

# 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, September 20, 2000                      TIME: 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

PRESENT: Voting Members - Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson, Presiding; Tom Cramer, Tom Cramer, Jack Finkenberg, Legislator Vivian Fisher, Michael Kaufman, Nancy Manfredonia, Barbara Van Liew

### Staff:

James Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst  
Gail Calfa, Secretaries

### Departmental Staff:

#### Suffolk County Executive's Office

George Proios, Chief Environmental Analyst

Todd Johnson, County Executive Assistant

#### Suffolk County Legislature

Legislator Martin Haley, District #6

Legislator Ginny Fields, District #9

Legislator Andrew A. Crecca, District #12

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

#### Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Judy Gordon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner

Nick Gibbons, Environmental Analyst

Richard Martin, Director, Historic Services

#### Suffolk County Department of Planning

Allan Grecco, Director, Division of Real Estate

#### Suffolk County Police Department

Vincent R. Style, Director, Police Radio Communications

Conservation Advisory Councils:

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

Guests:

Lori Baldassare, Mt. Sinai Civic/Heritage Trust  
Thomas Carbone, " " " "  
Ann Becker " " " "  
Gregg Rivara, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Chris Pickerell " " "  
Hon. Jean Cochran, Supervisor, Town of Southold  
Jim McMahon, Aide to Supervisor Cochran  
Dennis Cole, Town of Brookhaven, DEP  
Caren Loguercio, Sr. Asst. Town Attorney, Town of Brookhaven

The CEQ meeting was called to order by Chairperson Elkowitz at 9:30 AM. In attendance were 7 voting members and the Chairperson of the Huntington Conservation Board. Ms. Elkowitz read Sharon Kast's letter of resignation into the record.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Mr. Cramer, seconded by Mrs. Van Liew, the minutes of the July 19, 2000, minutes were unanimously approved as read.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Elkowitz read a letter from the S.C. Department of Health Services requesting CEQ input and participation in the county's Pump-Out Vessel program as set forth in S.C. Resolution 381-2000. Mr. Kaufman stated that the program is very worthwhile. Mr. Bagg was directed to invite the Department of Health Services to a CEQ meeting to give an overview of the program and how the CEQ can be of assistance.

PROJECT REVIEW:

1. Recommended Type II Actions
  - a. Ratification of Staff Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table on August 8<sup>th</sup>, August 31<sup>st</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2000.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to ratify the staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and passed unanimously.

- b. Proposed Transfer of 1.7 Acres of Real Property Owned by the United States to Suffolk County Department of Parks (Southaven County Park), Town of Islip.

A presentation was made by Mr. Gibbons, Environmental Analyst from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. The project involves the acquisition of 1.7 acres of property on Gerard Road, Yaphank, from the United States by means of a transfer of title. Ms. Elkowitz stated that this is **not** a Type II action, but unlisted.

Mr. Cramer made a motion that the project is an Unlisted action and that a Negative Declaration be issued pending the receipt of the EAF. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and passed unanimously.

- c. Proposed Replacement of Approximately 850 feet of Bulkhead at Timber Point County Park, Great River, Town of Islip.

A presentation was made by Mr. Gibbons, Environmental Analyst from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. The project involves the replacement of an additional 685 feet of bulkhead at the West Marina and the entire 165 feet of bulkhead at the East Marina, for a total of 850 feet of bulkhead.

Mr. Cramer made a motion that the project is a Type II action since it is a replacement in kind. Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

- d. Proposed Construction of A Utility Building at Shinnecock Marina, Hampton Bays, Town of Southampton.

A presentation was made by Mr. Gibbons, Environmental Analyst from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. The project involves the construction of a 425 sq. ft. building to house utilities at Shinnecock Marina;

Mr. Kaufman made a motion that this project is a Type II action. Mr. Cramer seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.

- e. Proposed Construction of a Sanitary Facility at Cathedral Pines County Park, Middle Island, Town of Brookhaven.

A presentation was made by Mr. Gibbons, Environmental Analyst from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. The project involves the construction of a 690 square foot sanitary building and will not require the clearing of any vegetation. A determination by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will be sought under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Program.

Mr. Cramer made a motion that the project is a Type II action as the building is less than 4,000 sq. ft. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and unanimously passed by the voting members present.

- f. Proposed Drainage Improvements on CR 80, Montauk Highway at Auburn Avenue, Hamlet of Shirley, Town of Brookhaven.

Ms. Elkowitz read a letter from the Department of Public Works in reference to the above project. Mr. Cramer stated that there just wasn't enough information for the council to work with and said that DPW should have a representative present to describe the project in detail and answer questions. He requested that Jim Bagg contact DPW and request additional information. Mr. Cramer then made a motion to table the project pending receipt of additional information. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and unanimously passed.

- g. Proposed Improvements to Exterior Lighting at Various County Facilities (CP 1736).

Ms. Elkowitz read the letter from the Department of Public Works, describing the project, which involves providing site lighting of walkways, driveways and parking areas at the various county facilities in order to provide safety and security improvements for employees.

Mr. Cramer made a motion for a Type II action, seconded by Mr. Kaufman and passed unanimously by the voting members present.

2. Proposed Mobile Data Network Use of Radio Towers, Towns of Southamptton, Southold and East Hampton.

Ms. Elkowitz recused herself, acknowledging her work with wireless services. A presentation was made by Mr. Stile, Director of Police Radio Communications in the Suffolk County Police Department. The project involves requesting the authorization, with the approval of the towns, to use the existing Southamptton Town radio tower, the Southold Town Police radio tower and the East Hampton Town Police radio tower for the installation of antennae to implement a mobile data computer network.

Mr. Finkenberg was concerned on the impact on birds. Mr. Stile said the impact, if any, is already occurring since the towers already exist. Mrs. Van Liew asked if there were an historic district involved, and was told, No. Mr. Kaufman made a motion that this is an Unlisted action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. The motion was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and passed unanimously.

3. Proposed Acquisition of Property Bordering Lake Ronkonkoma County Park, Town of Smithtown

A presentation was given by Legislator Crecca, of the Suffolk County Legislature. This project involves the acquisition, by the County, of approximately .3 acre of property bordering Lake Ronkonkoma that is now being used as a trailer park. The trailer park hampers the entrance to the County park and is an eyesore. The owner of the property wants to sell and if the County doesn't buy it, chances are it will be bought for development. There are only 10 trailers on the property at the present time, and they lease their sites on a month to month basis. They will not be renewed and the land will be vacant when the County takes title. There are no specific plans for this parcel at the present time. Any future use of this site will need a SEQRA review. A letter of approval from the Town of Smithtown, was read into the record by Ms. Elkowitz.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to classify this project as an Unlisted action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. It was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and passed by a unanimous vote.

4. Proposed Greenhouse Finfish Hatchery, Town of Southold (Modified)

A presentation was given by Gregg Rivara of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. The project involves the construction of a 10,000 sq. ft. building and a 1,440 sq. ft. greenhouse, which modifies an earlier approved project for a 10,000 sq. ft. greenhouse. The 10,000 sq. ft. building will be moved 36 ft. to the north, which brings it within 45 ft. of the wetlands. A DEC permit has been obtained, but must be amended.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to classify this as an Unlisted action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. The motion was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and unanimously approved by the voting members present.

5. Proposed Acquisition of Laurel Lake for Active Recreation Under the Greenways Program, Town of Southold.

6. Proposed Acquisition of Strawberry Fields for Active Recreation Under the Greenways Program, Town of Southold.

Ms. Elkowitz read a description of the projects. A presentation was given by Supervisor Cochran of the Town of Southold. The projects involve the proposed partnership with the Town of Southold and Suffolk County to partially develop a 71.4 acre site and a 37.3 acre site as "Fair Grounds" for community events during the year, as well as the construction of baseball fields and a soccer fields to be used when the "Fair Ground" is not in use. Supervisor Cochran stated that Southold is "park poor" and felt that these two parcels would be valuable in

providing recreation and raising some money with the operation of the Fair Grounds. Such a facility would be an asset to the Town as well as the County. Mr. McMahon, an aide to Supervisor Cochran, stated that there was an abandoned 1940's house on the 70 acre site. He did not include it in the EAF, as it has been abandoned for about 20 years and didn't think it was important. The southern parcel has substantial wetlands on it. Any additional facilities put on these properties in the future, must undergo SEQRA review.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to classify the first project (Laurel Lake) as an Unlisted action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. It was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to classify the second project (Strawberry Fields) as an Unlisted action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cramer and carried unanimously.

8. Proposed Reconstruction of CR 2, Straight Path, from the Vicinity of Grand Blvd. to Old Country Road, Phase II Revised, Wyandanch, Town of Babylon (CP 5527).

Ms. Elkowitz read the letter from DPW describing the revised project into the record. The project had been previously reviewed by the CEQ with a recommendation of Unlisted action, Negative Declaration. The revision involves the removal of one of the previously proposed recharge basins in relation to the reconstruction of CR 2. The remaining recharge basin will be made larger to accommodate the extra storm water. This change was made in response to community concern that the one recharge basin would be aesthetically unpleasing.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to amend the previous Unlisted action and Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and carried by majority vote, with one abstention, by Mr. Kaufman.

8. Proposed IR No. 1896-2000, Implementing Greenways Program in Connection with Acquisition of Active Parklands Known as "The Wedge" at Mt. Sinai, Town of Brookhaven.

Mr. Grecco, Director of the Division of Real Estate, gave an overview of the acquisition process, stating that the county is in contract with a drop dead date of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000. Active Recreation parcels need a sponsor and stewardship for construction and maintenance. In this case, time is of the essence. A presentation was given by Mr. Cole, of the Division of Environmental Protection, Town of Brookhaven. The Brookhaven proposal deals with surface uses only with no building construction planned. Mr. Cole showed Brookhaven's plan and passed around photos of the site. The project involves the proposed acquisition of approximately 17.9 acres of land located in Mt. Sinai, known as "The Wedge" by Suffolk County under the

Greenways Program for the construction of 2 baseball fields, 2 lacrosse fields and parking for 95 vehicles to be improved by the Town of Brookhaven, either directly or with other organizations including, but not limited to, the Mt. Sinai School District. The design is conceptual. Any future construction, if planned, must come before CEQ for SEQRA review. Fertilization of the fields must follow the County Organic Maintenance Plan.

Mr. Cramer made a motion that this be classified as an Unlisted action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. It was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and carried unanimously.

9. Proposed IR No. 1853-2000, Implementing Greenways Program in Connection with Acquisition of Active Parklands Known as "The Wedge" at Mt. Sinai, Town of Brookhaven.

A presentation was given by Ms. Baldassare, President of the Mt. Sinai Civic Association. The conceptual plan for this proposal was started two years ago. The project involves the acquisition of approximately 17.9 acres of land located in Mt. Sinai, know as "The Wedge" by Suffolk County under the Greenways Program for construction of a walking and bicycle trail, children's playgrounds, a 3,500 sq. ft. community center, summer water spouts/winter ice-skating, an outdoor bandstand, 6 acres of athletic fields, including ball fields, soccer fields and football/lacrosse fields, as well as parking for 60 vehicles, to be improved and maintained by the Mt. Sinai Civic Association, Inc., and the Mt. Sinai Heritage Trust. If not acquired, this site is slotted for a Home Depot, which will make it more densely developed.

Mr. Cramer made a motion that this be classified as an Unlisted action and that a Negative Declaration be issued, with the proviso that finalized plans will come back to CEQ for SEQRA review. This was seconded by Ms. Fisher and carried unanimously.

### HISTORIC SERVICES - DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

a. Brookside - "The Isaac Green Estate " - The original estate consisted of 88 acres which were purchased by Isaac Green's father, now consists of 5.8 acres which were acquired by the County with 1/4% monies and should be managed as a Nature Preserve. The Gatehouse and two concrete bridges were built in the 1890's. The Great South Bay Audubon Society, who have contracted to give tours of the property, has its office in the rear of the Gatehouse and Mr. Crater, Assistant Director of Historic Services, lives in the front of the house. The Gatehouse will be restored, but not back to the original, as too many changes have already taken place. There are two large ponds on the property, the East Pond and the West Pond which were used years ago for skating. 2.9 acres of property adjacent to the site is owned by the Town of Islip, who will be

working with the Audubon Society on trails, etc. Mr. Martin gave a short slide presentation and asked that the entire property be recommended for dedication to the Historic Trust as (F)unctional, (A)rchitectural and (T)errain, Trees and Shrubs. He stated that they will be coming up with a Master Plan for this site. Isaac Green, who was a famous Long Island architect, also did Meadowcroft & the carriage house, as well as the Club House and Gate House at West Sayville. This is a Type II action, and is consistent with the Nature Preserve Handbook.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to recommend that it be dedicated to the Historic Trust. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fisher and carried by a majority vote, with one abstention by Mr. Finkenberg.

b. Blydenburgh House - A \$15,000 Grant from Senator Lack was received for restoration of the interior of the Weld or Main House, as well as for the hiring of tour guides, costumes, etc. for tours of the Park to promote Greenway Trails. Historic Services is working on a more expanded exhibit for the Weld and Miller Houses.

c. Big Duck - There was a restoration project done here which included a well for landscaping, with \$3,500 given to The Friends from Hampton Inn Corp. for this purpose. The Duck got a new coat of paint and a new wooden screen door. Mr. Martin said that the opening of the Aquarium in Riverhead has also helped traffic at the Big Duck and sales are up. The Duck is listed on the National Register.

d. Montauk County Park - A Spanish American War reenactment was held over the weekend of September 16<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended and very well done. A video was taken and perhaps the CEQ can view that at another time.

Mr. Martin stated that the Historic Trust Committee meeting was held at the County Farm in Yaphank on September 12, 2000. They took a tour of the farm and voted to support the Master Plan that Cooperative Extension is preparing.

CAC CONCERNS - There were no CAC concerns.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

George Proios announced that:

1. State Open Space Advisory Committee came out with recommendations.
2. Peconic River Advisory Board in Health, needs people to serve as technical advisors.
3. L.I. Breast Cancer meeting 12 PM & 7 PM today, 9/20/00.
4. Antique Auction at the Hay Barn to generate money for restoration.
5. Department of State Waterfront Rediscovery 9/26 & 27
6. October 14 & 15 Pumpkin Fest at County Farm. Money to Cooperative Extension Programs.



A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Cramer. Motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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