in Huntington, it's not likely that you
13 will find somebody in Aquabogue that wants to take away
14 your manure, but you might find a small farm in
15 Huntington that will take it away and compost. The
16 further out east you go the farms are probably dying to
17 take the stuff. The whole organic movement.

18 MS. SPEIZIO: That is why the farms will
19 register, then you can see who is closest to you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to set a date for
21 the next meeting? Sometime in April. April 28th work
22 for everyone?

23 MS. ROSENBERG: Is it open for everyone to
24 come?

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Absolutely. We will shoot for

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2 the 28th then.

3 MS. SPEIZIO: Three-thirty?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I asked Commissioner Pavacic
5 and we will check with them, perhaps we can move our
6 road show to the West Sayville golf course where the
7 Parks Department has their office.

8 (Time noted: 5:25 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK)

)

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 March 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 26th day of April, 2010.

Judi Gallop
JUDI GALLOP