

ORIGINAL

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

EQUESTRIAN TASK FORCE

SUFFOLK COUNTY

West Sayville Parks Golf Course

Meadowedge Restaurant

West Sayville, New York

May 26, 2010

3:30 p.m.

BEFORE:

ROBERT CALARCO, Co-Chair

REPORTED BY:

THERESA PAPE, Court Reporter/Notary Public

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P R E S E N T:

JOHN PAVACIC, Suffolk County Parks
Suffolk County Officials Association

JESSICA KALMBACHER, Suffolk County
Planning Department

ELLEN STITT, Legislative Aide to
Jack Eddington

EILEEN WAGONER, Patchogue/Medford High School

DENISE SPEIZIO, Nassau/Suffolk Horsemen's
Association, Ridge Civic Association

JANET PLYMPTON, Long Island Professional
Association

A L S O P R E S E N T:

JERRY TRAPANI, Friends of Connetquot

JOE ANNUNZIADA, Coram Equestrian

HOWARD FLYNN, Farm Owner

REGINA GALOPPI, SCSPCA

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(WHEREUPON, this proceeding
convened at 3:30 p.m. Off-the-record
discussions ensued, after which the
following transpired:)

(Time noted: 3:37 p.m.)

MR. CALARCO: Okay. I guess, as
usual, let's just go around the room and
introduce ourselves.

I'm Rob Calarco, chief of staff to
Legislator Jack Eddington, chairing the
meeting today.

Ellen, do you want to go next?

MS. STITT: I'm Jack Eddington's
legislative aide, Ellen Stitt.

MS. SPEIZIO: Denise Speizio,
Nassau/Suffolk Horsemen's Association.

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

DR. FLYNN: Howard Flynn, farm
owner.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: Joe Annunziada,
Coram Equestrian.

MR. TRAPANI: Jerry Trapani,
Friends of Connetquot.

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

MS. KALMBACHER: Jessica
Kalmbacher, Suffolk County Planning.

MS. WAGONER: Eileen Wagoner,
Pat/Med Equestrian Team.

MR. CALARCO: And joining us is?

MS. GALOPPI: I'm Regina Galoppi
from the Suffolk County SPCA.

MR. CALARCO: Great. Thank you for
coming.

THE REPORTER: Spell your last
name.

MS. GALOPPI: G-A-L-O-P-P-I.

MR. CALARCO: Okay. So, really,
we're looking to make this kind of a
working meeting to get some things
moving along here. We were going to try
to have a presentation from Neptune
Feeds, but I guess they weren't able to
make it today.

MS. SPEIZIO: Didn't hear back from
them.

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MR. CALARCO: Okay.

So last week we had an informal meeting, just some of the members of the task force to try to get our thoughts collected on where we're heading with the task force as far as our report. So what I have, and we passed it out, is a brief outline of some of the items that we think we need to touch upon in this report. And so what I would like to do at today's meeting is kind of briefly run through some of them, see if anybody wants to volunteer. Some of the items we've identified is to the right, some of the others, we may need some help in figuring out who can do it or suggestions on rotations where we can still pick up some of the information we're missing.

In addition, we talked about setting some public hearing dates for the task force. Our hope is to actually have reports worked up and ready to -- in rough draft by sometime in July so we

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can have a couple of public hearings in August, and then be able to have our report finalized by September.

So, you know, looking at the outline we have here, and -- and we touched on it originally, we think the -- you know, our first opening part of the report is going to have to touch upon, you know, actually defining the industry; you know, what are the entities that make up the industry, who are the different types of equestrian activities that are out there, and what are the support services that go behind that business. And, also, trying to touch upon the clubs and organizations, and those kind of things.

MS. PLYMPTON: I spoke with Sally, and she's more than happy to come up with an actual number --

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

MS. PLYMPTON: -- for us.

MR. CALARCO: Great.

MS. PLYMPTON: It'll be about two

1 weeks before she can get that number,
2 but she's going to do some research and
3 whatnot.
4

5 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

6 MS. PLYMPTON: But she thinks she
7 can get a -- you know, a pretty good
8 number as to how many horses we're
9 actually talking about.

10 MS. WAGONER: And this is county?

11 MS. PLYMPTON: I think it would --
12 will end up being all of Long Island,
13 unfortunately. Because to get head
14 counts from clubs, from horse shows,
15 events, blah, blah, blah, they all draw
16 from Nassau and Suffolk alike. So I
17 think it's going to end up being all of
18 Long Island.

19 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

20 And one of the things that we spoke
21 about last week as well was actually,
22 you know, maybe trying to do a survey
23 that will come out of this task force
24 to, you know, send out to the community
25 to see if we can't solicit input.

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Correct --

MS. SPEIZIO: Uh-huh, yes.

MR. CALARCO: -- something we were looking at possibly doing?

So we're going to try to create something on that level. So I'm looking for somebody to actually -- who could maybe help us craft --

MS. PLYMPTON: She'll do that.

MR. CALARCO: Sally will be able to craft that survey for us.

MS. PLYMPTON: Yeah. You know, I'll try and connect the two of you guys in an e-mail.

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

MS. PLYMPTON: Would that help?

MR. CALARCO: That would help.

And I think, possibly, Jessica with planning had some input they'd want to add into what we'd be looking for in a survey.

MS. KALMBACHER: Is this survey going to be different than the one that was -- that -- just prior to

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establishing the task force, or similar?

MR. CALARCO: I think it will be somewhat similar, but --

MS. KALMBACHER: I'm sure if Sally put together one, we'd be more than happy to take a look at it; (inaudible) would be helpful to have on there. But I think that it would be helpful to have (inaudible) just look at it as well --

MR. CALARCO: Yeah.

MS. KALMBACHER: -- for any information --

MS. SPEIZIO: Before you leave, can I get your e-mail?

MS. KALMBACHER: Sure.

MS. SPEIZIO: Okay.

MS. WAGONER: Did we want to try and put a letter -- like a -- an intro to it, so that people can feel so --

MR. CALARCO: Yes.

MS. PLYMPTON: Sal- -- when I talked to Sally about it --

(Overlapping conversations)

MS. PLYMPTON: -- and I said,

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2 They're talking about sending out a
3 survey, and blah, blah, blah, you know,
4 she felt the same way I did, that a lot
5 of people would be shy.

6 MR. CALARCO: Yes. Yes, as we
7 found --

8 MS. PLYMPTON: And that it --

9 MR. CALARCO: -- with our --

10 MS. PLYMPTON: -- really would --

11 MR. CALARCO: -- original --

12 MS. PLYMPTON: -- not be --

13 MR. CALARCO: -- survey.

14 MS. PLYMPTON: -- as accurate as
15 you -- it would really be very -- not
16 accurate at all.

17 I mean, we can't get people to do
18 the census correctly. So -- they throw
19 that out. So you can just imagine.

20 But -- thank you.

21 MS. KALMBACHER: Thank you.

22 MS. WAGONER: (Inaudible)

23 MR. CALARCO: Yes. Yeah, I think
24 some sort of a cover letter would be
25 good.

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2 MR. TRAPANI: Yeah. When they did
3 that statewide horse census a few years
4 ago, I think -- they estimated they only
5 got about -- between 50 and 60 percent
6 response, and that was a very generous
7 estimate. A lot of people -- I know a
8 lot of people I spoke to, they didn't
9 want -- didn't want the government to
10 know what they had.

11 MR. CALARCO: Yeah, that's -- it
12 seems to be the ongoing concern that we
13 get with all -- everyone in the
14 community. I think there needs to be
15 a --

16 If we are able to in, you know,
17 part number B under item 1 here,
18 identifying our existing clubs and
19 organizations, and I think if we could
20 partly work through those organizations
21 with this survey and -- and ensure
22 people that we're not looking for their
23 names and their addresses, but just
24 simply looking to find out how many
25 horses they have, and -- and some of

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that other information is -- is the goal that we could clearly identify. And I think we also need to really explain to them in our letter why there's a good need to know how many horses there are, and -- and why there's a benefit to us having a more accurate picture. And that extends to the, you know, average size of professional and private equestrian properties. And I think what we can also start doing is looking through some historical data. Some, for instance, has been out there.

I know -- is it Rita who sent out -- I think it was either Rita or --

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah, Rita Gambino.

MR. CALARCO: Yeah.

MR. TRAPANI: She has that --

MR. CALARCO: She had some -- some information --

MR. TRAPANI: Good numbers --

MR. CALARCO: -- at one point.

MR. TRAPANI: -- yeah.

MR. CALARCO: But hers is a little

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dated; correct.

MR. TRAPANI: No, hers I think was -- I think that was after the New York State survey. That was a couple of years afterwards. The New York State survey I think was 2003 --

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

MR. TRAPANI: -- and Rita's was done in '5 or '6.

MR. CALARCO: Do you know how she did -- how her survey was done? Did she do that, or --

MR. TRAPANI: No, she didn't do it. It was -- I think it was -- I don't know who -- who exactly did it --

MR. CALARCO: Not sure where she got it from.

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah.

MR. CALARCO: Okay. And then on letter D here, we have the needs on equine and the best practices. Some of that information we've gotten from soil and water; they've given us some

1 background. We have some information
2 that came in from different studies done
3 by Rutgers.

4
5 Ellen, there were some information
6 that Cornell Cooperatives originally are
7 supposed to get for us.

8 MS. STITT: Yeah.

9 MR. CALARCO: Have we been able to
10 follow --

11 MS. STITT: I called and they
12 haven't called back.

13 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

14 MS. STITT: So, I'll call them
15 again.

16 MR. CALARCO: Okay. That's what
17 we've got to do.

18 MS. STITT: Uh-huh.

19 MR. CALARCO: Economic impact and
20 equestrian industry.

21 Eileen, you were going to try to
22 look into some of that for us?

23 MS. WAGONER: I did, and I'm still
24 searching. There isn't something that's
25 a specific equation, which is what we

2 were hoping for; some kind of equation
3 that would give us a revenue income. So
4 I generated revenue.

5 So I talked to economists and math
6 teachers and -- so I'm working on it.

7 DR. FLYNN: A little louder. A
8 little louder.

9 MS. WAGONER: I'm sorry. I can't
10 help myself.

11 DR. FLYNN: There you go. Now
12 you're -- there you go.

13 MS. WAGONER: Okay. So I'm working
14 on it.

15 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

16 And, Denise, do you know if Steve
17 was able to look into some of that MLS
18 information for us?

19 MS. SPEIZIO: No. Steve wasn't --
20 Steve was going to have surgery again,
21 that's -- actually, that's why Regina's
22 here.

23 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

24 MS. SPEIZIO: She can --

25 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

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MS. SPEIZIO: I don't know if that means she can do the MLS, but --

MS. GALOPPI: What do you mean?

MR. CALARCO: Can you do an MLS search for us?

MS. GALOPPI: For?

MR. CALARCO: Well, at one of our prior meetings, we had a -- someone come and speak, and she had provided some information from MLS, Multiple Listing Service --

MS. GALOPPI: Uh-huh.

MR. CALARCO: -- on different equestrian properties that were being offered up. We were looking for some of that information to come back in another format that would give us some acreage information, sale prices, and -- and I think a little bit more of an extensive search as well.

MS. GALOPPI: All right.

MR. CALARCO: So we were looking at -- I think Steve was going to try to pull that together for us.

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MS. SPEIZIO: We were going to try
and do it through aerial maps online --

MS. GALOPPI: Okay.

MS. SPEIZIO: -- so that we can see
how large the lots are, because that was
one thing that didn't come with it. And
if you can view the lots, then we can
see if they have existing barns and the
properties are already being used for
equestrian uses.

MS. GALOPPI: Okay. All right. I
can do that.

MR. CALARCO: Yeah. Our -- our
goal was to try to get an idea of how
much -- what kind of real estate
business has been going on with
equestrian properties; how many are
bought/sold throughout a course of the
year.

MS. GALOPPI: Okay.

MS. SPEIZIO: The list -- you had
an electronic --

(Overlapping conversations)

MR. CALARCO: Existing. And the

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trick, as we all know --

MS. PLYMPTON: And not just the --

MR. CALARCO: -- it's a
self-identifier --

MS. GALOPPI: Right.

MR. CALARCO: -- each.

MS. PLYMPTON: Already --

MS. GALOPPI: All right.

MS. PLYMPTON: Already evolved
and --

MS. GALOPPI: Okay.

MS. SPEIZIO: There's an electronic
copy of the list. So maybe you can put
down in your e-mail, and --

MS. GALOPPI: Okay.

MS. SPEIZIO: -- you'll be on the
e-mail list --

MR. CALARCO: Yeah, and I'll e-mail
you the --

MS. SPEIZIO: -- for the
meetings --

MR. CALARCO: -- what we have.

John, do you think Parks Department
can get us a brief write up on existing

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trails and -- and equestrian opportunities within our system, and I don't know if you have anything that goes into the state systems?

MR. PAVACIC: Ah, no. The state systems we wouldn't be able to advise, we'd have to contact state parks about that. But we have -- I think when -- when -- at the inception of the task force, we had distributed brochures describing opportunities. Beyond that, we could probably provide a little more information.

MR. CALARCO: That would be good.

MS. SPEIZIO: (Indicating)

MR. CALARCO: Yes.

MS. SPEIZIO: Nassau/Suffolk has -- it's old, but we're currently updating it -- a booklet on equestrian trails --

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

MS. SPEIZIO: -- on Long Island, Suffolk County. So our next meeting is on the 2nd, so I'll see everybody there and I'll be able to get -- get some of

1 Equestrian Task Force 5/26/10 20
2 that information, along with the clubs
3 and organizations. We're going to work
4 on that --

5 MR. CALARCO: Great.

6 MS. SPEIZIO: -- that night.

7 MR. CALARCO: Great.

8 Okay. Supporting businesses. I
9 think that's -- one of the -- the -- in
10 number 2, one of the things that we
11 haven't been able to get a good handle
12 on yet is some of the -- you know, I
13 know that in a couple of different
14 meetings we spoke about all of the
15 different business entities that go into
16 supporting the equestrian community, but
17 we really need to try to find some way
18 of getting some actual numbers on how
19 many of them are in existence and what
20 kind of business they do; you know,
21 what's the quantity they do.

22 Is there any suggestions in the
23 room of how we can get that information
24 together?

25 MR. TRAPANI: At the last meeting

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that I was at, I said that I would follow up with the Blue Ribbon Farrier Supply, he's the only farrier supply on the Island.

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

MR. TRAPANI: And I asked Susan, and -- now, this includes the racetrack. She services about 75 to 80 full-time farriers, and then there's several part-time ones. But as far as actual average numbers and that, I don't know -- I don't know that. But that includes the racetracks.

MS. WAGONER: Belmont only?

MR. TRAPANI: Belmont and Aqueduct.

MS. WAGONER: Oh, both of them?

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah.

MS. SPEIZIO: So the 80 or so farriers, are they all from Suffolk County?

MR. TRAPANI: No.

MS. SPEIZIO: They -- they would be --

MR. TRAPANI: Well, I mean we cover

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cover both counties. So -- I mean, most -- most of the farriers live in Suffolk. There's only a couple that live in Nassau; I think Lyme and maybe a couple of the racetrack farriers. Tommy -- I don't know where Tommy Hannaberry lives, you know, but there's not too many that live in Nassau County. Most everybody lives in Suffolk, but we cover both counties.

MS. SPEIZIO: But as far as the residents, about 90 percent, you say, would live in Suffolk County out of the 80?

MR. TRAPANI: I'd say, yeah. Well, I don't know about the racetrack. Maybe not 90, 80 -- 80 percent.

MS. SPEIZIO: So maybe close to 80?

MR. TRAPANI: So the racetrack guys would live closer in around the racetrack.

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

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Denise, do you think the folks at Neptune -- I know they're a little busy lately, do you think they could maybe even just get us-

MS. SPEIZIO: The numbers?

MR. CALARCO: -- the numbers?

MS. SPEIZIO: I left them a message but I didn't hear back from them.

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

MS. SPEIZIO: So I'll try and go out there over the weekend and see.

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

And, Dr. Flynn, the Long Island Veterinarian Association, I know at one point you had put me in touch with somebody, but I haven't heard back from them.

DR. FLYNN: What would you like to know?

MR. CALARCO: Well, we're looking to know how many, you know, veterinarians on -- in Suffolk, you know, provide services for equestrians -- for horses, and, you

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know, what's their support staff like,
and what's their overall --

DR. FLYNN: You want that in
writing?

MR. CALARCO: Yes.

DR. FLYNN: I'll be happy to do it
for you.

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

DR. FLYNN: You know, what -- what
had happened is you -- the number I had
given you was the executive director of
the large and small animal, and the way
to find -- her conception of how to find
out was to do a survey. And I could
tell you as opposed to doing a survey.
So we can -- I can figure that out.

MR. CALARCO: Yeah. I mean, if we
just --

DR. FLYNN: So I can get it down on
a piece of paper for you. Yeah.

ROBERT CALARCO: That would be
great. Great.

DR. FLYNN: Now, did you receive
that fax that I sent you about --

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MR. CALARCO: I did. And I had actually passed it to Elaine, she was going to use that to help do some of her research.

DR. FLYNN: So you want the number of veterinarians, the employees --

MR. CALARCO: Yeah. The number of vets that do horses, the number -- you know, a rough estimate of how many employees they have, and a rough estimate of even, you know, how much we're talking, and, you know -- I would imagine a lot of them provide some of the medical supplies, supplements, that kind of stuff; you know?

DR. FLYNN: The amount of -- so we're talking about --

MR. CALARCO: Well, we're --

DR. FLYNN: -- the monies spent by veterinarians?

MR. CALARCO: Yes. The amount of --

DR. FLYNN: Just on horses?

MR. CALARCO: Just for horses.

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DR. FLYNN: For whether it's
equipment or -- or medications --

MR. CALARCO: Supplements, yeah,
all that different type of stuff.

And, of course, that's part of what
we're looking for with Neptune and some
of the other suppliers, is how many --
you know, not just how many feed
suppliers are out there, but how many
people do they employ, how many -- you
know, this is all part of what goes into
the economy of the equestrian business
that we need to try to help to define
and show why it's a big business that we
want to try to help preserve.

DR. FLYNN: Rob, I just might say
that when -- when I was audited, that
the -- I had a problem with the fee for
the IRS because they couldn't believe
how much money that I was spending on
medication. And as compared with the --
the number of small animal
veterinarians, they give 1cc of
antibiotics where I give 35. So my bill

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is 35 times larger than a small animal veterinarian, and they couldn't believe it until I laid the papers in front of them, and then they bought it.

MR. CALARCO: I guess it's a big difference when you're talking about an animal that weighs close to a ton as opposed to an animal that weighs --

MS. PLYMPTON: A chihuahua.

DR. FLYNN: Just volume-wise, I mean, 35ccs of penicillin instead of 1cc, so --

MR. CALARCO: Yeah.

MS. WAGONER: Can I ask one question, too, for the -- with the farriers and the vets and stuff?

Can you estimate approximately, like, how much time you spend? You know, like -- like, if you were going to take care of one horse over a year, how many times do you visit that horse or -- in like a estimate-way, not -- not exactly, but would you go back three times a year, four times a year?

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Farriers, you know, like, do you have --

MR. TRAPANI: Well, if a horse gets done on a six-week schedule, you figure over the year, I see him approximately eight times a year.

MS. WAGONER: Okay. So can we add that to some of the information?

MR. CALARCO: Hey, Jerry, would you be able to get me any of this kind of like in a brief summary on -- on the farrier business?

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah. Yeah, I could put something together like that. And I can try and get -- if it's not prying too much, I can ask Susan kind of a ballpark figure, what -- you know, how much supply she's selling.

MR. CALARCO: Yeah. That would be great.

DR. FLYNN: Jerry, you might be able to do it from the other direction. Instead of thinking about how much she's selling, it's how much you're buying, and then multiply that by the number of

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blacksmiths that we have in --

MR. TRAPANI: Well, I mean --

DR. FLYNN: You have an average --

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah.

DR. FLYNN: -- I mean, I'm just saying how much you're making, but -- but basically what -- what Rob's going to get from me is the amount of -- what my gross is going to be and how -- what my expenditures are --

MR. TRAPANI: Right.

DR. FLYNN: -- and we multiply that by the number --

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah. I just thought that -- by what she sells would be a better average than, I mean, somebody who's real busy, like --

DR. FLYNN: You can figure that out just by --

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah.

DR. FLYNN: -- just by averaging -- just by a rough number, put it down on paper, and that's --

MR. CALARCO: Could we even --

1 Talking about, you know, this
2 extrapolation, could we even try to go
3 from there to figure out how many horses
4 there may possibly be? If we say, you
5 know, we know how often a horse is
6 supposed to get shod, or know --

7 MS. WAGONER: Yeah, no, people
8 don't do that.

9 MR. CALARCO: Yeah.

10 MR. TRAPANI: Because -- I mean,
11 some people stretch -- stretch it out --
12 especially now, in this economy, they're
13 stretching it out as far as they can.
14 And -- but I'd use that, you know, as --
15 because that's the ideal, to do them on
16 a six-week schedule and we see them
17 eight times a year. But does that
18 happen? Not too often.

19 MS. PLYMPTON: But a good idea
20 would be to call up -- you know, get a
21 list of fairly active farriers and ask
22 them how many clients they have and how
23 many horses they shoe.

24 MR. CALARCO: Yeah. I mean,
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that's --

MS. PLYMPTON: You know, on a rotating --

MR. CALARCO: -- I think that's just a way of --

MS. PLYMPTON: -- six-week schedule --

MR. CALARCO: -- trying to get --

THE REPORTER: Okay. I cannot get you both at the same time. Seriously, you're talking over each other. You're going to have a lot of dashes, you're going to have a lot of blanks --

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

THE REPORTER: -- if you don't talk one at a time.

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

Go ahead, Janet.

MS. PLYMPTON: Now I've lost my train of thought.

(Laughter)

MS. PLYMPTON: But I think -- you know, I think he'd be able to -- I can talk to Sally about that. Or even a

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vet -- you know, contacting several of the major vet groups and vets, and see what their numbers are as far as how many horses. But, yeah, you're right.

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

MS. WAGONER: One question.

Is there only one medical supplier on Long Island?

DR. FLYNN: No.

MS. WAGONER: There's many, right?

See, he's got one farrier supplier, that's --

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah. Not -- not everybody --

MS. WAGONER: -- why he can do it from there.

MR. TRAPANI: Oops, sorry.

Not everybody deals with her exclusively, but she's the only one on the Island. Most deal with her.

MS. WAGONER: So it's a little bit easier then.

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah.

MS. WAGONER: Okay.

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MR. CALARCO: Jerry, do any of the farriers actually purchase their supplies, say, online or anything like that? Do they get them shipped in?

MR. TRAPANI: Well, there's a farrier supplier in Pennsylvania -- in New Holland. So when I go down there, a lot of times I'll buy things down there, just because that's like a BJs for farriers. It's a real big place. And so their -- their prices are a little bit better than Susan's on some items. So when I'm down there I might, you know, load up on popular things and I don't have to pay any shipping then. But for the day-to-day stuff, I go to Blue Ribbon and most -- most guys do.

But that industry has gotten very competitive. A lot of the supply houses now could generate business from out of state. A lot of states, if it's out of state, you don't have to pay sales tax on it if you order 300 or \$350, they'll give you free shipping. So if -- you

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know, that's gotten very competitive
now, too, where --

DR. FLYNN: (Indicating)

MR. CALARCO: Dr. Flynn.

DR. FLYNN: Yeah, that was my
question about sales tax. And that's
one more thing that you're losing from
that underground economy that we've all
been talking about, is the sales tax
that goes to the county.

MR. CALARCO: Jessica, do you know
if there's anyway of looking into sales
tax receipts that have come in in the
state? Would they have any kind of
breakouts? You wouldn't probably know.

MS. KALMBACHER: I wouldn't know.

MR. CALARCO: All right.

MS. KALMBACHER: It's a possibility
that they may, but I wouldn't know.

MR. CALARCO: Perhaps Long Island
Farm Bureau might have some of that
information?

MS. SPEIZIO: Maybe. I'll ask.

MR. CALARCO: Great.

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Okay. Number 3, zoning restrictions on the industry.

Last week, Pam said what she will put together -- Pam Green, she'll try to get us an updated version of the different existing zoning for the different areas, the different towns on -- on horse properties.

And then we were talking about -- actually, we spent several meetings talking about different types of site plan approach (sic).

Janet has actually done her homework and has our first write up on a professional barn site plan approach. I guess what we can do is -- is take this home and read it, and we can all offer our opinions.

DR. FLYNN: (Indicating)

MR. CALARCO: Yes, Dr. Flynn.

DR. FLYNN: Two points.

As far as the site plan on -- on plan requirements 2, number 2, any barns or other buildings used to house horses

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shall not be located?

MS. PLYMPTON: Right. Between --

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

MS. PLYMPTON: -- principle --

DR. FLYNN: Should not --

MS. PLYMPTON: -- residents --

DR. FLYNN: That should be changed.

MS. PLYMPTON: -- and the road.

DR. FLYNN: Well --

MR. CALARCO: No, you're missing

"you're not" in the first line, but it's
okay.

MS. PLYMPTON: Shall be located
within 25 feet of any side or --

Oh, shall not be located.

DR. FLYNN: Good. There we go.

And the other thing that --

MS. PLYMPTON: I was just
copying --

DR. FLYNN: -- I don't know where
that --

MS. PLYMPTON: -- what Brookhaven's
was.

DR. FLYNN: -- fits in but, horses

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are open space. And if you want open space, that's open space.

MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh. I think we agree with that.

I think what -- what we were working up is this is the -- a professional barn site plan. So this is for those individuals who are walking in and saying they want to run an actual business, so to speak.

Whereas, Denise was going to try to help to put together a alternative site plan approach that would be utilized for residential properties or -- or recreational usage or whatever the term is that -- term that you want to use, for that person who may just want to have a couple horses in their backyard that -- for their own personal use, and maybe bord one extra horse or so, but nothing extensive.

So that's where our approach was.

Correct, Denise?

MS. SPEIZIO: Uh-huh. And we were

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going to use recreational.

MR. CALARCO: Recreational.

MR. TRAPANI: (Indicating)

MR. CALARCO: Jerry.

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah. I just want to -- step on anybody.

You might want to look into Los Angeles County's equine regulations, because after New -- after Long Island, Los Angeles County has got the densest horse population per acreage. And they have, you know, a lot of small backyards like we do on Long Island, so that would be closest to what -- to the conditions on Long Island.

MS. SPEIZIO: Okay.

MR. TRAPANI: That would be Los Angeles County.

MS. SPEIZIO: I did look up on -- site plans and recommendations for bay areas, because of the water, and that seems to be the main concern here for Long Island. But I -- I didn't look into this, so I look at the site plan.

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MR. TRAPANI: Yeah.

When I was doing some farrier research, I was surprised to find that out, but Los Angeles County is the next densest after us, or we're very close.

MS. SPEIZIO: Okay. Thank you.

MR. CALARCO: Jerry, do you know how their system worked? How they actually approached it? I mean, did they have a per -- per acre type of zoning or --

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah, they have -- it's similar to ours. I could get the exact numbers, but you need, you know, certain -- I believe it starts at a half an acre of property, like the Town of Islip does, and you need certain setbacks and whatever, but you don't need any pasture, or the horses could live in dry lots, and things like that.

MR. CALARCO: Okay. That's probably a good resource to look into then.

DR. FLYNN: They have a lot of

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canyons, you know, which is -- which is -- and I'm just making an observation. They've got -- they may have a half an acre or an acre that has very, very small amounts of property where they can use, and then they trail ride.

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah, but that's why they have certain, you know -- even if you have a half an acre where the back of it is a canyon or whatever, you still need to have so much area for the horse to have. It's not much. Basically, the horse just needs to have a small corral for it. So --

DR. FLYNN: Jerry, I'm not disagreeing with you, I'm just --

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah.

DR. FLYNN: -- I'm just making an observation.

MR. TRAPANI: Right.

DR. FLYNN: That's all.

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah. But I was surprised how similar --

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MR. CALARCO: Okay.

Would there be any concerns from the SPCA in terms of if we were to make certain standards that required no actual corrals or anything like that? The SPCA would only be concerned if they -- horses were not -- looked malnourished or something along those lines; correct?

MS. GALOPPI: Yeah. Basically, our agency deals with neglect or abuse. So I don't know if giving people their freedom to just kind of let the horses out free or on their own --

MR. CALARCO: Has any --

MS. GALOPPI: It might lead to -- you know.

MS. PLYMPTON: So the SPCA does not have any standards -- care standards?

MS. GALOPPI: We do. We do. I mean --

MS. PLYMPTON: If --

MS. GALOPPI: -- it has to follow under neglect. You know, if -- if --

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say a horse -- if we go and somebody thinks it's okay to throw their horse one flake of hay a day, you know, that falls under neglect.

MS. PLYMPTON: That's feed standards.

MS. GALOPPI: Right.

MS. PLYMPTON: I'm asking about farm -- what the farm standards are.

MS. GALOPPI: It has --

MS. PLYMPTON: Fencing --

MS. GALOPPI: Yeah, it has to be safe.

MS. SPEIZIO: Maybe I could help.

The SPCA doesn't give you a site plan or tell you what you have to have. As far as, the horse needs water, but they don't tell you how you have to provide it. If you want to bucket it from your kitchen sink, as long as -- if the horse has it, it has water. How to -- you know, how it's -- the feed is stored, as long as it's clean and kept dry, that's fine; they don't care if

1 Equestrian Task Force 5/26/10 43
2 it's in a shed, in the back of your
3 truck. So the SPCA doesn't set up
4 standards for how you do it, as long as
5 you get it done.

6 MS. GALOPPI: Correct.

7 MS. SPEIZIO: As long as it's taken
8 care of.

9 MR. CALARCO: Regina, do you think
10 you'd be able to get us a copy of those
11 standards --

12 MS. GALOPPI: Sure.

13 MR. CALARCO: -- or codes that they
14 utilize for when they are called out?

15 And could you also maybe give us an
16 idea of how often or how many times you
17 had to go out on -- on equestrian
18 related calls, say, over the last year
19 or two?

20 MS. GALOPPI: I can give you those
21 numbers, yeah.

22 On average, it's probably -- we get
23 three to four calls a week.

24 MR. CALARCO: For equestrian?

25 MS. GALOPPI: (Head gesture)

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MS. SPEIZIO: But how many of them are legitimate calls that you actually have to take action on?

MR. CALARCO: Yeah. That's, of course, two very different -- two very different --

MS. GALOPPI: Well, 90 percent of our calls are --

MS. WAGONER: Real?

MS. GALOPPI: -- are -- no, not real. Yeah. A very small number are real.

MS. SPEIZIO: And then out of the remaining 10 percent, how many of them could you say, based on educating the owners, would help the situation rather than neglect?

MS. GALOPPI: Maybe one percent we would have to seize an animal, in that situation.

MS. SPEIZIO: Yeah.

MS. GALOPPI: But usually -- like you said, usually, just basic knowledge and educating the owner as to what they

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could do better to provide, you know,
better care for the animal.

MR. PAVACIC: Rob --

MR. CALARCO: Yes, John.

MR. PAVACIC: Can I ask a question.

Janet, are you proposing this for
any zoning category, or for say a -- a
horse farm zoned category?

MR. PLYMPTON: Business.

MR. PAVACIC: So any business
zoning?

MS. PLYMPTON: Well, when we
discussed putting this together, we
didn't talk -- herein lies the catch.
They wanted to talk about it residential
and commercial, but if we talked
residential and commercial, you would
continue to think zoning. We wanted to
talk about business versus pleasure or
recreational, and not label the
properties as such yet. Because, I'm
sure, as you well know, there are
several properties that are zoned
residential but do business on them.

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MR. PAVACIC: Right.

MS. PLYMPTON: So I didn't address the zoning issue at all in this, and I tried to come in from the back door and not say, Two horses per acre, one horse per acre, blah, blah, blah. I tried to say that what you have will sort of tell you what -- how many horses could actually work on that piece of property if set up correctly.

But as far as the zoning, I didn't address that because it was -- we had addressed it in the discussion. And that was my concern, was that if we labeled it commercial and residential, everyone would assume commercial property and residential property, and a lot of business horse farms are on residential properties.

MR. PAVACIC: The only reason I brought that up is because this has a business income base standard, which is --

MS. PLYMPTON: Because I was asked

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to do a business --

MR. PAVACIC: Okay.

MS. PLYMPTON: -- and I needed to label what a business -- I mean, the figures are just fictitious. They're just something I sort of drummed up thinking -- I came up with \$25,000 because if you boarded four horses for a year, or five horses for a year, you'd make about that much money. And I'm thinking by the time you're boarding five or six horses, you should be considered a business. So that's how I came up with it. Whether the group thinks that's correct or not, that remains to be seen.

MR. PAVACIC: The reason I bring that up is because, if you're a business and you're in commercial zoning, you don't have to provide, you know, your income, you know, your records and revenue to --

MS. PLYMPTON: No.

MR. PAVACIC: -- to, you know, a

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town planning board --

MS. PLYMPTON: No.

MR. PAVACIC: -- in order to --

MS. PLYMPTON: But if you're a business on a commercial piece of property, it's going to be blatantly obvious that you're a business.

MR. PAVACIC: Right. But the reason I'm bringing this up is that, in -- in terms of enforcement. That you're -- that you're potentially placing an additional burden on a town, particularly, a planning department, to have to solicit these records, obtain these records, review them to make sure that they're accurate, that somebody's not hiding something.

I'm not aware, Jessica, of a -- of this type of income based zoning. It doesn't -- it's usually if you're -- you're allowed to go into particular yet permitted uses and prohibitive uses, and if you meet those standards, you're in.

So I'm just wondering if that might

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be a potential issue, though, for a town, whether --

MS. PLYMPTON: Right.

MR. PAVACIC: -- if it's interested in adopting something like this, where it has to -- it's an extra layer of work that somebody's going to have to do to -- and on an annual basis. And then what happens if it gets sold, they have to then try to -- to extract that information from the new -- from the new owner.

MS. SPEIZIO: Just to ask a question, because when we were discussing it, we were trying to set up qualifying yourself as a farm and the actual site plan. So the 25,000 may not be something that you would submit for the site plan, but if you wanted to obtain some kind of business status or farm status, that's where that would come in. So those records wouldn't be the town's responsibility.

MR. PAVACIC: Okay.

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DR. FLYNN: In my particular case,
I'm -- I have a bona fide business,
since I'm zoned A-1 residential and it's
in a suburban neighborhood --

MR. PAVACIC: Right.

DR. FLYNN: -- and I'm legal.

MR. PAVACIC: Right, because you're
considered professional. You hang a
shingle out --

DR. FLYNN: No, no. No, no.

MR. PAVACIC: No?

DR. FLYNN: No. This is -- has
nothing to do with my veterinary --

MR. PAVACIC: Oh, it doesn't.
Okay.

DR. FLYNN: This is a horse farm
that's in --

MR. PAVACIC: Okay.

DR. FLYNN: And -- and it's legal
and it -- and --

MS. PLYMPTON: How is it legal,
Howard?

DR. FLYNN: Because I'm growing
something.

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MR. CALARCO: I believe that
Dr. Flynn falls within an equestrian --
Are you in an agricultural zone --

DR. FLYNN: No.

MR. CALARCO: -- area?

DR. FLYNN: Because I'll growing
something. And if you're -- if --

MS. PLYMPTON: What are you --
you're growing, like, plants?

DR. FLYNN: Growing horses. Yes --

MS. PLYMPTON: Oh.

DR. FLYNN: Yes, ma'am.

MS. PLYMPTON: Oh.

DR. FLYNN: Yes, ma'am.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: Breeding of horses
is --

DR. FLYNN: Not -- not --

MR. ANNUNZIADA: -- considered
agriculture.

DR. FLYNN: Not breeding.

Yes, it is. Yes -- yes, it is, but
I'm not breeding. Then you get into
stallions and all of that.

MS. PLYMPTON: Well, what's the

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difference between your piece and my
piece, when I'm res- --

DR. FLYNN: I don't know what yours
is.

MS. PLYMPTON: I'm zoned
residential.

DR. FLYNN: Yeah.

MR. CALARCO: Well, if I could
maybe clarify, I think, because we had
this conversation last week a little
bit. And if I'm not mistaken, maybe,
Jessica, you know, but many farms that
are operating businesses are actually
located within residential zoned areas;
correct?

MS. KALMBACHER: From what I
understand, yes.

MR. CALARCO: I believe --

MR. PAVACIC: They're permitted
uses.

MS. KALMBACHER: Yes.

MR. CALARCO: Yes.

MR. PAVACIC: In Brookhaven Town,
for example, I know that agriculture's a

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permitted use in -- and most of the -- particularly the larger lot zoning categories; A-1, one acre, two acre, and so forth. It's an as-of-right use.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: But that's why you are never going to get an accurate count of the people with a couple of acres of land, with two or three horses boarded; they're generating an income that's helping them keep their homes on Long Island. They're not going to tell you (indicating), or you (indicating), or towns anything about that. You know, they're in A-1 zone residential, they have a value on the land, they pay rent in agriculture, they lose that value, because you can never get your A-1 zoning back, and unless you get the town, you know, or the county to buy the development rights on it to offset that loss of value, these people are never going to open up their mouths.

So you're trying to find out how many farriers, how many vets, I'm

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sitting here listening to this and I'm saying, How can we find this out? But too much is covered up. Nobody wants to tell anybody what they're doing.

You could have two vets sitting here, he could have 100 horses he takes care of (indicating), he could have 25 horses he takes care of (indicating), and they're both dealing with 25 customers. Each one has one horse, each one could have four horses. That's why there's an inaccuracy that you're never going to find out, in my opinion. You know, there's too -- there's too much being hidden by most people.

DR. FLYNN: (Indicating)

MR. CALARCO: Dr. Flynn.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: I'm sorry.

DR. FLYNN: Maybe we could just change the name of this to a permitted use site plan, and get rid of the professional.

I know, Janet, you've got a very, very difficult position. I'm just

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offering --

MS. PLYMPTON: I was asked to put a professional one together, and I sort of tried to base it on what -- what I have from Brookhaven's standpoint of what I am and am not allowed through Brookhaven, what my variances say I have, and what I'm actually living with and living comfortably with on my farm.

So I tried to put it together that -- it can be done, is what I'm saying. What I put together was a situation that can be done, because I'm living proof for 32 years.

MS. SPEIZIO: (Indicating)

MR. CALARCO: Denise.

MS. SPEIZIO: I was just going to say that, we left this one with professional because we're going to have a separate recreational site plan. So they'll be two.

MS. PLYMPTON: Exactly.

MS. SPEIZIO: Because we wanted to address the equestrian on two different

1 levels. The professional, because,
2 obviously, they would be able to supply
3 a different kind of care than the
4 recreational one. This is a business,
5 that's what they spend their whole day
6 doing. The recreational owner is a
7 part-time equestrian. It's just for
8 pleasure. So they'll be two site plans.

10 MR. ANNUNZIADA: How is that
11 different then the residential,
12 part-time, that you're saying, who's got
13 two borders in there, and spend all the
14 day -- all their day taking care of,
15 let's say, their two and somebody else's
16 two? Why is -- I'm just --

17 MS. PLYMPTON: That's the resi- --

18 MS. SPEIZIO: That's the --

19 MS. PLYMPTON: That's the
20 recreational --

21 MR. ANNUNZIADA: That's the
22 recreational border. Okay. So I
23 understand.

24 MS. WAGONER: (Indicating)

25 MR. CALARCO: Eileen.

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MS. WAGONER: I would just like to address John, for a minute.

Now, you're saying that this is going to increase like a policing, you're saying in the sense of how they're going to actually do this. They already have no policing on it. They can't follow it. They have no information on it at this point. Okay. And if we can do this, it's saving the community of horsemen. Not so much giving them more work, because all it does is gives us something to prove that we are allowed to do what we're doing so that we're not getting thrown out. Basically, what it is, it's not for a policing, because the policing is not being done anyway.

MS. PLYMPTON: (Indicating)

MR. CALARCO: Janet.

MS. PLYMPTON: The policing is done, from my experience, by the non- -- well, not even non-horsemen, but the -- but neighbors and people in the area.

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They're the ones that send in their -- call in their complaints, and then an inspector comes out. Hence, the policing is done kind of by the civilian.

MR. CALARCO: With all the town zoning codes and standards, it's all going to be complaint driven. As far as someone actually going out and checking your property out (indicating), or your property out (indicating), it's going to be somebody made a complaint that you're doing something illegal on your property. None of the towns are proactive in the way they enforce their codes. I think it's partly something they couldn't do, or maybe even something they don't want to do.

MR. PAVACIC: I'm just bringing that up just that it might be an issue for a town if they -- if you're going to present this to a town, they may say, Well, we don't -- we don't check these types of things. When they do

1 enforcement, or they're checking up
2 on -- or just to qualify for something,
3 they're going to say -- you know,
4 they're enforcement is visually based.
5 They go out, they -- you know, based on
6 complaint. It's -- it's -- their
7 initial observations are -- it might be
8 from a street or from a -- a neighbor
9 who allows them access to view
10 something, and then if there's
11 reasonable suspicion, then they go forth
12 and they conduct further investigations.

14 MS. PLYMPTON: Right. But they
15 already have -- I mean, this is
16 Brookhaven's list of -- and all the
17 circled things are things that I am not
18 in compliance with, but they already
19 have what I -- a site plan, kind of.
20 And, no, you're right, they don't
21 inspect anything unless they're called
22 out to.

23 MR. PAVACIC: Right.

24 MS. PLYMPTON: And then you're
25 handed this (indicating). And this is

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totally unrealistic, in my opinion.
Totally unrealistic.

MR. CALARCO: I think perhaps what, you know, John's getting at, and I see his point, is -- is when you start asking the towns to start evaluating incomes and -- and the amount of revenue a business is bringing in --

I know that it applies for some of our farm programs; correct, we use incomes?

MS. KALMBACHER: Yes. Even that's been difficult to establish.

MR. CALARCO: So perhaps what we want to do, and this is where you and Denise really need to talk, is we have to determine a cutoff and say maybe, you know, if you intend to have more than four horses on less than so many acres, three acres or what have you, then you are, you know, going to need to meet the professional standards as opposed to recreational standards.

Is that maybe a way of doing this

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and getting around the dollar figure?

MS. PLYMPTON: And you want to do it in numbers and not with dollars?

MR. CALARCO: Well, I think, you know, from John's point of view, and I think he has a very good point, I -- I don't know if any town will hear us if we ask them to start looking at revenues, because of the difficulty.

MS. PLYMPTON: Well, I'm not asking to look at revenues, but if someone wanted to apply for the -- for a professional farm, or for a farm stat- -- you know, professional farm status, I would think that they would have to offer some sort of reason why they're applying for that, and back it up. The average bearer that has four stalls or five stalls in their backyard, and two of their own and three boarders is not going to apply for that. It's the people that are trying to do -- they have ten stalls, 12 stalls --

MR. CALARCO: Yeah.

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MS. PLYMPTON: -- and they're filling those with lesson horses, sale horses, border horses, maybe have two or three of their own, going to be a blatant, obvious difference between the backyard person and the one that's actually conducting some sort of a business.

MR. CALARCO: I wouldn't disagree, but I think we still need to define it.

DR. FLYNN: (Indicating)

MR. CALARCO: Dr. Flynn.

DR. FLYNN: I agree that you need to have it defined, I -- I would hope -- I would like -- what I would like to see would be to have these professional farms be charged X number of dollars, or, say, \$50 or \$75 on a per horse basis, and by doing that, then you now are moved from -- from that recreational type of a zone into a professional zoning, and you get to do all of these things that professional people do as opposed to residential. And it costs

1
2 you \$100 per year, or \$200 a year, and
3 you are now legal, doing what you want
4 to do. And that would help pay for
5 your -- the enforcement of it.

6 It also might -- you might get
7 added income if you could move some of
8 these people that -- that want to do
9 professional type of work, and they've
10 got a recreational backyard into a --
11 into a professional area, where they
12 would be willing to pay that X number of
13 dollars; whether it's \$10 a horse or
14 \$1,000 a horse, just to make it more
15 professional. And then they wouldn't --
16 if they paid that money, they wouldn't
17 have to worry about their neighbors
18 calling the SPCA on them or worry about
19 them calling the town, because they've
20 got that professional license.

21 MS. PLYMPTON: Chances are, the --
22 the backyard -- chances are --

23 DR. FLYNN: Would you -- excuse me,
24 would you be willing to pay that? Would
25 you be willing to pay, say, \$200 a year

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to make sure that nobody bothered you?

MS. PLYMPTON: Well, nobody bothers me, Howard.

DR. FLYNN: Yeah, but you know what I mean.

MS. PLYMPTON: No, I dont know what you mean.

DR. FLYNN: You wouldn't -- you wouldn't --

What I'm saying is that if we could -- if we could come up with a dollar figure --

MS. PLYMPTON: I get that.

DR. FLYNN: -- then we could bring all these people that are -- that are in the -- in the subterranean economy --

MS. PLYMPTON: But I also think that --

DR. FLYNN: -- and bring that out to the surface.

MR. CALARCO: Okay. One at a time. Janet, go ahead.

MS. PLYMPTON: But I also think that there are going to be backyards

1 barns that Denise is going to address in
2 her site plan that will never meet the
3 requirements for a professional barn.
4 They will not be able to come up with
5 5- -- what did I say? Whatever --
6 8,000 square feet per horse. They will
7 never meet the requirements, because the
8 property and, you know --
9

10 DR. FLYNN: Yeah, but -- but --
11 excuse me, these -- these requirements
12 are just -- these are just thoughts at
13 the moment.

14 MS. PLYMPTON: Yes. But whatever
15 requirements we do put together, will be
16 a higher -- a higher demand on the
17 professional barn as opposed to the
18 backyard barn. The backyard barn does
19 not have to have a riding ring.

20 DR. FLYNN: What's your point?

21 MS. PLYMPTON: Wouldn't you think a
22 professional barn would need that kind
23 of area?

24 DR. FLYNN: Yeah, but I don't
25 understand where you're going.

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MR. CALARCO: If I may, I think the intent here -- and I hear what you're saying, Dr. Flynn, and it's an interesting idea in terms of almost linking it to like having a -- permits for apartments, and if you rent a -- a house in the Town of Brookhaven, I know that you -- you know, you pay an extra certain amount for each bedroom you have. So perhaps that's one angle to look at it.

But I think from the standpoint of what Janet has drafted up is, if you are going to have a professional operation, you're going to have a little bit stricter standards as to what you must provide on your property as opposed to if you're going to have a recreational. So if you are -- you know, the recreational horse owner is not going to be told you've got to have some sort of turnout ring, where as the professional establishment will.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: But you're not

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going to be able to put them under one roof.

MS. WAGONER: No.

MS. PLYMPTON: Right.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: The professional is going to be professional, the recreational is going to be recreational --

MR. CALARCO: Yes.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: -- and what Howard is saying, is recreational people, who are largely buried at this point, if they had to pay \$200 for everything to be okay and nobody is going to bother them, would they do it? I tend to think they would just to -- just to be left alone.

MS. SPEIZIO: I don't know if instituting a fee is the way to go.

You know, we separated the two because the professional barn would require more horses on the property, and we had, way back when, discussed a horse-property ratio. And right now

1 Equestrian Task Force 5/26/10 68
2 what the standard is, one horse per one
3 acre. If you wanted to keep four horses
4 per acre as a professional, these were
5 the additional services you were going
6 to provide, and your site plan was going
7 to have additional infrastructure to
8 maintain the four horses on an acre as
9 opposed to the one horse per acre.

10 Now, that additional infrastructure
11 will increase the value of your home and
12 will have some effect on your property
13 taxes. So those people are already
14 going to be put in a position of paying
15 additional fees through their property
16 taxes. I don't know if instituting a
17 permit fee on top of that --

18 DR. FLYNN: Denise, don't
19 misunderstand me. I'm not saying that
20 she's wrong. All I'm saying is, think
21 about it. That's all I'm saying. And
22 then if we have -- once we have this
23 residential site plan, we'll be able to
24 take some of here and some of there and
25 move it or keep it or whatever, but --

1 Equestrian Task Force 5/26/10 69
2 but now we're -- we're just talking
3 about the one, but I -- all I'm doing is
4 putting it out there.

5 MS. SPEIZIO: No, I understand
6 that, but I don't want to, you know,
7 lose sight of the fact that this was
8 started -- the task force was started to
9 look at how to alleviate the expenses to
10 horsemen. I would hate to sit here now
11 and institute a permit fee that's going
12 to just add an additional expense to it.

13 MR. CALARCO: I have a feeling that
14 there would probably be a little pull
15 back, so to speak, from the equestrian
16 community, from some -- especially from
17 some private backyard property owners,
18 if we were to say, Now you can pay an
19 extra fee to keep your horse, on top
20 of --

21 You know, we're looking to try to
22 find a way of making it easier for them
23 to exist. We're -- we're saying we want
24 to set up a plan that you're -- you
25 know, you're going to actually have --

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go in and prevent -- provide a site plan to the town, for the town to say, Okay, yes, we'll be willing to allow you to keep, you know, three horses on your two acre -- on your one acre or two acres, you know, because you don't meet these certain standards.

And that's going to give that backyard property owner the ability to maybe board a horse to offset some of their costs without incurring the professional standards, and alleviate some of their pain, so to speak. While at the same time, because they are getting this recreational horse zoning permit -- you know, they're getting this standard from the town, the town's saying, okay, this you have permission for, they are getting their authorization. So that if their neighbor does call and complain, the town will know going out to their property, this person is a recreational horse property and they already have

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2 that standard designation from the
3 county -- from the town.

4 DR. FLYNN: Rob, I agree with you.
5 All I'm saying -- all I'm saying is
6 that -- Joe understands how I'm looking
7 at it. And we're both looking at the
8 same thing, whether one's calling it
9 half empty, the other one's calling it
10 half full. I don't disagree with you.
11 I don't -- we're -- we're -- I'm in
12 agreement with you. All I'm saying is
13 that he kind of understands what I'm
14 saying. I mean, you understand what I'm
15 saying, but it's just a different
16 perspective.

17 MS. PLYMPTON: (Indicating)

18 MR. CALARCO: Janet.

19 MR. ANNUNZIADA: How are you going
20 to get people to disclose who they are
21 and what they are?

22 And, Janet, the professional is
23 easy. That's easy, according -- in my
24 thinking. It's the recreational people
25 who are -- who are covering this up for

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so long.

MR. CALARCO: I'll -- well,
I'll --

MR. ANNUNZIADA: You know, and --
and until they surface and disclose,
none of your statistics are ever going
to be correct.

MR. CALARCO: I'll be honest with
you, Joe, the way I -- I perceive, if
we're able to get the towns to agree to
adopt this new standard or site plan,
that, yeah, at -- at the beginning,
we're probably going to get very few
people who are going to actually step up
and say, I want to get into that. But I
think what you would have happen, and
what you do get happen the -- was -- you
know, when the towns start enforcing
about the accessory apartment, and some
of these other things, that what they
will usually do is not require the --
the owner remove their accessory
apartment, but require the owner to
legalize their accessory apartment.

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2 And so when the person may -- the
3 one backyard owner may get harassed by a
4 neighbor, and the -- the town may show
5 up and say, Hey, you've got four horses
6 on your property and you're only allowed
7 two; well, now they're offered a vehicle
8 to become legalized as opposed to just
9 saying, Get rid of your horses.

10 MR. ANNUNZIADA: Using your
11 example, do you have any idea what the
12 expense to legalize an accessory
13 apartment can be?

14 MR. CALARCO: Depending on what
15 you've got, it could be expensive.

16 MR. ANNUNZIADA: Okay. I mean,
17 let's just take a typical basement --
18 all right -- and you probably know,
19 Denise -- I mean, are you talking
20 \$12,000, \$10,000, \$8,000? All right.
21 How many of them can do this?

22 But approach it -- like the Town of
23 Brookhaven had something -- and -- and,
24 Jessica, maybe you can shed more light
25 to this -- certificate of existing use.

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If you can prove it's been there for a certain amount of time, or -- and a deck, it's been there for a certain amount of time, and you can prove it with pictures or -- or statements from neighbors -- okay -- they will allow -- they will give you a CO.

Do I understand that, more or less, correct?

(WHEREUPON, Mr. Pavacic left the proceeding room)

(Time noted: 4:35 p.m.)

MS. KALMBACHER: I work for the County Planning Department and we don't handle COs --

MR. ANNUNZIADA: Okay.

MS. KALMBACHER: -- so I'm not that familiar with the process.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: Then I'm -- then I'm sorry. What I'm referring to is kind of broad sided.

MR. CALARCO: Joe, I think what you're talking about is, you know, getting some sort of a grandfathered

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status. And, certainly, some properties will be able to do that and could do that now.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: I think what I'm talking about, Rob, is forgiveness. You've got to get all of these towns to forgive some of these people that might not have a four and a half foot high fence, but it's been working for 25 years; who might not have 8,000 square feet. I'm just trying to take all of these specifications -- okay -- and say, a lot of people on Long Island -- okay -- have been -- have had horses, some for 50 years -- okay -- never had a problem, and never have any of this -- you know?

Now, increase of population, increase in structure, reduction of land, you know, for -- for the animals, all have an effect. Okay. But I think there's got to be a flexibility that -- that I don't see being shown here.

MS. SPEIZIO: (Indicating)

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MR. CALARCO: Denise.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: I'm sorry, Denise.

MS. SPEIZIO: No, I was raising my hand to speak after you.

MR. CALARCO: Go ahead.

MS. SPEIZIO: But, right know -- and I can give you a very recent example of why if we had this in place it might have helped.

On Woodlot Road, there were 90-plus horses at the time of the fires. Way back, two years ago. Just recently, right after we had the meeting with Legislator Eddington, the Town of Brookhaven went down Woodlot Road. Emptied the road. If you didn't have a full acre, which some of them are building acres, they actually had to fight against the difference between a building acre and the -- you know, the 40,000 square foot acre. If we had something like this in place, there were plenty of facilities there, and I can think of one off the top of my head,

1 Equestrian Task Force 5/26/10 77
2 Allison, who went over and above the
3 care of the horses that she was
4 boarding, she would have been able to
5 say, Okay, I'm not legalized now, or I
6 don't have the proper permits, but if
7 this was here for them to use as a
8 vehicle, like Rob said, to say, I'm
9 willing to, you know, legalize my
10 facility, she wouldn't have been emptied
11 out. She was already set up properly.

12 Someone with maybe -- we were
13 talk- -- discussing horses, are
14 permitted in front of the house, the --
15 the -- you know, the house. If they
16 went and said, Okay, well, the whole
17 front yard is all fenced in. If they
18 were allowed to just add that second
19 fencing to the road, which would be a
20 minimal expense as opposed to fencing in
21 the whole yard, that would make them
22 legal; then maybe they wouldn't have to
23 get rid of their horses either. We're
24 just trying to give them, you know, a
25 way to do this down the road. Because,

1 right now, the influx of new neighbors
2 is very taxing on the equestrian
3 community. Everybody who moves out from
4 either Suffolk -- you know, Nassau
5 County or the city, moves in, they love
6 the horses until they find out
7 everything that comes with them, and
8 then the complaints start. And people
9 in Ridge are really being pushed out.
10

11 So if we set up standards that they
12 can say, Okay, I'll do this in order to
13 keep it; if maybe they could show how
14 what they have has worked over the years
15 and they don't have to make as many
16 improvements, then that would be great.
17 But that's why we're trying to set up
18 different scenarios for how many horses
19 per acre -- you know, the land-horse
20 ratio rather than just one horse per
21 acre and that's it.

22 MR. CALARCO: And I think the other
23 part of that, Joe, is that, you know
24 it -- we're -- we are working up the
25 standards based on what is a

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reasonable --

You know, we're not coming at this from an approach of people who have no idea; you know, that's why Denise and Janet are helping us.

It's what is something that is reasonable that one can expect that most horse owners probably already have it in place. And you'd be surprised how many illegal accessory apartments out there are legalized simply by putting in your paperwork and paying your one time fee to the town to legalize.

Ninety percent of the time when the towns go out on -- on illegal apartments or illegal rentals, they're able to bring them into compliance without forcing the -- the property owner to make, you know, major, major changes, and without forcing the property owner to close down what they already have.

So I think it's something that we're looking at, coming up with standards that are reasonable that most

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property owners probably already abide by, because it's just common sense for a horse owner to have a, you know, certain -- you know, a stall for your horse to get some sort of shelter, and, you know, what have you.

MS. GALOPPI: (Indicating)

MR. CALARCO: Regina.

MS. GALOPPI: So what you're saying is, the town doesn't give the equestrian people that opportunity to -- they just -- when -- not --

When they showed up on Woodlot Road, it was a matter of, You have so many days to remove X amount of animals on the property.

MR. CALARCO: Because it's a very specified per acre --

MR. ANNUNZIADA: And you're talking one of the great streets -- okay -- in the area --

DR. FLYNN: It's gone.

MS. SPEIZIO: Yeah.

DR. FLYNN: It's gone.

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MR. ANNUNZIADA: All right.

MS. SPEIZIO: I mean, there have been horses there -- I mean, when my father-in-law moved out there, he was the second house on the road, and that was in the early '50s, and there have been horses on that block since he was there. And now it's just impossible to keep horses there.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: There's something very unfair about.

MS. SPEIZIO: And --

MR. ANNUNZIADA: I'm not telling you government's fair, but, I mean, for somebody to have a house from 1950, and have had horses and enjoyed horses, to all of a sudden, on a given day, being told, you got 30 days, 90 days, whatever --

MS. GALOPPI: Yeah.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: -- to just get rid of your horses. There's something wrong with that.

MS. GALOPPI: Wow. I didn't know

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that was going on.

MS. SPEIZIO: And Allison Pikowski (phonetic), I don't know if anyone knows her, but she was one of them. And she keeps the cleanest, most immaculate barns; the horses are all fat; everybody's taken care of; she's over- -- the woman's a lunatic, as far as I'm concerned. And I -- and I tell her that. And she was just told, it doesn't matter what amenities you're supplying these animals, it's too many for the property size. Regardless of everything that she had to offer, it was just that horse-property ratio that she failed, and she had to get rid of them. And one of them was even a small pony, so it wasn't --

MR. ANNUNZIADA: So what did she do? She left Long Island and left --

MS. SPEIZIO: No.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: Didn't she leave --

MS. SPEIZIO: Allison hasn't left

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yet, but she's going to.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: Oh, I thought you was talking about --

MS. SPEIZIO: She hasn't left yet.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: -- Christine.

MS. SPEIZIO: No, Christine's on there --

MR. ANNUNZIADA: Yeah.

MS. SPEIZIO: -- but, no, Allison is leaving, though, she's going to Kentucky.

MS. PLYMPTON: (Indicating)

MR. CALARCO: Janet.

MS. PLYMPTON: To address Howard's idea about fees, I'm thinking that the -- anybody that has a legal barn in their backyard is going to be taxed on that space. That's covered space. You get taxed on that on your property taxes. And if your site plan says that you need to have 110 square feet, which is what Brookhaven tells you you need per horse, so that's what I copied in my site plan, 110 square feet per horse,

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2 and you have ten horses, you're getting
3 taxed more than the four horse. So
4 already -- instead of paying a fee,
5 you're already paying for the more
6 horses -- the additional horses anyway
7 through the building that you have to
8 provide for the horse.

9 MS. SPEIZIO: That was what I meant
10 before by the increase infrastructure is
11 going to increase the property value and
12 increase the taxes. So there are
13 additional fees already. And just the
14 fee associated with putting in a legal
15 barn, I did it. It's a lot. Hundreds.

16 MS. PLYMPTON: I bet.

17 MS. SPEIZIO: And that's if they
18 approve you the first time.

19 MR. CALARCO: Do we have any other
20 challenges or suggestions regarding
21 Janet's proposal here?

22 DR. FLYNN: Janet, I -- I
23 understand what you're saying about
24 that. What I was looking to do was to
25 take some of these people that are in

1 Equestrian Task Force 5/26/10 85
2 the underground economy, put a tag on
3 their saddle, and now they're legal.
4 And I know that everybody pays and
5 thinks, God, I made a mistake of fixing
6 my front doors, and by the time I was
7 done, it cost \$80,000. I know that I'm
8 paying taxes on it, but it -- but it --
9 I'm just offering a different way so
10 that some of these people can come out
11 from the underground, and so that your
12 neighbor that's got three horses in the
13 backyard, two of which are being boarded
14 illegally, can come up -- and I know
15 they're paying taxes on it, for the most
16 part, but can come up and be part of --

17 MS. PLYMPTON: I'm not addressing
18 those people. I'm addressing business
19 barns. I'm not addressing recreational
20 barns --

21 DR. FLYNN: Yeah. I think --
22 excuse me.

23 I think, you know, you're right --

24 MS. PLYMPTON: I'm trying not to
25 address --

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DR. FLYNN: -- but I think we need to have --

MS. PLYMPTON: -- that.

MR. CALARCO: But we're doing separate --

MS. SPEIZIO: Two separate --

MR. CALARCO: -- stages. We have a recreational and a professional. And we're actually trying to avoid the commercial versus residential, because we are recognizing that many farms and professional farming operations, whether you're talking equestrian farms or, you know, a potato farm, oftentimes will coincide and be on what is zoned residential property. So we're trying to set up the standard based on commercial and -- based on recreational and professional so that you have those recreational property owners who have just a couple of horses in their backyard, and the professional property owner who's taking -- making it part of their regular day-to-day business, that

1 Equestrian Task Force 5/26/10 87
2 they're running a -- a -- a farm
3 operation as opposed to someone who's
4 just keeping, you know -- you know, no
5 different than if you have cars or
6 anything else that may be your hobby,
7 your hobby is having horses, and so
8 you're going to allow them to have a
9 certain number of horses on their
10 property. And, potentially, even have
11 like an extra horse that they are, you
12 know, maybe boarding for a friend or
13 something, so that they can generate a
14 little extra revenue.

15 Probably, you know, daycare is --
16 is some of that. You can have, you
17 know, a certain amount of children that
18 you watch in your own private home
19 before you start breaking thresholds of
20 becoming a -- a large scale daycare
21 business.

22 MS. PLYMPTON: Selling cars is
23 another thing.

24 MR. CALARCO: Yes.

25 MS. PLYMPTON: You can sell a car

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or two, but all of a sudden, you sell four or five, and now you're a dealer.

MR. CALARCO: Uh-huh. So we're just trying to create a designation of the difference, and what it is that you would have to do in order to operate.

MR. ANNUNZIADA: Did anyone ever suggest getting, let's say, a Town of Brookhaven Building Department representative, or Town of -- or Islip --

MR. CALARCO: Well, we do have -- a couple of our task force members -- one of our task force members, Gigi Asher, she's not here today, she was here last week with us when we were putting -- working on some of this. She works for the Town of Huntington, and she is -- her actual designation on the task force comes from the Suffolk County Supervisor's Association. So the task force did put on people who were specific to town and villages so that we could have their input on this.

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2 And, also, Pam Green who sits on --
3 from real estate, and is -- is in the
4 place where our Department of Vendor --
5 Environment appointee, she spent many,
6 many years in the Town of Islip as a --
7 as a councilwoman, and so she has quite
8 a bit of experience and knowledge of
9 zoning and --

10 MR. ANNUNZIADA: Well, some
11 representative who could sit here and
12 maybe answer some of these questions or
13 give us an idea. Are we knocking our
14 heads against the wall here? I mean,
15 could this ever work?

16 MR. CALARCO: Well, I think from --

17 MS. SPEIZIO: I think it would --

18 MR. CALARCO: -- from Gigi and Pam,
19 that they both kind of indicated, I
20 think, that we may have some validity to
21 what we're doing.

22 MS. SPEIZIO: Would it be possible
23 maybe then we could contact the town
24 planning department and ask them, if
25 someone was going to say to you, we want

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to make an application for a barn, and
get the paperwork that's required to
file; maybe that might give us an
idea --

MS. WAGONER: What's already there?

MS. SPEIZIO: -- of what's expected
for each town.

MR. CALARCO: That's a good idea.

Do you think that planning might be
able to get that for us, Jessica?

MS. KALMBACHER: Sure. I can work
on that.

MS. SPEIZIO: Because if we saw the
applications and the requirements for
each town, that might help.

MR. CALARCO: Okay.

MS. GALOPPI: I just -- I can't
believe that there -- you know, you can
have someone like you just explained or
that many horses and -- and we can show
up on a site, and -- and I've been in
situations where people have had tarps
over their driveway with a horse
standing in the middle of it. That's --

1 Equestrian Task Force 5/26/10 91
2 you know, that's okay, but they'll
3 close -- you know, it just -- it doesn't
4 make any sense.

5 MS. SPEIZIO: But she was -- the
6 reason the horses were removed was
7 because her head count was too high.
8 That's -- but that's what we're
9 fighting.

10 MS. GALOPPI: Right.

11 MS. SPEIZIO: If someone is going
12 to provide and -- go the extra mile and
13 provide all the amenities, all -- keep
14 it clean, the manure is removed,
15 composted, then they should be allowed
16 to have additional horses on their
17 property to offset their recreational
18 expenses.

19 If it's a professional barn like
20 Janet is running, her place is going to
21 be over and above Allison's, and in --
22 it's a business for her. So her head
23 count should be able to increase.

24 And, you know, the difference with
25 a recreational horse, as my -- my one

1 Equestrian Task Force 5/26/10 92
2 guy, he -- he sits for weeks, so he
3 needs a little bit more space to move
4 around. You know yourself, you put a
5 baby out there, they need a little bit
6 more space. But a professional who has
7 people coming in or trainers who are
8 riding the horses daily, they can stand
9 in a ten by ten stall the rest of the
10 time because they're exhausted and they
11 don't want to go out any more.

12 So we're trying to show the
13 differences of the horse keeping, and
14 what one might need is not
15 necessarily -- would meet the needs of,
16 you know, someone else.

17 MS. GALOPPI: Right.

18 MS. SPEIZIO: That's what we're
19 trying to balance.

20 Instead of just having that, okay,
21 one horse per acre, it doesn't matter
22 what you do with it, but you have enough
23 property for that one horse. It's not
24 reasonable.

25 MS. GALOPPI: Right.

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MR. TRAPANI: (Indicating)

MR. CALARCO: Jerry.

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah. I just wanted to add, I've worked this up, that's why I came to the last meeting. I came, too, because there was that perception that -- in the Town of Islip, we're allowed four per acre. So we still want to be very protective about that, and make sure that we're -- those of us that live in Islip are not going to run into a situation like Woodlot; that if there's anything countywide, that the Town of Islip doesn't decide to change their zoning. Because it's been working very well there, and we don't want to change it.

MR. CALARCO: And you have four per acre?

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah. We're allowed four per acre in the Town of Islip.

ROBERT CALARCO: We --

MR. TRAPANI: It's the most generous on the Island, and we don't

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want to change that.

MR. CALARCO: Yeah. We aren't looking to have a countywide zoning. Partly, because it's not going to happen. By state law, the towns and villages have zoning -- and it's their responsibility. The county would not be able to take that over, nor would the county want to take that over.

What we're trying to do is offer some recommendations to ease the zoning standards in some town that -- you know, just do the simple one per acre.

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah, no, some towns are worse and -- and others are more generous. And -- but that's the -- any -- that's all the feedback I keep hearing from Islip residents, that they're afraid that if the Town of Islip -- we -- we have to pay \$100 for a permit per horse, and it's every three years.

MR. CALARCO: So it's like what Dr. Flynn was talking about.

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2 MR. TRAPANI: And whether it's your
3 horse or a border's horse, if you've got
4 four horses on your property, you have
5 to pay \$400 every three years. And then
6 it's renewable. And we don't know where
7 that money goes, what it's used for, or
8 whatever, but that's the fee that you
9 have to pay to keep a horse in the Town
10 of Islip, and we don't want to --

11 MR. CALARCO: And you've had four
12 per acre no matter how many acres? Is
13 there a limit to how many --

14 MR. TRAPANI: No, there's only --
15 if you've got five acres, you can have
16 20 horses.

17 MR. CALARCO: Okay.

18 MR. TRAPANI: There are certain
19 setbacks; you can't have any horse
20 corrals or -- or paddocks in front of
21 the house.

22 One of my neighbors had a problem.
23 She applied for a -- to put an extension
24 on the house. And the house backed up
25 Connetquot River Park; it was the old

1 Kemelman's (phonetic) house. And
2 there's been horses at that property
3 for 75 years, but the house is all the
4 way back at the back of the property.
5 When the town first came up with zoning,
6 everything had COs, and this and that,
7 but the barn, the paddock, the riding
8 ring are all in front of the residence.
9 All of a sudden, when they applied for
10 the permit to -- you know, to expand the
11 house, they said, Oh, you're totally
12 illegal. You've got to get rid of all
13 of these horses. And, you know, we
14 got -- I happened to know the people who
15 owned the house before Gil Bergen; we
16 got a lot of documentation that horses
17 had been there since before zoning and
18 they were able to keep them.

19
20 But, you know, we don't want a
21 situation like that to happen where a
22 town gets wind, Oh, we didn't realize
23 that, you know, Smithtown allows one
24 horse per acre, why don't we change our
25 zoning to that. We want to stay away

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from that.

MR. CALARCO: Sure.

DR. FLYNN: Jerry, have you had any problems with the town and the horse people over there?

MR. TRAPANI: Well, occasionally, like -- just like any town where --

DR. FLYNN: No, no, no. Not like any town. I mean, in Brookhaven, we have problems, but, I mean --

MR. TRAPANI: In general, I'd say no.

DR. FLYNN: Because I never hear anything coming out of Islip, you know, as far as --

MR. TRAPANI: I think -- I don't know about the current town board, but, historically, I remember when the zoning was first put together --

When I moved to the Town of Islip about 30 years ago, there was a fellow named Blackie Henderson who was a longtime horseman, and he was instrumental in creating the zoning.

1 Equestrian Task Force 5/26/10 98
2 And I think that's why it ended up being
3 what it was, because he was a horseman.
4 And he worked for the town, he was the
5 building -- he had something to do with
6 the building department, and planning
7 and all of that, and he was the one that
8 actually wrote the zoning and
9 recommended to the town. And
10 historically there's been -- Islip has
11 been horse friendly.

12 The new regime in the town seems
13 to -- I've been hearing more and more
14 complaints about the people -- you know,
15 they're coming down and looking for the
16 permits. And now, with Google Earth and
17 stuff like that, they can, you know, see
18 how many horses you have without sending
19 a helicopter over anymore and all of
20 that, and they've actually come and
21 knocked on the door and said, You've got
22 four horses here and you're only paying
23 a permit for one, and put their hand
24 out.

25 DR. FLYNN: Yeah, but you pay your

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permit, and it's case closed.

MR. TRAPANI: Right.

DR. FLYNN: See, what -- what she's talking about over there on Woodlot is terrible. Just terrible. I mean, they wiped out the whole block.

MR. TRAPANI: Yeah. See, I never even heard about that.

MR. CALARCO: Well, I think we all have some tasks to do between now and the next meeting, I think maybe, and so we will -- I think we'll adjourn for today, and reconvene possibly -- I guess we'll shoot for the last Wednesday of next month?

Does that work for everyone?

DR. FLYNN: The same place?

MR. CALARCO: Do we want to stay at the same place? Do we want to travel further east? We've been moving east as we've gone along.

MS. KALMBACHER: That's not exactly true, we have gone back to Hauppauge.

MR. CALARCO: We did go back to

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Hauppauge for a while.

So we'll be looking at June 30th. That's the last Wednesday of June. And, for now, let's just say that we'll try to stay here, unless that doesn't work out. And I'll send out a confirmation e-mails to everyone.

DR. FLYNN: I hope it works. I hope it does.

MR. CALARCO: We're making some headway, I think.

(Time noted: 4:56 p.m.)

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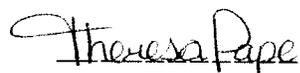
C E R T I F I C A T E

I, THERESA PAPE, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New York, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing is a true and accurate transcription of the stenographic notes taken herein.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage; and that 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 May 2010.

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THERESA PAPE