

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: April 18, 2018

TIME: 9:32 am – 11:25 pm

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 2nd Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair

Frank De Rubeis

Eva Growney

Hon. Kara Hahn

Mary Ann Spencer

ABSENT:

Larry Swanson, Chair

Robert Carpenter Jr.

Michael Doall

Constance Kepert

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

John Corral, Senior Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Principal Clerk

GUESTS:

Al Krupski, Suffolk County Legislator, District #1
Tom Donnelly, Suffolk County Legislator, District #17
Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Department of Parks,
Recreation and Conservation
Nick Gibbons, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Parks,
Recreation and Conservation
Frank Castelli, Chief Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Economic
Development and Planning, Division of Water Quality
Elyse Jay, Senior Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Economic
Development and Planning, Division of Water Quality
Maria Nida, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law
Corey Humphrey, District Manager, Suffolk County Soil and Water
Paul Clinton, Architect, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Meghan O'Reilly, Legislative Aide, Office of Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory
Alyssa Turano, Legislative Aide, Legislator Hahn, District #5
Greg Moran, Legislative Aide, Legislator Trotta, District #13
Justin Littell, Legislative Aide, Legislator Donnelly, District #17
Diego De La Rocha, Intern, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development
and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment
Emerson Hasbrouck, Sr. Resource Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Erik Bergey, P.E., Sr. Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Lorne Brousseau, Sr. Resource Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Carolyn Sukowski, Water Quality Coordinator, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Gerry Rosen, Engineer, P.W. Grosser
Rich Groh, Chief Environmental Analyst, Town of Babylon
Jessica Enzmann, Environmental GIS Analyst, Town of Babylon
Kaitlin Shahinian, Environmental GIS Analyst, Town of Babylon

Chair Larry Swanson was unable to attend the April 18, 2018 meeting and Vice Chair Michael Kaufman ran the meeting. The agenda was taken out of order as follows:

Other Business:

Suffolk County Stormwater Management Program Annual Report 2018

A presentation was given by Mr. Hasbrouck, Marine Program Director, with Cornell Cooperative Extension on the Suffolk County Stormwater Management Program. Mr. Hasbrouck's presentation consisted of a power point presentation on the efforts and results of the Stormwater Management Program. The annual report can be found online at www.SuffolkStormwater.com

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

A. Proposed Rehabilitation of Deer Lake, CP 8716, Towns of Babylon and Islip

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Paul Clinton, Architect with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works and Gerry Rosen, Engineer with PW Grosser Consulting. It was discussed that Suffolk County is seeking to rehabilitate Deer Lake, an artificial lake which is located in the Towns of Babylon and Islip that has a documented history of low levels during drought seasons, which impact the health and function of the lake.

The intent of the project is to raise and maintain the Deer Lake water level by installing a groundwater supply well and pump which is proposed to be sited in a Suffolk County owned recharge basin located adjacent to Swampawams Creek and Deer Lake. The water from the well is proposed to be pumped to an outfall structure located adjacent to Swampawams Creek and Deer Lake. The pump operation, which is proposed to be operated and maintained by Suffolk County, will be powered by electricity and will be controlled by a water level sensor system that will only activate the pump when the lake water level is below a predetermined elevation.

The proposed project also involves plans by Suffolk County Department of Public Works to purchase an undeveloped lot at the south end of Deer Lake. The lot is then planned to be developed by Suffolk County Department of Public Works with an ADA-accessible fishing pier, a sidewalk and two on-street parking spaces to provide the public with a recreational access point to Deer Lake. In addition, the project includes wetland restoration for any project disturbed wetlands and the potential for fish restocking of the rehabilitated lake.

The CEQ had an extended discussion regarding the details of this project. Key discussion topics are described below:

- The CEQ had questions regarding the groundwater sampling that was conducted via a test well. It was noted by Mr. Rosen that samples were taken at different depths and that there were some Volatile Organic Compound detections at the shallowest sampling location. Mr. Rosen also noted that of the detections only one detection exceeded drinking water standards. It was noted that this detection while above the standard was relatively low in concentration. Mr. Rosen noted that in the depth from 30-55 where the well screen is being proposed there were no detections. In addition, it was also noted that New York State Department of Conservation will be involved and will likely need to issue a well opening permit and will also monitor the discharge of the groundwater to surface water.
- The CEQ also had questions regarding the potential cause of the lake drawdown and asked about the recharge basin that was installed in close proximity to the lake. It was discussed that this recharge basin was installed relatively recently and that this recharge basin was not cutting off stream flow into the lake. Richard Groh, Chief Environmental Analyst from the Town of Babylon, noted that the lake draw

down has been a long term issue that occurs during periods of drought. It was noted that an environmental remediation project which resulted in treated groundwater being pumped out of the ground and discharged into the Swampawams Creek/Deer Lake had maintained the lake level but after the remediation project was completed the lake level dropped significantly resulting in negative environmental impacts to the lake and in complaints from local residents.

- The CEQ also discussed the proposed public access and the proposed fishing pier. The size of the fishing pier was clarified and it was also discussed by Justin Littell, Legislative Aide, Legislator Donnelly, District #17 that initially there had been some public opposition to the project over the public access but after the significant lake draw down occurred and a series of meetings with the local residents took place strong support for the project became evident.

After this extended discussion Mr. DeRubeis made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommended Type I Actions:

- A. Proposed Construction of a Paved Walking Path and Other Improvements at Old Field Horse Farm County Park, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Hon. Kara Hahn, Suffolk County Legislator. The proposed project involves the construction of a crushed stone walking path and other improvements. The EAF includes two proposed trail options: Option 1 is the preferred trail option and Option 2 is an alternative trail option. The exact location of the trail in relation to the shoreline is subject to change based on field conditions and NYSDEC guidance. The proposed action also includes two handicap accessible gates (one at each end of the trail), fencing and a small 6 to 8 car parking area.

At the meeting Legislator Hahn noted a few minor corrections that should be made to the EAF including changing the wording in the EAF from a “paved” walking trail to a “crushed stone” walking trail. Ms. Hahn also described the importance of the proposed walking trail including how this walking trail will connect to the existing walkable areas in the adjacent Town of Brookhaven’s West Meadow Beach.

After discussion the CEQ noted that this project would have a limited environmental impact and Mr. DeRubeis made a motion to recommend classification of the project as a Type I Action with a Negative Declaration. Hon. Krupski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Suffolk County Forensic Science Latent Fingerprint ID Lab at the Suffolk County Yaphank County Center, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Paul Clinton, Architect with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. The project involves the construction and accreditation of a new state of the art, standalone, latent fingerprint laboratory to be located at the Suffolk County Yaphank County Center complex. The proposed fingerprint lab will specialize in evidence latent fingerprint processing, maintenance of a fingerprint repository and fingerprint searches and comparisons. The proposed building will be a one story, approximately 14,000 square foot building. The proposed project also includes a paved interior access road extension and a paved building access area.

After a few questions from the CEQ members regarding the building details and design Ms. Growney made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

- A. Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table March 6, 2018 and March 20, 2018

Mr. Corral noted that CEQ staff's recommendations are listed on the LADS report. Mr. Corral noted that a number of projects on the LADS report that the CEQ had made SEQRA recommendations for and are moving forward.

Mr. DeRubeis asked a question regarding Introductory Resolution 1213-2018 - Appropriating Funds in connection with Removal of Toxic and Hazardous Materials and Components at various County facilities. Mr. Corral noted this action involves the removal of existing toxic materials from buildings such as asbestos and that the CEQ reviewed this action in 2005 and determined that it was a Type II Action.

Ms. Growney made a motion to accept staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table – March 6, 2018 and March 20, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Motion carried.

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

- Updates on Housing Program for Historic Trust Sites

Mr. Martin, Director of Historic Services noted that there is currently a vacancy at the Robert Cushman Murphy County Park located on Old River Road in Manorville. The long term tenant moved out and Parks will be renovating the unit and then it will be reappraised and rented out again.

- Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin noted that they are currently working on a Historic License Agreement with Sally Lynch at the Old Field Farm Property. This is a Historic Site so the contract is a Historic License Agreement.

Minutes:

February 21, 2018

A motion was made by Ms. Spencer to approve the February 21, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Ms. Growney abstained. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Mr. Kaufman noted that CEQ has received correspondence from Suffolk County Vector Control, notifying the CEQ of Suffolk County Vector Control's potential assistance to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) wetland restoration project at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. It was noted that the notification is being made to the CEQ in accordance with the Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetland Management Long Term Plan and that there is no action required by the CEQ for this project.

Public Comment:

Ms. Turano, Legislative Aide to Legislator Hahn noted that at the next Suffolk County Legislative Meeting there would be two new appointments to CEQ introduced.

CAC Concerns:

None

Meeting Adjourned