

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, June 21, 2000

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

PRESENT:

Voting Members - Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson, Presiding; Larry Swanson, Vice-Chair, Tom Cramer, John Finkenberg, Sharon Kast, Barbara Van Liew

Staff:

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

Departmental Staff:

Suffolk County Executive's Office

George Proios, Chief Environmental Analyst

Todd C. Johnson, County Executive Assistant

Suffolk County Legislature

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

Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Nick Gibbons, Environmental Analyst

Richard Martin, Director, Historic Services

Suffolk County Department of Planning

Jennifer Lowe, Summer Intern

Amanda Jedlicka, Summer Intern

Robert Stocks, Summer Intern

Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Paul McMahan, Sr. Civil Engineer

Ralph Borkowski, Landscape Architect

Jeff Dawson, Jr. Civil Engineer

Sal Bordonaro, Architect

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

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

(516) 853-5190
TELECOPIER (516) 853-4044

Conservation Advisory Councils:

Joy Squires, Chairperson, Huntington CAB
Steve Brown, Chairperson, Brookhaven CAC

Guests:

Pat Pearson, Administrator, Suffolk County Farm
Mike Murray, Farm Production Mgr., Suffolk County Farm

Chairperson Theresa Elkowitz introduced John Finkenberg, a new member, to the Council.

Mr. Bagg brought to the attention of the Council that Barbara Van Lieu is up for reappointment. The terms of office of other members of the Council have expired as well. It is the policy of the Energy and Environment Committee that they interview all members of the CEQ that are up for reappointment. As a result, an interview will be set up for Barbara Van Lieu the next time they meet. Chairperson Elkowitz stated that all members remain in good standing until they are replaced.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Barbara Van Lieu, seconded by Tom Cramer, 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 Resolutions Laid on the Table on June 6, 2000.

Mr. Bagg of the CEQ staff briefed the Council on I.R. 1590, "Amending the 2000 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds for land acquisition bordering Lake Ronkonkoma (CP 7019.213)," which is to acquire a trailer park. The trailer park will probably be dismantled and the property to be used for open space. An EAF is needed. Larry Swanson made a motion to ratify the staff recommendations and the motion was seconded by Sharon Kast and passed unanimously.

- b. Proposed Renovations/Improvements to Cohalan Court Complex, CP 1125, Town of Islip

Chairperson Elkowitz introduced a letter dated May 19, 2000, from Ralph Borkowski of the Department of Public Works regarding the above-cited project which consists of various architectural, mechanical, security and safety improvements including, but not limited to, the installation of additional site lighting for the judges parking lot, construction of a holding cell and a secure glass enclosure around prisoner boxes, expansion of locker rooms, construction

of two hearing rooms, construction of an additional restroom and replacement of worn floor coverings. Chairperson Elkowitz confirmed with Mr. Borkowski that the building was not going to be expanded. Larry Swanson made a motion to classify this project as a Type II Action and the motion was seconded by Tom Cramer and passed unanimously.

2. Proposed Drainage Improvements on C.R. 76, Townline Road, Between Hoffman Road and Terry Road, Towns of Islip and Smithtown

Paul McMahon, Sr. Civil Engineer, of the Department of Public Works, addressed the Council and stated that the area on Townline Road, C.R. 76, from Hoffman Road to Terry Road, has a severe flooding problem. The project would involve road realignment on Mt. Pleasant Road making it a standard intersection. There is no positive drainage system in this area at this time. The runoff currently discharges into a wetland area. The goal of the project is to create a series of catch basins and intercept up to a 10 year storm. This will be a joint effort between the Towns of Smithtown and Islip and the County of Suffolk. The agreement is to pipe runoff water from the road into existing recharge basins. Presently, there are 4 recharge basins. This project would catch the rainwater before it reaches the wetland areas, eliminate safety hazards and remove any impurities from the water along with any type of sediment that usually occurs. DPW is working on a permit plan at this time. The County will maintain and relandscape the basins and the pavement will be resurfaced. Tom Cramer made a motion to classify this project as an Unlisted Action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. It was seconded by Larry Swanson and passed by a unanimous vote.

3. Proposed Construction of a New Mechanic's Shop at the Suffolk County Farm, Yaphank, Town of Brookhaven

An overview was presented by Ralph Borkowski, Landscape Architect of the Department of Public Works, and Pat Pearson, Administrator of the Suffolk County farm. This project involves the construction of an 1,800 square foot barnlike building to be used as a Mechanic and Repair Shop. It was stated that 1,000 feet will exist between the old barn and new building. There will be a bathroom in the building. Larry Swanson said the EAF was not clear as to the drums and bathroom. Page 3 of the EAF was modified to state that oil change/waste will be stored in a 55 gallon drum. Gas will be stored in tanks. Pat Pearson of the Suffolk County Cornell Cooperative Extension said the Farm will be kept as a working farm. Richard Martin stated that he does not think the project will disturb the historic integrity of the area since it is not that close to the historic barn. A motion was made by Tom Cramer to classify this project as a Type I action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. The motion was seconded by Sharon Kast and passed by a unanimous vote including the representative of the Brookhaven CAC.

HISTORIC SERVICES REPORT:

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

a. Brookside County Park, Sayville. The Historic Trust Meeting was held at Brookside County Park on May 23, 2000. A tour of the property was given and the Committee recommended that this property be dedicated to the Historic Trust. A presentation on the site will be given at the next CEQ meeting.

b. Almshouse Cemetery, Yaphank. An historic map and photographs of the Cemetery was circulated to the members of the CEQ. Since the National Register Guidelines would be met, Richard Martin feels there would be no problem in listing this Cemetery as part of the Historic Trust. The first burial date is 1871 and the last burial was in 1953. There are over 1,000 marble headstones with just numbers marked on them. The most recent 10 markers have names. There are no future plans to use this Cemetery. A ledger exists at the Infirmary which has the names of those buried. The Historic Trust Committee recommended that this property be part of the Historic Trust. A motion was made by Tom Cramer to recommend dedication of this property to the Historic Trust under the functional and unique categories. The motion was seconded by Sharon Kast and passed by unanimous vote.

c. Oakley House, West Hills County Park, Huntington. The owner wanted assurance that this property be dedicated to the Historic Trust as part of the terms of the donation. As a result, a motion was made by Tom Cramer to recommend dedication of the Oakley House to the Historic Trust. The motion was seconded by Sharon Kast and passed by unanimous vote.

d. The development plan for the Maritime Museum, which members had as part of their packets, was discussed. A SEQRA determination has already been made to go ahead with the planning and \$7,500 has been appropriated. A landscape architect will be hired to design the grounds.

e. The status of other programs: Deepwells program is doing very well. Touring of the house on St. James Day was very successful and the Flo Zigfield tea bookings are already being taken. The Historic Trust landmarks calendar was distributed to the CEQ members. Meadowcroft tours are open for the season. The Parks Department is trying to reactivate the historic group at Coindre Hall. Parks has also met with the Archeological Association with regard to Blydenburgh. The digging around the house will be phased out by end of July. The exterior painting of the Weld house is complete. Painting will now begin on the first floor interior. Approval has been given by the Historic Trust to have the Friends build an apartment on the second floor of the Millers house.

Barbara Van Liew stated that she received a copy of a letter from the NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, dated 5/30/00, addressed to Gary Gentile, Senior Landscape Architect to the DOT, regarding the rehabilitation of the Long Island Motor Parkway bridge over the LIE. It was suggested that

Mrs. Van Liew write to Mr. Gentile of the DOT and request that she be advised of any alterations to Motor Parkway.

CAC CONCERNS:

Joy Squires advised the Council the NYS Quality Communities Roundtable met on June 8. The Lt. Governor and Secretary of State attended. The notification was poor and, as a result, Nassau and Suffolk Counties were not adequately represented.

OTHER BUSINESS

Larry Swanson made mention of the fact that Suffolk County is finally participating in a recycling program.

Mr. Bagg addressed the Council on the Nature Preserve Handbook which was tabled because the County Attorney's office was going to review case law. Chairperson Elkowitz requested that the County Attorney's office be requested to advise the CEQ as to the status of their review.

George Proios addressed the Council with the following announcements:

- a. A "Listen to the Sounds" flyer was distributed to all in attendance.
- b. The Bond Act project will be held on June 28, 2000, at the Bethpage State Park
- c. The State Open Space Advisory Committee will meet on June 29, 2000, at Belmont State Park.
- d. Suffolk County will create a Resource Conservation Development District and will meet out east on August 29. The purpose of this group is to use existing resources.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15.