

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

SUFFOLK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION SUMMARY OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

David L. Calone
Chairman

Sarah Lansdale, AICP
Director of Planning

Date: February 4, 2015
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Rose Caracappa Legislative Auditorium
William H. Rogers Legislature Building
North County Complex
Hauppauge, New York 11788

Members Present (13)

Ramon Accelletta Jr. – Town of Babylon
Michael Kelly – Town of Brookhaven
Samuel Kramer – Town of East Hampton
Jennifer Casey – Town of Huntington
Matthew Chartrand – Town of Islip
Carl Gabrielsen – Town of Riverhead
John Finn – Town of Smithtown
Barbara Roberts – Town of Southampton
Nicholas Planamento – Town of Southold
Adrienne Esposito – Villages Over 5,000
Michael Kaufman – Villages Under 5,000 (Left meeting at 4:00 p.m.)
Glynis Margaret Berry – At Large
David Calone – At Large

Staff Present (6)

Sarah Lansdale – Director of Planning
Andrew Freleng – Chief Planner
John Corral – Planner
Ted Klein – Senior Planner
Christine DeSalvo – Senior Clerk Typist
Mary Porter – Assistant County Attorney (Counsel to the Commission)

Call to Order

- The Suffolk County Planning Commission meeting of February 4, 2015 was called to order by Chairman David Calone at 2:10 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Election of Officers for 2015

- Chairman Calone announced the Nominating Committee's 2015 nominees for Commission officers. There were no other nominations from the Commission.
 - Election of Chairman of Planning Commission – since there were no other nominees, David Calone was elected Chairman by a single vote cast by 2nd Vice Chair, Michael Kelly.
 - Election of 1st Vice Chair of Planning Commission – since there were no other nominees, Adrienne Esposito was elected 1st Vice Chair by a single vote cast by 2nd Vice Chair, Michael Kelly.
 - Election of 2nd Vice Chair of Planning Commission – since there were no other nominees, Michael Kelly was elected 2nd Vice Chair by a single vote cast by himself.

Adoption of Minutes

- The adoption of the January 2015 Meeting Minutes was tabled.

Public Portion – Four members of the public spoke to the Commission about an application on the agenda.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Calone updated the Commission as follows:

- On Agriculture; The Chair stated that the Commission has received \$1 million in state funding for their 'future farmers initiative', it's agriculture capital finance program designed to help new farmers purchase start-up equipment. Chairman Calone indicated that along with the Commission's partners in the County Executive's office, the Farm Bureau, and the Peconic Land Trust we will be working on finalizing the details of the program.
- On the issue of "North Fork Traffic", Chairman Calone stated he has had conversations with some heads of the agricultural organizations, as well as with the East End Supervisors and Mayors Association, and together are looking at forming a working group along with County Legislator Al Krupski to look at how to improve North Fork traffic flow during the busiest tourist times of the year. The Chair indicated that would get going this month.
- Regarding news on the 'Economic Development Conference', the Chair announced that the Commission has established a location for the conference, indicating that it would be held at Sony Brook University, and would inform the Commission members further on possible dates of the conference once he was notified by the University. Chairman Calone reminded the Commission that this is a joint effort with the Suffolk County IDA, and that he is hoping to hold the event sometime in the spring.

Chairman's Report (Continued)

- On the 'East End Wind Code', which has already been adopted by the Town of Brookhaven, the Chairman indicated that the Town of Riverhead had just had their public hearing on it, and that it was exciting to see another town moving forward regarding the adoption of some form of the wind code.
- On the 'Geothermal Model Code'; Chairman Calone stated that the Commission has been working on rolling out the Geothermal Code to the towns, and reminded the Commission members that when they are talking to their respective municipalities, that they should make sure they are aware that PSEG announced a \$10,000 incentive per town and \$5000 per villages over 5000 in population which adopt the Commission's Geothermal Model Code before April 2015.
- On the 'Utility Solar'; Chairman Calone mentioned that they have been discussing creating a working group with the Town of Brookhaven and that their first meeting is scheduled for this Friday. The Chair indicated that the Towns of Smithtown and Riverhead are also interested working with the Commission on this, and that Town of Southold would like to have some input regarding their thinking on the issue. Chairman Calone stated that it's shaping up to a good multi-town effort on how to best locate these utility sized solar arrays in Suffolk County.
- Regarding "Green Methodologies and Infrastructure for Storm-water Run-off", Chairman Calone stated that at the last Commission meeting the Planning Commission adopted an update to its storm-water run-off guidance document. And that tomorrow the Commission along with Citizens Campaign for the Environment will be hosting the Green Methodologies and Infrastructure for Storm-water Run-off Conference' from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Hauppauge Legislative Auditorium.
- With regard to the Comprehensive Plan; Chairman Calone stated that Director Lansdale and he have had multiple meetings with the Legislature and County Executive's Office to discuss next steps in the review process for the Comp Plan, as required by County Law, and anticipates doing two public hearings on the Plan sometime in the spring.
- Regarding other Commission business;
 - As a reminder Chairman Calone announced that the next Commission meeting will be held at the Legislature Auditorium in Riverhead at 2 p.m. on March 4th.
 - In addition to the Chair report, Commission member Carl Gabrielsen spoke about how Suffolk County farmers, especially vegetable growers, are struggling to compete on the global market. The problem is that farmers simply cannot stay in business growing for only 4 or 5 months a year. Mr. Gabrielsen stated that the way to extend the growing season for farmer is to allow the utilization 'high tunnels' and other greenhouse technologies. He indicated that growing hydroponically in greenhouses eliminates the need for pesticides, and uses of significantly less water, a win-win for the farmers, and would not have nitrates seeping into the soil and the groundwater. Mr. Gabrielsen also indicated the demand is very strong all year long for locally grown produce.

- o The Commission then engaged in a brief discussion of a broad range of farming issues.

Director's Report – The Planning Director Sarah Lansdale informed the Commission about recent activities within the Division including the following:

- Director Lansdale mentioned the progress of the 'outreach' phase of the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, indicating meetings with members of the Legislature, as well as most of the Towns. Director Lansdale acknowledged Gerry Bogacz of NYMTC, who was in the room, NYMTC being one of the primary funders of the Plan. And Director Lansdale indicated that comments are expected back from the towns later this month regarding the Plan.
- The Director also stated that there is a call for proposals out that are due back by February 20th for the Water Quality Committee; one of which she indicated relates to a municipal storm-water management project that would demonstrate the use of green infrastructures so as are outlined in the Commission's guidebook on green methodologies for storm-water management.

Adoption of Commission Meeting Schedule for 2015 (taken out of order)

- Motion was made to adopt the 2015 Commission Meeting Schedule by Commission member Kramer, seconded by Commission member Chartrand; Vote approved unanimously.

Adoption of Rules of Proceedings for 2015 (taken out of order)

- Motion was made to maintain the 2014 Rules of Proceedings was made by the Nominating Committee Chair, Commission member Casey, seconded by Commission member Accettella; Vote approved unanimously.

Other Commission Business (taken out of order)

Chief Planner Andy Freleng announced in addition to the standard IMA between the County and municipalities, the Town of Southampton proposed to extend the IMA to cover all Type II Actions pursuant SEQRA. The Commission once again decided to postpone action on that request until next month when the staff can offer a recommendation.

Guest Speaker – Gerry Bogacz, of NYMTC (New York Metropolitan Transportation Council), gave a presentation overview of programs relating to NYMTC's Regional Transportation Plan that Council revises every 4 years. Mr. Bogacz then addressed questions from the Commission.

Guest Speaker – Bruce D'Abramo, Trustee for the Village of Port Jefferson, gave a presentation overview of the Village of Port Jefferson's 2030 Comprehensive Update; and then addressed questions from the Commission.

Section A14-14 thru A14-25 of the Suffolk County Administrative Code (taken out of order)

Village of Port Jefferson 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update; the application is referred by the Incorporated Village of Jefferson, received on January 15, 2015 - the Commission's jurisdiction for review is that the application is a Land Use Plan/Comprehensive Plan. The Village of Port Jefferson proposes to update its Comprehensive Land Use Plan with a special focus on the revitalization of the Village's "Uptown" area and the expansion of the public spaces along the water front in the "Downtown" area of the Village. The proposed Plan addresses the Village's current and future needs for housing (affordable/market rate - mix use and mixed income), transportation (parking, pedestrian walkability, motor vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic, infrastructure (including sewers), recreation and open space protection, the preservation of historic structures and the potential for transit oriented, mix use development.

The staff report recommended approval of the Comprehensive Plan Update, and offered one (1) comment for consideration and use by the Village of Port Jefferson. After deliberation the Commission resolved to approve the Comprehensive Plan Update subject to seven (7) modifications and offered one (1) comment for its consideration and use by the Village of Port Jefferson.

The motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan Update subject to the seven (7) modifications and one (1) comment was made by Commission member Esposito and seconded by Commission member Kaufman; vote to Approve; 11 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstentions (Finn, Accettella).

Other Commission Business

- **Honoring Glynis Berry;** who will be leaving as a Commission member. The Chair and the Commission expressed their appreciation for her service, expertise and dedication to the Commission and the County. Glynis Berry spoke briefly of her gratitude of having the valuable opportunity to serve on the Commission.
- Chief Planner Andy Freleng stated to the Commission that in their packet is data on the number and types of referrals processed by the staff for 2014. There were a total of 1,500 referrals for the year (2014). The information also demonstrated trends for referrals to Commission going back to 1997. Secondly, Mr. Freleng mentioned that the "TOD Parking Demand Reduction Model Committee that the County has been working on has been delayed due to the numerous snow storms, but will continue with it, and get information back to the Commission as soon as possible.

Meeting Adjournment (5:10 p.m.)

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commission member Chartrand and seconded by Commission member Accettella. The motion was approved.