

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, March 20, 2002

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Voting Members - Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson, Presiding; Larry Swanson, Vice Chair, Tom Cramer, Michael Kaufman, Nancy Manfredonia, Jack Finkenberg, Ginny Fields, Lance Mallamo

Staff:

James Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst
Kathleen Rigano and Penny Kohler, Secretaries

Departmental Staff:

Suffolk County Executive's Office

Nicole DeAngelo, County Executive Assistant

Suffolk County Legislature,

Clark Gavin, Legislature Aide

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 Public Works

Ralph Borkowski, Landscape Architect

Keith Larsen, Architect

Conservation Advisory Councils:

Joy Squires, Chairperson, Huntington CAC

Steve Brown, Brookhaven CAC

Guests:

Richard Postauer, Vice Pres., LIRO Group

Gilbert Balog, Sr. Vice Pres., LIRO Group

Doug Winkler, Envorn. Planner, JAC
John Lizardos, LEA
Douglas Shaw, Director, LI Maritime
Floyd H. Miller, Chairman, LI Maritime

MINUTES:

On a motion by Larry Swanson, seconded by Nancy Manfredonia, the minutes of the February 20, 2002, meeting were approved by a unanimous vote.

PROJECT REVIEW:

1. Recommended Type II Actions:

a. Ratification of Staff Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table March 19, 2002.

A motion was made by Michael Kaufman to ratify the staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Larry Swanson and passed by a majority vote with one abstention (Chairperson Theresa Elkowitz).

b. Proposed Improvements to Charles R. Dominy County Park a/k/a West Sayville Country Club (Golf Course), Town of Islip

A presentation was given by Nicholas Gibbons, Environmental Analyst in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, who stated that this project involves conducting a traffic study to determine opportunities for improving the current flow; consultant services to improve the netting layout along Main Street to protect motorists or pedestrians; and design of a new pesticide storage facility.

A motion was made by Michael Kaufman to classify this project as a Type II action. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed by a unanimous vote.

c. Proposed Temporary Building, Vanderbilt Museum.

A presentation was given by Lance Mallamo, Executive Director of the Vanderbilt Museum, who stated that this project involves erecting a temporary 2,400 sq. ft. building on an existing asphalt parking lot behind the Planetarium to accommodate a public exhibit of dinosaur specimens and replicas that will eventually be installed within the museum's Seaplane Hanger when restoration of that building is completed.

A motion was made by Michael Kaufman to classify this project as a Type II action. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed by a majority vote with 1 abstention (Lance Mallamo).

2. Proposed Construction of Stump Pond Boardwalk at Blydenburgh County Park, Hauppauge, Town of Smithtown

A presentation was made by Nicholas Gibbons, Environmental Analyst in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, who stated that this project involves the construction of a 3 foot wide boardwalk, approximately 1,000 ft. long, to connect existing trails on the southwest side of Stump Pond in Blydenburgh County Park. Mr. Gibbons stated that he would be on site during the construction of this boardwalk to make sure that no major vegetation is cleaned.. This project has been awarded a \$25,000 ISTE A grant from New York.

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to classify this project as an Unlisted action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed by a unanimous vote.

3. Proposed Expansion of Cleared Areas at Bohemia Equestrian Center County Park, Town of Islip

A presentation was made by Nicholas Gibbons, Environmental Analyst in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, who stated that this project involves the clearing of an additional 0.25 acres to alleviate parking and access problems at Bohemia Equestrian Center County Park.

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to classify this project as an Unlisted action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed by a unanimous vote.

4. Proposed Residential Juvenile Detention Center, Yaphank, NY, CP 3012, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation was given by Ralph Borkowski, Landscape Architect, in the Department of Public Works, and Gilbert Balog, Sr. Vice President and Project Architect for the LIRO Group, who stated that this project involves construction of a 30,000 sq. ft. one-story juvenile facility on 9 acres of County property in Yaphank, NY, with a minimum of 32 beds and a potential capacity of up to 40 beds, an outdoor visitation area, health care services area, a food serving facility and a laundry area. The facility will provide 41 parking spaces for staff and visitors. The facility will be screened with trees and shrubbery to prevent visibility from adjacent residential areas. The design will be of residential character. No landscaping plan was available at the time of the meeting, but indigenous species will be used. This project has already been before the County Legislator for that district. The east and south sides of this facility will be fenced and will not be visible from Yaphank Avenue. The building materials will be masonry.

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to classify this project as an Unlisted action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed by a unanimous vote which included Steve Brown, Brookhaven CAC.

5. Proposed Addition to Sixth District Court, CP 1106, Village of Patchogue, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation was given by Keith Larsen, Architect, in the Department of Public Works, who stated that this project involves an addition to Sixth District Court consisting of 6,185 square feet to the south and east sides of the existing 9,384 square foot building built in 1983. which will include: 2 hearing rooms, 2 EBT rooms, a jury deliberation room with restroom, public restrooms, security office and check-in area, judges' chambers and an enlarged lobby with seating. The landscaping that is removed will be replaced. Twelve parking spaces will be removed, but the parking lot will still be large enough to meet Village parking requirements. The local Legislator and Village officials are aware of this project. Steve Brown suggested that the Village be contacted. EBT rooms will be used for smaller cases. As a result, additional parking spaces will be necessary. Lighting will not affect those residences near the building since it will be directed downward. Legislator Fields wanted to know if a second floor on the existing building was considered an option. It was pointed out that the existing building was not designed for a second floor.

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to classify this project as an Unlisted action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed by a unanimous vote.

6. Proposed Development Plan of Long Island Maritime Museum, West Sayville, Town of Islip

Judy Gordon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, introduced Douglas Shaw and Retired Admiral Floyd H. Miller, Chairman, Board of Trustees, of the Long Island Maritime Museum, who addressed the Council and stated that the Development Plans of the Museum included restoration of the marine railway, a current facility on the site which has not been operational for better than 20 years; relocating the Hart family garage, which may have been a boathouse, to its original location; the restoration of the front entrance to the main museum building, which was the garage building, to its original configuration; and the restoration of sites around two the historic buildings. The second portion of the project includes infrastructure items, creation of a new driveway into the property to accommodate traffic patterns and addition of 7 parking spaces. The third project would be to restore fence lines and paved access to the Museum, as well as the proposed expansion of the main museum building, including the installation of restroom facilities, etc.

Chairperson Elkowitz felt that if the role of the Council on Environmental Quality is to make a recommendation for a full SEQRA review, more information on this individual is project is necessary, i.e., locations, square footages, toxic waste removal, etc. It was recommended that the EAF be modified to indicate adoption of the "plan" only and acknowledgement that there will be future SEQRA reviews as the individual projects are developed. Richard Martin and Michael Kaufman suggested that the main entrance drive be moved south so as not to destroy the trees in that area.

The Council members also wanted to know who, at the County level, approves the plan. Is it the Parks Trustees, the Parks Commissioner or the Legislature?

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to table the project. Michael Kaufman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to table it.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairperson Elkowitz noted that two pieces of correspondence were received by the CEQ regarding the Council's review of the Vector Control Plan. In a letter dated March 13, 2002, from Kevin McAllister, Peconic Baykeeper, stated that the minutes of the January 2002, meeting should more accurately reflect the content of the statements made by Mr. Vito Minei. In a letter dated March 15, 2002, the Office of Ecology, however, agreed with the statements in the minutes.

Legislator Fields stated that she planned to introduce legislation for a "court stenographer" to take verbatim minutes. She also pointed out that three Council members' terms had expired (Elkowitz, Manfredonia and Kast). She was advised that Sharon Kast resigned from the Council and that Lance Mallamo replaced her. She was also advised that one vacancy exists. The Suffolk County Legislature appoints the CEQ members.

HISTORIC SERVICES:

Richard Martin briefed the Council on the following:

a. Coindre Hall Boathouse - The County Architect has approved a shoring up plan for the east side of the building. Sagamore Rowing will move their items out of that side of the building. The west side of the building can be used for their storage.

b. Saktikos Manor - A Committee has been formed to create a management plan for the Saktikos Manor. The County is still negotiating with the Foundation to acquire the property and its contents of the house which is going in a positive direction. It is important to follow this acquisition because of the collection in the house. Lance Mallamo, member of the Council, is also on the Committee. The first meeting has been held in an effort to approach the problem of the contents of the Manor.

c. Helen Keller House - An article appeared in Newsday regarding the disposition of the Helen Keller House. The Council approved demolishing the building because so much of it has been destroyed. The property has been reviewed by the Historic Trust Committee to be put into the Friends Landmark Program. The Friends decided that it was too far gone for them to finance a restoration. It is now on the list with the Parks Department to be demolished.

CAC CONCERNS:

Joy Squires questioned the status of the Empire State Carousel and if a permanent home has been found for it. It will be dismantled and stored in a trailer on Friday following the CEQ meeting. Joy thought it should be placed on County property. If not, the Town of Huntington would apply to have it moved to Huntington Town. Legislator Fields said she would contact Joy Squires when a decision has been reached by the Legislature.

A motion was made at 11:00 AM by Thomas Cramer to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed by a unanimous vote.

klr/s