

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



ROBERT J. GAFFNEY
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Theresa Elkowitz
CHAIRPERSON

James Bagg
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, May 19, 2000

TIME: 9:35 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Voting Members - Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson, Presiding; Tom Cramer, Sharon Kast, Michael Kaufman, Nancy Manfredonia, Barbara Van Liew

Staff:

James Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst
Kathleen Rigano & Gail Calfa, Secretaries

Departmental Staff:

Suffolk County Legislature

Gerard J. McCreight, Aide to Legislator Jon Cooper (18th District)

Elizabeth Nostrand, Aide to Legislator Vivian Fisher (5th District)

Meghan O'Reilly, Aide to Presiding Officer Paul J. Tonna

Office of the County Executive

Todd C. Johnson, County Executive Assistant

George Proios, Chief Environmental Analyst

Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Peter Scully, Commissioner

Judy Gordon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner

Nick Gibbons, Environmental Analyst

Richard Martin, Director, Historic Services

Conservation Advisory Councils:

Joy Squires, Chairperson, Huntington CAB

Guests:

Margo Myles, Sr. Environmental Analyst, Town of Huntington

LOCATION
H. LEE DENNISON BLDG. - 4TH FLOOR
100 VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

MAILING ADDRESS
P. O. BOX 6100
HAUPPAUGE, NY 11788-0099

(516) 853-5190
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Jeff Kassner, Director, Dept. of Environmental Protection, Town of Brookhaven

The CEQ meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chairperson Elkowitz. In attendance were 6 voting members and the Chairperson of the Huntington Conservation Board.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Michael Kaufman, seconded by Barbara Van Liew, the minutes of the April 19, 2000, CEQ meeting were approved as written and distributed.

PROJECT REVIEW:

1. Recommended Type II Actions

- a. Ratification of Staff Recommendations for Legislative Resolution Laid on the Table on May 9, 2000.

Mr. Bagg of the CEQ staff preliminarily reviewed the recommendations on legislative resolutions laid on the table on May 9, 2000. He pointed out that I.R. #1485 which appropriates funds for the construction of a repair and equipment storage garage at the Suffolk County Farm, Yaphank (CP 1767), which is an historic site, has no SEQRA clause. It is an Unlisted Action requiring an EAF. Michael Kaufman made a motion to ratify the staff recommendations and the motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed unanimously.

2. Proposed Park Improvements at Bellview Avenue, Acquisition of Land for Active Recreation Under the Greenways Program, Center Moriches, Town of Brookhaven

Jeff Kassner of the Town of Brookhaven addressed the Council describing the project as an acquisition of 5 acres of property on the south side of Montauk Highway, and the east side of Bellview Avenue, upon which the Town of Brookhaven will construct a baseball field and two parking areas containing 55 stalls. Richard Martin stated that more activities can be done by acquiring this property which is adjacent to Southaven Park directly across the street from the Ketchmer Inn. There has been an aggressive restoration program on that site. Jeff Kassner stated only benefits can come from the acquisition. Michael Kaufman made a motion to classify this project as an Unlisted Action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. It was seconded by Thomas Cramer and passed by a unanimous vote.

3. Proposed Acquisition of Benjamin Property for Active Recreation Under the Greenways Program, Town of Huntington

This project was viewed as a Type I action since it involves the acquisition of more than 25 acres next to parkland. Margo Myles of the Town of Huntington addressed the Council describing this action as the acquisition of 82.0 acres of property by Suffolk County, 20

acres of which would be acquired under the County Greenways Active Recreation Program and upon which the Town of Huntington will construct two regulation sized soccer fields that can double as four junior soccer fields, one little league/softball field, bicycle paths, and expanded parking area, to be accessed only from the town's Veterans Park. There was some discussion as to who would be the SEQRA lead agency. Chairperson Elkowitz and James Bagg stated that as a Type I action, the project needed coordinated review. It was decided that CEQ would seek SEQRA lead agency status on behalf of the County. The Health Department said there is a dump area on the site which will require clean-up. All buildings and structures will be removed. Ms. Myles said the County and the town are dealing with a willing seller.

A motion was made by Tom Cramer to classify this project as a Type I action and that a Negative Declaration be prepared based on coordinated review and the County being lead agency. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed with 5 votes in the affirmative and one abstention by Chairperson Elkowitz

HISTORIC SERVICES REPORT:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, addressed the Council updating the status of the County's historic properties.

- a. The EPA project to use the farm field area off of Highland Avenue has been moved off the Deepwells site. The crushed concrete that was put down for the parking area will also be removed and used by Parks.
- b. The Blydenburgh main house has been scraped, primed and painting has been started. Completion is expected by the end of May 2000.
- c. The Splashes of Hope, a nonprofit organization of artists who paint murals on the walls of institutions responsible for physical and mental health care, will be using the second floor of the Carriage House at Meadow Croft to paint their murals this summer season. This space was once used by John Ellis Roosevelt as his art studio.
- d. The Second Annual Quack-Off will be held on June 3, 2000 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Big Duck in Flanders. A vintage car show will be part of this event
- e. The Historic Trust Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2000, at 10:00 AM at Brookside Park, 59 Brook Street, Sayville. There will be a slide presentation from the Audobon Society.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Michael Kaufman to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Sharon Kast. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.