

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Lawrence Swanson
Chairperson
CEQ

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: August 16, 2017

TIME: 9:35 am – 11:10 am

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 2nd Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Larry Swanson, Chair

Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair

Robert Carpenter Jr.

Frank De Rubeis

Hon. Kara Hahn

Constance Kepert

Mary Ann Spencer

ABSENT:

Michael Doall

Eva Growney

Thomas Gulbransen

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner

John Corral, Senior Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Principal Clerk Typist

GUESTS:

Lou Bekofsky, Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Frank Castelli, Environmental Projects Coordinator, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

Camilo Salazar, Environmental Planner, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

Michael Lamberti, Director, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Tom Iwanejko, Director Vector Control, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Mary Dempsey, Biologist, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Ilic Rochlin, Laboratory Director, Vector Control, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Maria Nida, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law

Andrew Narus, Associate, Cameron Engineering

Catherine Stark, Legislative Aide, District 1 Legislator Al Krupski

Diego De La Rocha, Intern, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

Sophia Anuth, Intern, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

Minutes:

July 19, 2017

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to approve the July 19, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carpenter. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

None

Public Portion:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

- Updates on Housing Program for Historic Trust Sites

Mr. Martin reported that Suffolk County Parks Department recently filled two vacancies that were at Robert Cushman Murphy County Park in Manorville. These rental units were reappraised which is now standard practice when a rental vacancy occurs. Mr. Martin noted that typically rental rates are increasing by 100-200 dollars per month. Mr. Martin also informed the committee that there are now two new

vacancies, one at the Robinson Duck Farm and one West Hills County Park. Mr. Martin noted that it is anticipated that these two vacancies will be filled shortly.

- Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin noted that there was positive news coverage in Newsday yesterday regarding the County's partnership with the Friends of Cedar Point Lighthouse. Mr. Martin informed the Counsel that Suffolk County has appropriated 500,000 dollars which includes enough planning money to hire an architect to do plans for the full restoration of the exterior of the lighthouse. Mr. Martin also noted this was one of the County's top priorities for historic restoration. Mr. Martin briefed the CEQ on some of the other top priorities and their restoration status. This included the restoration of the Blydenburgh Mill which was completed in 2007 and the ongoing restoration of the Homan House and the Miller House.

Project Review:

Recommended Type I Actions:

- A. Proposed Suffolk County Wetland Restoration – Smith Point North County Park, Town of Brookhaven

Frank Castillo, Environmental Projects Coordinator with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning gave an overview of the four County Wetland Restoration Projects that were before the CEQ. Mr. Castillo noted that these projects are funded by two separate Federal Grants. A FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant from Superstorm Sandy is providing funding for the Smith Point North County Park restoration project and a United States Fish and Wildlife grant for the Gardiners County Park, Timber Point County Park and West Sayville County Park.

After Mr. Castillo project introduction, John Corral as staff to the CEQ, briefed the CEQ on the SEQRA review process for these four wetland restoration projects. Mr. Corral noted that in 2007 Suffolk County adopted the Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long Term Plan. As part of this Plan's adoption the County, as designated Lead Agency, completed a Generic Environmental Impact Statement which included the adoption of a Findings Statement. The Findings Statement included requirements for additional SEQRA review for Wetlands Management Practices. Mr. Corral noted that the four projects before the CEQ include wetlands management practices, which based on the Findings Statement, require additional review. The Findings Statement noted that the additional SEQRA review should include the completion of an Environmental Assessment Form and then a determination as to whether the wetlands management project would have a significant impact on the environment. If the project is found not to have a significant adverse impact on the environment a Negative Declaration should be issued and if found the project may have a significant adverse impact a Positive Declaration requiring the completion of a Supplemental

Environmental Impact Statement should be issued.

After Mr. Corral's summary of the SEQRA review process, Thomas Iwanejko, Vector Control Director for the Suffolk County Department of Public Works, gave a detailed presentation regarding the project specifics on the four wetlands restoration projects. Mr. Iwanenko noted that the proposed marsh restoration involves improving the existing degraded marsh ditch features by strategically filling them with local material and coir logs and creating naturalized tidal channels (i.e. meandering runnels cut to slope) to improve tidal exchange between the bay and the marsh interior. The project also involves the creation of micropools connected to tidal channels to enhance natural conditions and to control marsh mosquito species.

As part of the discussion the CEQ members asked a number of questions including questions on the specific nature of the wetlands management techniques, the County oversight that will take place and whether it is anticipated that the proposed work will result in a reduction of mosquitos and the need for mosquito spraying.

In response to these questions, Mr. Iwanenko clarified the specific wetlands management techniques that will be employed. It was also noted that Suffolk County Department of Public Works staff and/or Suffolk County Division of Planning and Environment staff will be on site to supervise and monitor the wetlands management work. In addition, all work will be done in accordance with NYSDEC permits and that NYSDEC will also be supervising the wetlands management work. It was also noted that a similar wetlands management project that took place at Wertheim Federal Wildlife preserve resulted in a large reduction in the need for vector control spraying and it is anticipated that this project will also result in reductions in mosquitos and the resulting need for vector control spraying.

After the extended discussion described above, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as a Type I Action with a Negative Declaration. Mr. DeRubeis seconded the motion. Motion carries.

B. Proposed Suffolk County Wetland Restoration – Gardiner's County Park- East & West, Town of Islip

After the extended discussion for the proposed Suffolk County wetland restoration project (described in the above Smith Point North County Complex Project) Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as a Type I Action with a Negative Declaration. Mr. DeRubeis seconded the motion. Motion carries.

C. Proposed Suffolk County Wetland Restoration – Timber Point County Park, Town of Islip

After the extended discussion for the proposed Suffolk County wetland restoration project (described in the above Smith Point North County Complex Project) Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as a

Type I Action with a Negative Declaration. Mr. DeRubeis seconded the motion. Motion carries.

D. Proposed Suffolk County Wetland Restoration – West Sayville County Park, Town of Brookhaven

After the extended discussion for the proposed Suffolk County wetland restoration project (described in the above Smith Point North County Complex Project) Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as a Type I Action with a Negative Declaration. Mr. DeRubeis seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

A. Proposed Road Improvements to CR-1 (County Line Road) from the Vicinity of Merrick Road (NYS Route 27A) to the Vicinity of Matthew Drive, Town of Babylon

Mr. Michael Lamberti, Director of Preventative Maintenance, Suffolk County Department of Public Works gave a presentation regarding this project. The project involves road improvements to CR-1 along an approximately 7,875 feet road length from the vicinity of Merrick Road (NYS Route 27A) to the south and the vicinity of Matthew Drive to the north. There are two intersections along the route, County Road 12 (Oak Street) and NYS Route 27 (Sunrise Highway) where no work will be performed. The improvements, which will be located within the road right-of-way, include replacement of existing drainage catch basins, new sidewalks, curbs and driveway restorations, limited full depth pavement restoration and a final asphalt overlay.

The CEQ questioned whether this project was located in a flood zone and whether appropriated flood control precautions are being taken. CEQ staff noted that this was investigated and it was clear after consulting the FEMA flood maps that this project is not located within a designated flood zone. The CEQ also wanted to insure that the trees that are removed due to proposed construction will be replaced with appropriate streetscape trees.

Mr. DeRubeis made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The Motion included that the trees that are removed due to proposed construction will be replaced with appropriate streetscape trees. Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table July 25, 2017

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations as amended for the July 25, 2017 Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Motion carried.

Other Business:

CAC Concerns:

None

Meeting Adjourned