ORIGINAL

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VANDERBILT MUSEUM/SCCC TASK FORCE

180 Little Neck Road

Centerport, New York

December 10, 2009

10:30 a.m.

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

WAYNE HORSLEY

NOEL GISH

CAROL GHIORSI HART

JAMES B. WHITTEN

NEIL ZOOMB

BILL SHILLING

JP DIMARTINO

MR. GISH: Bill, do you want to start?

MR. SCHILLING: My name is Bill Schilling and I'm representing Bill Lindsey, the Proceeding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature.

MR. HORSLEY: Wayne Horsley, County Legislature. I chair the Energy, Higher Education and Economic Development.

MR. DIMARTINO: JP DiMartino, Internal Legislature Lindsey.

MR. GISH: Noel Gish, President of the Board of Trustees for the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum.

MS. HART: Carol Ghiorsi Hart, Executive Director of the Vanderbilt Museum.

MR. WHITTEN: Jim Whitten, Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development from Suffolk County Community College.

MR. ZOOMB: Neil Zoomb, representing the County Executive's office.

MR. HORSLEY: Great. Why don't we, I'll just say, welcome and then introduction of task force member, we've done that. We've done a good job of that.

When this was originally contemplated this

look see about what synergies there are between the museum and Suffolk Community College, I think the Vanderbilt was in a different spot in their story. They're certainly, as everybody knows here around the table that the Vanderbilt has had financial difficulties and the County's going through financial difficulties as well. With responding to how do we afford the Vanderbilt with their financial issues, while we've got our own. So that was what we were confronted with going back, was it last year already?

MS. HART: It's almost exactly a year ago that things --

MR. HORSLEY: Boy, that went fast. The problem being is and I'm sure that Noel will go over this that the finances of the Vanderbilt took a dive with the stockmarket and the endowment. Of course, the County is facing the recession. So we thought, well, maybe we should, we're looking, for the County we were looking at Plan C at the time and maybe you guys don't know about but basically the relationship between the County Legislature, the County and the college. We have since split many issues with us, though

we are still their sponsor, they are, we approve their budget but we approve it in mass. We don't have, there's a whole lot of other technicalities that go along with that as being divided.

So we, at that point, were thinking, well, maybe there's possibilities of the community college would be interested in taking on the responsibilities of the museum and the like. Well, since that has happened and a lot has happened over the last year. One is that we see the stock market is coming back to some level. We are seeing that the hotel/motel tax was approved, which moneys will be, which will go to the museum. They are one of the major recipients of the hotel/motel tax when that gets generated. Certainly there have been changes in the Board, the Vanderbilt and we're looking for great revenues and we've got a plan in place, so things have changed.

That all being said, there seems to be that there could be synergies between the college and the Vanderbilt. Classes, the possible, you know, of different coursework that may be different that's not offered at Suffolk Community College

that could be maybe held here at the Vanderbilt. The Vanderbilt would receive revenues, I would imagine this would be the case, would receive revenues from the college being an organization that will be here and have classes here. I think that we'd be looking at the fact that the community college now is brimming at the seams. We've never had the number of students in the history of Suffolk Community College as we have right now. That issue has come up within the last year that wasn't there last year. We're record attendance at the college.

So all that being said, here we are. The game has changed but maybe there is something that should be discussed here. I'm not sure how we get there. I haven't gotten, I don't have a little man playing in my head on how we handle this but I thought maybe we should still meet, still discuss it because I think there may be some good things that could come out of it for both the college as well as the Vanderbilt. How's that? Is that good? Down the road?

MR. GISH: I'd just like to ask the question whether Jim knows of any discussions at the

college level that may have taken place concerning the possibility of a merger or anything that transpired that you can reveal to us that's on the record?

MR. WHITTEN: Sure. What we have discussed at this point is that we definitely want to persistently support the museum as much as we can. I think the College's initiative is that we believe it's a viable entity for our community, especially for the educational purposes that we serve, the history. We certainly believe in what you're doing here in your mission.

We are not museum people. We're educators but at the same time, the message is that we definitely want to be a partner or participant or whatever we can do to support that.

As far as an overall plan or scope of work, we really haven't worked that far through. We haven't done that yet because we wanted to have this meeting first to kind of have the discovery process to see really what the issues were because a lot of what Wayne just said, a lot has changed over the last year. A lot has changed for us too. Its been a crazy year to be quite

frank.

The position of the college at this point is whatever we can do to work with you to be an active partner for you and support the mission of the museum and I think that's the point we should start from.

MR. HORSLEY: That makes sense.

MR. GISH: That's pretty much what our discussions have been. I honestly did not see the possibility, at least at this time, for Suffolk Community College to just come in and take the entire Vanderbilt complex and make it part of the extension with the Riverhead Campus, Ammerman Campus, obviously in Brentwood, you're spread out as it is, how would we fit in.

Again, I looked at the schedule. I didn't know whether you have museum or cutorial (sic) or classes that are being taught at the university level but Carol and I bat around the idea that maybe that would be a good way to marry the two together, even if lightly that we put together some courses where you might have students that would come over here as interns but we thought the possibility was that we could have some

courses that would, in an ambulatory way, serve Suffolk Community College.

We also explored the possibility of possibly bringing graduate courses from Stony Brook University dealing with astronomy into the Planetarium. We'd like to try to make this, again, a marriage between educational facilities. You saw when you came in the big, yellow buses that were at the top of the hill. We do a very, very good job with elementary school students. We have a large group in from Franklin Square in Nassau County. Tomorrow we have a large group coming in from Shelter Island. We service from one end of the county to Nassau County as well.

We perform a function obviously dealing with the Mummy program and with sort of world history because you're looking at what he gathered here. And we'll gladly look at the possibilities of working with courses. And we have people on staff who have taught on the college level. Carol has, I think Stephanie has the ability to do so if she chose to or at least be able to do some lecturing on archival. She's the chief of archival work. So we might be able to add that

to maybe some of the array courses that could be done.

We might be able to find a way here to provide some education space. We do have some classrooms in the Planetarium. Not much room, believe it or not, in the mansion. This is still pretty much a destination for Suffolk County residences. I mean it's a classical piece of architecture. It's just doesn't exist anywhere else, at least in a decorated state. It's not a mansion that's been abandoned. If you go to Oheka Castle, that was sort of left and they sort of brought everything in in the private sense. If you go to the Guggenheim, the Guggenheim was sort of left and you can go in and see some rooms that are there. This is really one that was put together by Vanderbilt and his collections are here and everything's here and this is really an A-typical situation for Long Island. But we would, again, gladly like to look at possibilities of classes that might take a look at his collections from either archaeological collections, which are great. We have passenger pigeons that are extinct, we could deal with that

and we have a ton of, so any courses. And again, dealing with a two-year college, we would have to work on putting those together and then getting staff.

MR. WHITTEN: We do have some astronomy courses.

MR. GISH: Right. We have one here so. It's a distinct possibility that coordination could be developed.

MR. WHITTEN: The other option we discussed was the possibility of actually holding college courses here in the space when it was not interfering with regular scheduled museum activities.

One of the issues for us is it would be a great opportunity for the college to be able to expand and move its services on the North Shore because we really don't have a lot here. This would give us that opportunity to have a presence here, maybe reach a different audience. It may be that we live in a more cultural aspect but whether some of the bread and butter course that we offer that people might like to take here that we could offer here so they don't have to travel

to Brentwood or whatever. So that's another option as well.

We don't want to interfere with your operation. We want to be able to be supportive and lend to the atmosphere and property.

MR. GISH: That's something we might be able to look at. We do have some work that's going to be done in the Planetarium when we move into the star projector phase. Right now we have a GOTO projector that's in there not but that's one of the possibilities for us. There's a Zeiss projector, there's a GOTO projector, which we could go to to upgrade. The one we have is now 40 years old.

MR. HORSLEY: You are upgrading it, right?

MR. GISH: We are upgrading it.

MR. HORSLEY: Did we allocate the money for that?

MS. HART: Yes.

MR. GISH: We had the consultant go through, that was done in July.

MS. HART: A year ago.

MR. GISH: A year ago and it is now sitting in the County Exec's office.

MS. HART: County Attorney's office.

MR. GISH: County Attorney's office. The attorney for the County Exec's office has got it and we need some signatures there to move on. We still haven't put out the RFP on it yet.

MR. ZOOMB: Who is the attorney assigned to it?

MS. HART: Bob Basha.

MR. SHILLING: How long has it been in the County Attorney's office?

MS. HART: Its only been there about three weeks.

MR. GISH: I'll go back. We had, I believe our consultant was entered in July and we finished with that in August and we --

MS. HART: The RFP was essentially through all the levels, purchasing and whatever, everything has taken about five times longer than --

MR. ZOOMB: The County Attorney's office isn't working on the RFP?

MS. HART: They're reviewing it.

MR. GISH: There has not been, I have set up a schedule to be very honest with you that was

very aggressive and Karen, Cathy --

MR. ZOOMB: Coppinghimer?

MS. HART: Yes.

MR. GISH: Yes. Said that my schedule was aggressive but I tried to, at least in July to establish a schedule in which we would get that done very, very quickly and then move to possibly have it on site by June, July, August, which would be the downtime for school groups, with the hope of the potential opening in October of 2010. That was my hope at that stage of the game because we needed some time to get the RFP out, get responses from GOTO and Zeiss and few of the others working around and then to move on it.

MR. HORSLEY: GOTO is a company?

MS. HART: GOTO is the manufacturer.

MR. HORSLEY: Like --

MS. HART: Well, in the County that's what's happened so the star projector was made by GOTO and just get on the record because all the companies will be reading this, it's going to be an open RFP. It could be that GOTO gets the job or it could Zeiss or could be --

MR. HORSLEY: I just --

MS. HART: Or it could be Megastar.

MR. ZOOMB: What's the current schedule then? I guess its changed from opening in October?

MS. HART: Yes.

MR. GISH: There's no way. Most people are giving me a year, the projection of the projector. At one particular point, there was a star projector that was sitting and I thought I could get it. It was supposed to go to Boston. I felt if we moved quickly, we would be able to locate that star projector and implement some changes because the dome size was fairy consistent to the place it was going to go in Boston but Boston has since come up with the money, so that star projector is gone. So It would take approximately nine months to a year.

MS. HART: 12 months to manufacture.

MR. GISH: To manufacture. It's not an --

MR. ZOOMB: They custom build?

MR. GISH: Yes, for the dome, depending on the size of the dome you have. But once that's in place and since we're going to be refitting that, to get back to the original question,

classrooms can be adapted in that Planetarium that might suit college level --

MS. HART: We have a number of classroom spaces. During the day, we max out some days.

MR. WHITTEN: What are the sizes of the classrooms?

MS. HART: They're not larger than probably 36 absolute.

MR. WHITTEN: That's perfect. 35 is --

MR. HORSLEY: Not like Farmingdale where there's 45 kids in the classroom.

MR. ZOOMB: So we're looking two years? With RFP and construction, we're looking at two years out?

MR. GISH: To be very honest, not to play any games that is where I'm considering. I'm considering next October, not October 2010 but 2011 with the same downtime. I'd still like to avoid not having it closed during the winter time. Number one, we're --

MR. WHITTEN: All the school problems.

MR. GISH: I'm trying to maximize the number of kids that will come in because that for us is revenue generation and that's my thinking. I'm

trying to be closed in those summer months. Number one, when construction would be easier and then to be open as soon as the school groups begin.

MS. HART: That's not happening imminently but we do have some during a day like today where we're very busy with the elementary school kids, middle school kids. In evening, however, we rarely use the space so evening classes would be perfect. We have at least six wonderful spaces.

(Whereupon, all parties began speaking at once.)

MR. HORSLEY: I think that this relationship --

MR. WHITTEN: -- great possibility.

MR. HORSLEY: Once this place gets much busier.

MS. HART: I would love to --

MR. HORSLEY: Once you draw people here, they come back and there's all sorts of --

MR. GISH: One of the things we've done just recently, this was really Carol's proposal, is that one of the cottages that we have on the property that is not used is now going to be

offered in the evening for crafts. It would not be in the college end but we're moving to better utilize the facilities during evening hours with adult classes in painting and watercolor and also framing store and possibly an additional gift shop that we'll open.

MR. HORSLEY: Does the college have an arts, what's the arts' program look like at the college? Do they have a continuing ed?

MR. WHITTEN: No. We have an arts program. We have a very strong theater program as well, theater arts.

MR. HORSLEY: That's what I thought.

MS. HART: There's a number of different synergies. One would be the straight out classes. I taught at Farmingdale University, I've taught anthropology. There's a couple of anthropology course that I've taught here, intro to five field course, where I could make such good use of the artifacts and facilities.

MR. WHITTEN: Great lab here.

MS. HART: Yes. In the archeology, cultural, so I would love to, when I thought over there, I haven't taught since I came back here

but I would bring a class over for one day to have the facility to use in addition to just the space. Certainly for anthropology and then those courses over there were popular because they filled a cultural distribution and things like that. We can use the Planetarium. Again, we could magistrate astronomy but astronomy, we could get our cultural distribution as well as your science distribution or archaeoastronomy combining some of my background with the science, so we could do some really unique things here.

MR. WHITTEN: My question for you was around green and environmental. Anything that is green-related is a hot topic. You have this beautiful coastline here. Anything green, ecology, environmental that we would relate to would be a great opportunity for us to use this living land.

MR. GISH: I have a seaplane hanger I want to show you.

MR. WHITTEN: I've been here three times and I came here twice on my own.

MR. GISH: I still believe that's a possibility.

MR. HORSLEY: If we look outside of the box here, having the college involved down the road, their capital programs could be included into yours. So not necessarily this is the Vanderbilt having to pay for it, the upgrades or the use because right now that's a pipe dream. But for the college down the road --

MR. WHITTEN: We have space issues. Quite frankly, we're busting at the seams. If we have places where we could hold classes that would alleviate some of infrastructure we have on our regular campus. It's a win for --

MR. HORSLEY: That was my point.

MS. HART: The Boathouse area, which is currently a closed building because it has some structural issues, the money was appropriated but has yet to be bonded. But Cornell was in there for a while doing research, as well as programing and that would certainly be a space, we've had those collaborations before, where to do environmental classes, programs and possibly research and also even --

MR. HORSLEY: We're dealing with the County and the County.

MR. GISH: I think the Boathouse failed in its ultimate aim of servicing Cornell but I think the seaplane hanger because of its ability to get to the water with additional things would be much, much better. The Boathouse, I'm just concerned about from a historical point of view, really probably couldn't take a lot of people at any one time.

MS. HART: For classes, it would work for small classes.

MR. GISH: It would work fine but if you're dragging in specimens from the water, it's a wooden structure and I think that's where we had the problem initially. We tried to just revitalized it because it took a beating when Cornell was in it using it in the marine. There was leaks and things like that they were doing. The seaplane hanger with a bunch of our programs --

MR. HORSLEY: You really want that seaplane hanger.

MR. GISH: I have a restaurant, there's a dinosaur exhibit I'd like too, there's a whole --

MR. WHITTEN: Can we start a culinary

problem up here?

MR. GISH: You ready for this? I am not opposed to that. I am absolutely not opposed to that.

MR. WHITTEN: The only reason I say that is our culinary program in Riverhead is completely over enrolled.

MR. GISH: I've gone to the one in Riverhead and I'm not opposed to looking at that as an option.

MR. HORSLEY: Think about the culinary experience being used to cater here.

MR. WHITTEN: As a hospitality place.

MR. HORSLEY: The place that's a hospitality place.

MR. WHITTEN: Down the road, I'm thinking down the road if there was an opportunity to have a culinary branch here that was maybe smaller and focused on hospitality and catering.

MR. GISH: I'll be honest with you, what would be neat about that is the fact that it would be separate and distinct from the museum. In other words, the museum would still operate as an educational institution with the tours and the

Mummy program and the Planetarium. Because the seaplane hanger is off on a separate element down near the water that's where that distinction would be. You wouldn't be getting involved with cars coming down and problems with the little kids coming across the section.

We've looked at every possibility for that facility and catering was one of the ones that I've walked through, I'm not going to mention names because they'll come back and haunt me but everybody who is available in catering, even from the City, Tavern on the Green all the way but I walked them all through, between nine and ten individuals to look at that and that was my goal to put dinosaurs on the second floor and make it a destination place where you could come to. So school is not completely out of the question for that because I would still like to preserve that building.

It's still the only private seaplane hanger on the East Coast that's still standing. People have their own seaplane hangers, this just happens to be one of them. It would still be a great place to reserve it and I'll work any way

to Monday if we could possibly find a way to use that.

MR. HORSLEY: Maybe what we should be looking at are two different effects. On the college side, what coursework or what would make sense, opportunity for you. And then on the other side, what square footage is available that could be used for classrooms so that at some point we could talk together and say, well, this wouldn't work for this, it wouldn't work for this, do this by 2011, that kind of stuff and then revenues could flow. We can work out those details later.

MR. GISH: Maybe what we should do is sit down and make sure Jim has an idea of what sites are here and what would accommodate what number of students, like the garage.

MR. WHITTEN: If there was a space, make sure it's all ready, we have this room, the capacity is 35.

MR. GISH: We could get you that.

MR. WHITTEN: We also need to know what type of equipment is available. Do you have smart carts that roll in?

MS. HART: No.

MR. WHITTEN: These are the things we would have to look at. What could we do to offer the classrooms, we're looking at expansion of classrooms, what do we need to do to make them similar to every other classroom. So we know that because we do it every day. We can help transform those on that level. We don't want to move them from campus to campus. We'd rather be stationary here.

MR. GISH: For that particular class?

MR. WHITTEN: You use it as best as you can.

MR. HORSLEY: Would you say, Jim, would this be a contract between the two parties?

MR. WHITTEN: Yes. We'd develop a contract, an MOU or something where we send you, we offer this many courses and if there's a shared revenue piece, how would that work. If we're a vendor here, we can rent this space from you and we hold classes. You tell us what it costs to rent that space. We'll try to figure a way to build it into our pricing model so it's, you know, we do pay for it on our campus and heating costs, things of that nature. And then look at other

areas. If you needed equipment for classrooms and we had additional equipment that may help. I think we have to look at --

MR. GISH: Yes.

MR. WHITTEN: It's nothing like we've done before.

MR. GISH: We're still in the early, preliminary stages of this but I would like to explore all the possibilities where these might be met for both. We're an educational institution. Our mission is education first.

MR. HORSLEY: Right. And I like it. I'm sure Neil feels the same way. This is the County with the County. In other words, this should be a cooperative. You're not bringing in Cornell. If you don't like what Cornell did, you have an argument between two different types of organizations. We are, I can't say we're one anymore but we're sponsoring, the County is a sponsor of the county college as you were to the --

MR. GISH: Right. If you know there's a potential for expanding the culinary element, then that becomes a moment of discussion. When

all of a sudden marine science becomes a possibility for Suffolk Community College, you can say, well, why don't we talk to the Vanderbilt about it. That's where that marriage might take place.

MR. WHITTEN: We currently have 18 courses that are standalone courses that we're putting together for a degree in environmental, forestry and marine. And it's related to the energy as well. These simple courses that we could offer in standalone classrooms, we could launch that up here.

MR. HORSLEY: How many students would be in a class?

MR. WHITTEN: In that class, it could probably be 20 to make it run. But we could look at opportunities. Right now we're currently trying to operate that in Riverhead and also in partnership with Stony Brook South Hampton Campus. I just can't help think who wouldn't want to come and take a class here.

MR. HORSLEY: Absolutely.

MS. HART: Yes.

MR. WHITTEN: You might not get a lot done

but you still have a great view.

MR. GISH: There are campuses that attract students purely because of the way the campus --

MR. WHITTEN: The campus I worked at was basically on a panicula in the water and there was all historic buildings. So we had a similar to this. This is beautiful and that was ran as a bed and breakfast and we had a culinary program there. We had a lodging/restaurant program and we had a catering program. But it was a functioning class, students ran it. The faculty were the managers and it paid for itself.

MR. GISH: There is a history behind this. CW Post, before it became a college, before it was a cereal, it was actually a person. CW Post College made that transformation from the State to an educational facility. I don't think we'd go to that degree but that's a possibility. Dowling was Eisenhower. Eisenhower was a Vanderbilt.

MR. HORSLEY: Stony Brook University was Planting Field Arboretum.

MR. WHITTEN: I didn't know that.

MR. GISH: That's what it was in Nassau

County before it moved I think in '63, I think it was for the opening and then it moved to Stony Brook with the Melville donation of the property. I believe it was around '65, somewhere around there when the dinosaurs roamed the earth. But '65 is when Stony Brook picked it up but that again was part of that facility. So there already has been some marriages between Gold Coast estates and educational facilities. Even though we are a museum, that's our primary goal here. I think the possibility exists for us to do other things. Again, we're looking at those. We have done that in the past. We have the meetings of the Long Island Astronomy Club, they meet here and they use the Planetarium and telescope already. So we'd be more than willing to try.

MR. WHITTEN: One of the things I just want to bring up as a point of reference, one of the areas I oversee is our event center. On the Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood we have a field hose that we use as an event center. We run trade shows, events, work seminars, everything goes through there. So we have a

staff that does this on a regular basis. We can take that skill set though and if we wanted to assist you, I know you run events here any way.

MR. GISH: When our tent is up.

MR. WHITTEN: Right. But there maybe some synergy with that too in an opportunity because we have people coming to us all the time and sometimes we can't accommodate them. Maybe they should come here or vice versa. It's a way to take two community recourses and share the market of that and hope we can keep the revenue here.

MR. HORSLEY: That seaplane thing, though, I can see where your heart is.

MR. WHITTEN: I'm thinking seaplane hanger. Parasailing in summer. Get some jet skis out here.

MR. GISH: We had inroads from a number of schools, high schools that wanted to use the facility just to house their shells for rowing. We just couldn't do that at the present time and I would love to be able to take local high schools that are going to use the Northport Harbor for that to deal with that. Anything we can do to drag kids in and help them, whether

it's sport wise or education wise or field trip wise would be great, so I'm still looking at that.

MR. HORSLEY: Again, it's County with County. I'm sure that the County Residing Officer has strong feelings about creating a relationship as well as, you know, and I know the County Executive is always willing to do the right thing for money wise.

MR. GISH: This has been a County facility since 1950. I think they willed 1948.

MS. HART: '49 we were officially incorporated but it was around '49.

MR. GISH: The County has had this for a considerable amount of time, 60 years. The County put in the Planetarium in 1970. The County has invested a lot of time and a lot of energy in making this a designation and we have never failed that. We have had, yes, we do have a bad time now but the building is still standing. The garage is still there, great museum and kids still come through here. There are people, we should ask, who may have been here when they were a micro smidgin.

MS. HART: Both.

MR. GISH: We had asked people and they'll tell me they came here. You can usually tell their age based on was the Planetarium here. No, I just went in and saw the Mummy, there was no programs here. You'd be surprised how many children on Long Island have a memory of the Vanderbilt.

MR. SHILLING: I came through here in elementary school. I grew up in Huntington.

MR. ZOOMB: Children don't carry big wallets at this point.

MR. GISH: No, they don't.

MR. WHITTEN: How do we get them back as adults?

MS. HART: But they grow up.

MR. ZOOMB: It would be nice to get to the point where the museum is at a point where kids could come for free.

MR. GISH: I have suggested that.

MR. ZOOMB: Generate enough revenue so that it's open to all the schools to come for free.

MR. GISH: I would love to be able to do that. You know that the oversight committee made

us raise the fees just to come.

MR. ZOOMB: Well --

MR. GISH: What our wish list would be, change. That would always be my plan and Carol has always felt that that would be a key element on down the line to be able to make this as accessible as any institution. Your fees are going to be in the buses and your insurance getting here but we'd like to be able do it that way.

Whenever we try to establish a weekend, a free weekend or if some of the sponsors, we try to get them to sponsor a weekend or a week, which makes this place open to the public for free. We did that on Veteran's Appreciation Sunday. We tried that for the first time. Veterans and their families got in for free but that's tough because we still have to pay the staff. And Carol will tell me, nice idea, Gish. However, we still got to cover the cost and the bottom line is the County doesn't want to hear you're doing nice things. Maybe later on we can but right now.

MR. HORSLEY: In your calculations for

space, are we looking at the Normandy House as well?

MS. HART: We would look at that sure. We're already developing that for the faculty.

MR. HORSLEY: We're looking at the bill for the Normandy House. It was an eye opener for several reasons, how much.

MR. GISH: Maybe we can go back over there later.

MS. HART: One of the reasons we're not there now is that --

MR. HORSLEY: That's okay. I just wanted to --

MS. HART: I wanted to say we're looking at using the facility. We're not there right now because the gardeners are there right now. And they're master gardeners and they're working on a plan. They would like to put in a Victory garden over there. That would be, it would be historical because going back to the garden from World War I, World War II and other occasions. We are really mindful that if we don't use that area for our mission, beyond offices, if we do garden --

MR. HORSLEY: Education being part of the mission too. It seems to me that there's room for classrooms in there for some level.

MR. ZOOMB: I think it would be a prime location for a culinary kitchen.

MS. HART: There's room for smaller, for a smaller thing. And I think we have to look at some of the things you've mentioned. Clearly there's a lot of academic subjects that would fit in with us. But then there are also newer or other kinds of things, like culinary or tourism and heritage, there's a lot. Tourism is becoming a big --

MR. WHITTEN: What I thought when I walked in there, I went over there first, even though there was a big sign out there. I thought we had students here. So I went in there and I met the woman. I walked in and I thought, gees, this would be a fantastic place for, I run the corporate training center as well. We do a lot of corporate training for companies where we do a lot of training around leadership, team building, management, supervision, that would be a great place for a company to come for a day and do

training. If there was a small kitchen in there, you could have a small food service that may also benefit here or you could have stuff catered and brought in from outside. But that would be a great revenue steam because we don't have to set that based on the contract that we have with faculty with pricing. It's based on market value because we do it as a revenue stream because it's on credit training. That's an area that I was brought in to help grow. And that's what we're trying to do. That place right there.

MR. HORSLEY: What better place.

MR. GISH: Rather than the Grant Campus.

MR. WHITTEN: Why wouldn't you want to go there. You have an hour for lunch, go see the museum. You may have business leaders in here, there's so many opportunities to highlight. And that place, when I walked in there, the only issue was there's not a lot of the parking but they can park --

MR. HORSLEY: We can grow parking. Is that on the register?

MS. HART: Well, there's issues. There's always parking immediately across the street.

MR. GISH: It's a residential area. I believe initially when the County acquired that, correct me here, there were limits on the number of?

MS. HART: Of the records of timing, certain promises were made to the neighbors. I don't think it's in writing. We'd have to look into that.

MR. HORSLEY: You don't want to kick up heals.

MR. GISH: It will become an issue, even with our temporary tent, just running events. It does create a problem dealing with sound in the summertime, I'm not going to just quiet that down. That is an issue for us, just in the temporary fashion.

MS. HART: We are a residential area. We have to be mindful of our neighbors.

MR. ZOOMB: You're talking about internal, it's not like a party.

MS. HART: We've certainly looked into using the buildings for that kind of use but where the synergy could come in could clearly, I mean you could try to --

MR WHITTEN: We know we have the space, we can market it that to the businesses we work with. We come here, you tell us the price to rent, we charge that back to the business, we get them here, we generate revenue, we're training people at this area, which is very attractive. There's a lot of industry from 110 out. I mean, we'd rather come here than to go out to Brentwood.

MR. HORSLEY: I love that. I think that sounds great.

MR. WHITTEN: Who wouldn't want to take a class, sit in that class in that building than sit in one of our training rooms which are --

MS. HART: Yes. I think that would maybe be a really good place to start to even look at that. The one problem with the building that exists now is you can't fit more than 20 people, 15 people.

MR. WHITTEN: I wouldn't do more than 18 to 20.

MS. HART: Maybe we should go look at it more carefully.

MR. GISH: Initially we could just bring

offices to sort of coordinate getting everybody together because here everybody was sort of broken up.

MS. HART: The reason we're here today is unusual. We have the gardeners over at Normandy. The Lancaster Room that we often have meetings in, there are Mummy classes in there today. The Planetarium classes were being used. And this normally would have artifacts and be part of our Historic Mansion Tour but because we had our holiday dinner here last Saturday, we have another one this coming Saturday, we had cleared things out for the dinner, so we had the tables and chairs here. That's why we're here.

THE WHITTEN: That's good.

MR. GISH: I just want to make a point to Neil that we're not just having dinners here. This is for revenue.

MR. HORSLEY: I started out right from the beginning talking about how we made so many improvements over the year.

MR. ZOOMB: The business development is what I'm talking about.

MR. HORSLEY: Yes. I think that's a great

idea though. I think adds, the value adds to the museum itself. The corporate center and meetings, those are the kind of people who will come back with their wives or husbands.

MS. HART: It's wonderful. It's an idea we thought of but we don't have the means and background and experience to move forward.

MR. WHITTEN: You need to --

MR. HORSLEY: Then you have a partner in the County again.

MS. HART: I think that would be a great place to start and for another reason to show that Normandy can be income producing and have a good public function.

MR. HORSLEY: As a legislature, that makes --

MS. HART: There's great potential so maybe we should look, maybe focus on that.

MR. GISH: This was part of his property. That was his house and --

MR. WHITTEN: The caretakers --

MR. GISH: The caretakers got it.

MR. ZOOMB: They bought it separately?

MR. GISH: They bought it separately in

1993 --

MR. HORSLEY: So the restrictions on that are basically parking. It's not part of the parks --

MS. HART: I don't know what's official. We've been planning to do some research on that. It might be on Huntington, we don't know for sure all the restrictions. I know some of the agreements with neighbors but whether or not that, you know.

MR. WHITTEN: This would be daytime or early they can park here? I mean, as long as someone is here to great them and walk them across the street, they can park here.

MS. HART: It's only flat property really. It's three acres and it's flat and it's certainly to put up tents in the summertime for mild use, not for weddings or for music but for a corporate gathering.

MR. WHITTEN: Fundraising events.

MR. HORSLEY: Yes, absolutely. Foundations or something like that, as well as your foundation.

MS. HART: We put in a vegetable garden

actually this summer and they were hoping it would generate interest and money. It was supposed to, didn't quite work but now they're thinking let's think more educationally and they're putting in the Victory garden and the butterfly garden. We have been working, we have a number of capital projects that are, it doesn't have a CO right now but it's a capital project that we've been talking about is to get us to that point, handicapped bathrooms, handicapped accessibilities. That's in the works.

MR. HORSLEY: This is Huntington? It's not an incorporated area?

MS. HART: Here, no.

MR. WHITTEN: If we're doing something --

MR. HORSLEY: We've got friends.

MS. HART: We do have money appropriated so it's coming. So that's not too hard. We have another appropriation that is being worked on that will basically, once the last one comes through, the building will be sound in the next year or so. If we could push some of the projects forward, the moneys already there.

MR. WHITTEN: I think just from what we've

talked about today, there is a number of areas that we can start investigating in a collaborative efforts. Some are easier, low-hanging fruit pieces, others we need to investigate. But I don't see any reason why there aren't three or four areas that we can look at, maybe develop a plan of what we think might work, develop the MOU and go from there, realizing that what we're trying to do is maintain the validity of this institution here as the museum and educational facility, bringing in the college as an active partner to see areas we might be able to support you by revenue generation and additional exposure.

I think with courses that are business related that are, that we bring companies in, with training in a facility like that, the synergy that it creates is potential donor because you've got business people coming in and out, it's a captive audience. And maybe one of the caveats we have before each class starts, maybe give a five-minute overview of the museum and it gives you an opportunity to pitch the museum. What we used to do at the facility I ran

before, you got to talk about the whole culture of the environment you are in, people appreciate that a lot more than just showing up at some place, handing out the workbook and let's get to work. Plus the PR this could generate of two community entities.

MR. HORSLEY: Absolutely.

MR. WHITTEN: Two County entities that are trying to share resources.

MR. HORSLEY: Little shop people.

MR. GISH: I think this is a preliminary meeting. You and I will set up some dates where we could sort of go through and we'll examine this in a much --

MR. WHITTEN: Absolutely. I'm just going to throw something out there. I don't know if this is what you're looking for but I know you have a board of directors. I don't know if they have someone from the college be appointed as a board of director member to show that, I don't know if you want George Gatta to be on or something of that magnitude but it would be an opportunity to create that continued support. If you have someone from that level gets to see it, I'm just

saying, it might be a good opportunity.

MS. HART: Legislature appoints our board so we have to look at the code.

MR. HORSLEY: We've been filling slots lately.

MR. GISH: As I've been losing them.

MR. HORSLEY: That's not a bad idea.

MR. GISH: I don't know what the legal entanglements are but even if ex officio to somebody to have someone sit-in almost like this is going --

MR. HORSLEY: Like on oversight.

MR. GISH: If Suffolk Community wanted to come in and participate in the board of functions, I'm not opposed to that.

MR. WHITTEN: I think it would be a great opportunity to increase that communication.

MR. HORSLEY: Are we at that level of relationship?

MR. WHITTEN: I think that should happen anyway. Honestly, in my opinion, I think that should happen any way.

MR. HORSLEY: Picked by the trustees.

MR. WHITTEN: However you do it. I don't

want --

MS. HART: The Legislature actually picks the trustees.

MR. GISH: It's on odd relationship to the fact that we have a board of trustees and the Legislature chooses who's on the board of trustees, so I don't have that availability. The college chooses --

MR. WHITTEN: Right.

MR. HORSLEY: -- lost some recently so they're openings?

MR. GISH: Yes, there are openings. There are openings.

MR. WHITTEN: There may be key people on campus --

MS. HART: I don't think there's anything in the code. The code just requires that the person have either a background in education or philanthropy and not be an officer.

(Whereupon, all parties started speaking at once.)

MS. HART: Then you can't be an officer in a public party.

MR. GISH: I have no problem with that.

Right now we have with Lynn's resignation 13. We have 13 on the board at present, some more active than others but 13.

MS. HART: There's normally 15. All though, I think there should be more according to the code but we have openings with the 15.

MR. ZOOMB: I think we have talked about in the past about the people on the board being contributory. There are various ways to be contributory. You don't necessarily need to be contributory in a monetary way.

MR. WHITTEN: It doesn't have to be a voting member either, just someone that's --

MR. ZOOMB: I have talked in the past with Carol and all that. The people on the board generally, in my experience, are people that contribute in one way, shape or form. Monetary or some perspective. Having someone, say from your perspective that can forge a relationship and come up with ideas and drive ideas on the college side to help the university is a worthwhile organization.

MR. WHITTEN: Some of my, I'm on the President's Cabinet so I report to the President

regularly so I have his ear all the time and that's what we need to have in order to get things done. I've participated in your legislation meetings on every other Wednesday so there is no synergy but --

MR. GISH: Let's use this as the first meeting and we'll be in touch, we'll start that today. And you and I will meet and I'll report back to Neil and I'll report back to Wayne on how our progress progresses.

MR. HORSLEY: Once you have this meeting and you feel there is a relationship, I'll take care of board member issue.

MR. GISH: That's fine with me. I have no problem with that.

MR. SHILLING: Good, good.

MR. ZOOMB: We guys can get together, put some thoughts together and we can have another meeting and review where you guys think you're at.

MR. WHITTEN: We can put together a simple plan of what our goals are.

MR. HORSLEY: I think you guys should look at the square footage and stuff like that.

MR. GISH: That's what we'll do.

MS. HART: We multiuse like crazy here. Our classrooms are where we have birthday parties on the weekends. We do these --

MR. HORSLEY: I think you could upgrade your buildings and stuff like that. As you say, the smart classrooms and stuff like that so that the college will want it. I've been in the Carriage House. I remember the overhead projector or something, which I still use by the way when I teach.

MR. WHITTEN: Still have an overhead with the --

MR. HORSLEY: Yes.

MR. ZOOMB: Certainly support our capital projects.

MR. SHILLING: That's exactly what I was going to say.

MR. ZOOMB: Getting the roadway built to go down to the seaplane hanger would certainly be easier to get that capital project through if the seaplane hanger was going to be turned into something that --

MR. SHILLING: If you had buildings you

wanted to make smart classrooms, your relationship with the college, you have access to the --

MR. HORSLEY: It's a win/win for both parties.

MR. GISH: This facility, when you take a look in the County at the number of museums that are closed from the Long Island Museum to Stony Brook to the East End, Islip parks, this is one of the ones that you can really depend on, get your kids through without knowing they're going to be closed on an odd or even day. I think we've done a good job this year, especially in this --

MR. HORSLEY: I agree.

MR. GISH: To keep the buses coming through. Because a lot of the districts that still have field trips and that is the one thing we produced, a great education brochure that we produced this year. I dropped it off with you and got it out to every school in Nassau and Suffolk County. But when I met with the superintendents to try to urge them to come, the first thing we had to cut when the State made

their cuts was field trips. I'm being honest with you.

MR. HORSLEY: My wife is in education so I hear it every day.

MR. GISH: It's nothing we're doing here that's wrong, it's just the situation and the economy.

MR. WHITTEN: Learning costs, cost of travel and gas.

MR. GISH: We are getting a few people that would normally head into the City, they're making the right turn and coming to the North Shore, so that's a plus. Shelter Island is not going to the City. They'll be here tomorrow. It's funny, on the legislative end, I think a number of legislators feel that that's Huntington area, that's Centerport, that's where they are. But in reality, when you take a look at the kids that are coming here, like I said tomorrow form Shelter Island, from Franklin Square or from the Catholic schools that will come on their free days, we're open to lot of people in both counties.

MR. HORSLEY: I don't see the college any

way interfering with the kids. That's future students.

MR. GISH: Any time we can increase from elementary to middle and high school, we can include the college end. I'm a retired history teacher from happy Hauppauge High for 35 years. I taught on the college level at Suffolk Community College. I would like to enhance this institution's educational contacts.

MR. WHITTEN: Again, we don't want to interfere with the operation. We want to enhance it.

MR. GISH: We won't let you.

MR. WHITTEN: Good.

MR. GISH: I know the college doesn't want our ground groups problems. You don't want to have to deal with all the trimming and bushes.

MR. WHITTEN: Unless we have a landscaping program.

MS. HART: Yes.

MR. HORSLEY: Horticulture.

MR. GISH: I'm not apposed to any of those options, bringing people in to do it. Like I said, we're looking for interns. We would love

to be able to have a museum, courses in museum science or museum administration or fill in word you want.

MS. HART: Tourism.

MR. WHITTEN: We could put those in simply because they're special topics. We don't have to worry about going through SUNY and New York State Ed. With special topics, it goes through our original committee, guess the dominant and these are easy to offer. It's when we put together a whole program that it takes.

MR. GISH: This would just enhance the problem availability for the college. Things they couldn't do there, they might be able to do here.

MR. HORSLEY: There's nothing on the North Shore.

MR. DIMARTINO: I'd come here to take classes.

MR. GISH: There are a lot of possibilities even with the collections of arts that's here. I mean it is a Gold Coast mansion. It's F. Scott Fitzgerald's A Great Gatsby. It's a place, the literature of the time, it's distinctly possible.

MR. WHITTEN: I could see a lot of our English faculty wanting to --

MR. GISH: That's what I'm saying. A lot of times destination lectures. What do you do, you go to a park and read poetry. Let's go outside today, we'll sit under a tree and read Walt Whitman. There's a lot of little ones you could use here.

MR. HORSLEY: The poets of Long Island.

MR. SHILLING: Theater programs here.

MR. WHITTEN: We have a very strong --

MS. HART: Oh, I wanted to mention we have a living history program here where our weekends from May through Labor Day, we have performers that portray servants, they portray --

MR. WHITTEN: I was here this summer and they --

MR. GISH: They dressed up so this was a theater.

MS. HART: Museum theater is a whole other growing. We do museum theater in different ways but that's another way that --

MR. SHILLING: Have you had the Shakespeare festival?

MR. GISH: Shakespeare in the Courtyard.

MS. HART: Yes. Every summer we have Shakespeare in the Courtyard.

MR. GISH: The complete works.

MR. HORSLEY: How big is the parking here?

MS. HART: I think we fit 220 cars, something like that. And we probably could fit, if we cleaned things up --

MR. GISH: On Rotary nights, they can fill it with a few more but they will park outside along the fence line.

MS. HART: On our busy days, we park outside of the fence.

MR. GISH: The Rotary has a major fundraising function.

MR. HORSLEY: Huntington Rotary.

MR. GISH: This has been their site for their --

MS. HART: I think it's 1,200 people.

MR. GISH: That's their one major function that they run. That's when our tent is up and they put up an additional tent and so it is a major night. And they actually move people up by tram from the beach area.

MS. HART: They park at the beach. We can accommodate, I forget the exact number of spots we have.

MR. HORSLEY: We have enough parking for classes and things like that?

MS. HART: Yes. Generally, maybe six times a year we don't have enough parking and we park on the street, on car show days and when we're free we run out of parking, we park up and down but for the most part --

MR. WHITTEN: We would look at the utilization. You could tell us when is the best time.

MR. GISH: That's all, it's preliminary and we can work on that.

MR. WHITTEN: If we're looking at more traditional semester cases, the summer is our lightest semester any way.

MS. HART: During the fall is --

MR. WHITTEN: If it's an evening course, I don't think it's going to interfere with much.

MR. GISH: I would like to better utilize this in the evening.

MS. HART: We have the facilities we pay

for, everything we pay for.

MR. GISH: Security is here 24 hours a day, it has to be. So the availability of getting in for evening classes would still be there.

MR. WHITTEN: So the next step then would be for us to set up a meeting.

MR. GISH: We'll meet. I think we should, one, do a tour initially.

MR. WHITTEN: Sure.

MR. GISH: Maybe you and I and Carol can sneak down and anybody from the college who wants to come.

MR. WHITTEN: Yes.

MR. GISH: Or you and I can do it and then the head people if we think we need to have outside comments, we'll report back.

MR. WHITTEN: Why don't we sit down first and come up with a scope of having all the objectives answered prior to going --

MR. GISH: I think that's good, outline what we can do.

MS. HART: If we have time before you go, we could go over to Normandy House because that's one of things in our planning for next year.

MR. WHITTEN: I have to be in Riverhead. I got excused from jury duty this morning to be here.

MR. HORSLEY: What time do you have to be there?

MR. WHITTEN: I have to be back there by 1:20 so if I leave here by 12:15 I'll be all right.

MR. GISH: We can do 10 minutes at Normandy.

MR. HORSLEY: Let's go over there now.

MR. GISH: We're done.

(Time noted: 11:49 a.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, NICOLE LIMONCELLI, a Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby certify:

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of February, 2010.

Nicole Limoncelli

NICOLE LIMONCELLI