SUFFOLK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

c/o Suffolk County Department of Planning 100 Veterans Memorial Highway, PO Box 6100, Hauppauge, NY 11788-0099 T: (631) 853-5192 F: (631) 853-4044 Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning

NOTICE OF MEETING

June 1, 2011 12:00 – noon Evans K. Griffing Building, Maxine S. Postal Auditorium in Riverside, NY

Tentative Agenda Includes:

- 1. Adoption of minutes for March, April 2011
- 2. Public Portion
- 3. Chairman's report
- 4. Director's report
- 5. Guest Speakers:
 - Joseph M. Gergela III, Executive Director Long Island Farm Bureau
 - Village of Patchogue (Invited) Moratorium
 - Town of Southampton (Invited) Amendment
- 6. Section A14-14 thru A14-23 & A14-25 of the Suffolk County Administrative Code

•	Village of Patchogue Moratorium	Village Wide	(Village of Patchogue)
•	Town of Southampton – Amendment	General Development Standards	(Town of Southampton)
•	Artist Lake Plaza	0200 37900 0100 003001 et al.	(Town of Brookhaven)
•	Avalon Bay at Huntington Station	0400 10404 0200 001000 et al.	(Town of Huntington)

7. Section A14-24 of the Suffolk County Administrative Code

NONE

- 8. Other Business:
 - Consideration of draft of Suffolk County Comprehensive Plan-Volume 1

NOTE: The **next meeting** of the SUFFOLK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION will be held on WEDNESDAY, July 6th in the Legislative Auditorium in Hauppauge.

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SUFFOLK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Evans K. Griffing Building
Riverhead, New York
June 1, 2011
12:20 p.m.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - >

MEMBERS PRESENT:

DAVID CALONE, Chairman

CONSTANTINE KONTOKOSKA, Vice Chairman

ADRIENNE ESPOSITO, Secretary

CARL GABRIELSEN, Town of Riverhead

DIANA WEIR, Town of East Hampton

LINDA HOLMES, Shelter Island

THOMAS McADAM, Town of Southold

JENNIFER CASEY, Town of Huntington

MICHAEL KELLY, Town of Brookhaven

JOHN FINN, Town of Smithtown

MATTHEW CHARTRAND, Town of Islip

BARBARA ROBERTS, Town of Southampton

WILLIAM E. SCHOOLMAN, At Large

THOMAS YOUNG, ESQ., County Attorney for

Planning Department

SARAH LANSDALE, Director of Planning
DANIEL J. GULIZIO, Deputy Planning Director
ANDREW FRELENG, Chief Planner
ANDREW AMAKAWA, Planning Department

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- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon and welcome to
- 3 the June 2011 meeting of the Suffolk County Planning
- 4 Commission. I'll note that we have a quorum present
- 5 and I would ask the Vice Chairman to lead us in the
- 6 pledge.
- 7 (Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance)
- 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Let me start with an apology
- 9 for those present on our delay in getting started. I
- 10 appreciate you bearing with us this afternoon.
- 11 First item on the agenda is swearing in of
- 12 two new members of the Planning Commission. I ask Bill
- 13 Schoolman and Jennifer Casey to rise.
- 14 (The new Commission members were sworn in by
- 15 the Chairman.)
- 16 THE CHAIRMAN: Welcome aboard. (Applause)
- 17 Jennifer, Bill, anything that would you like to say?
- 18 COMMISSIONER CASEY: I just want to thank the
- 19 County Executive and County Legislature for the
- 20 opportunity to serve on this Commission, and I look
- 21 forward to working with all of you.
- COMMISSIONER SCHOOLMAN: The same.
- THE CHAIRMAN: We appreciate brevity, Bill;
- 24 that is a good start. Next item on the agenda is the
- 25 adoption of the minutes for March and April of 2011.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Our editor-in-chief and I have reviewed the minutes.
- 3 Let's start with March. Commissioner Holmes, any
- 4 additions?
- 5 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: With March, I found
- 6 about twenty errors, and most of them are fairly minor,
- 7 but there a couple that were garbled or that a word was
- 8 omitted. I think they're certainly correctable.
- 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Edits that I found were fairly
- 10 de minimis, typographical in nature. Anyone else have
- any additions to the March, 2011 minutes? Seeing none,
- 12 I will accept a motion to adopt the minutes.
- 13 COMMISSIONER HORTON: So move.
- 14 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: Second.
- 15 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor, please
- 16 raise your hand. I'll record the two new members as
- 17 abstaining on the vote. The vote is eleven to zero to
- 18 t.wo.
- 19 The next item is the minutes of April, 2011.
- 20 I also have de minimis typographical edits.
- 21 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: I only found
- 22 twenty-eight errors. As usual you found a zillion
- 23 more. Again, I think they're fairly minor. Mostly
- 24 with mine there were words that were omitted in a
- 25 sentence and again, guite correctable.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Other edits or additions to
- 3 the minutes of April, 2011? Seeing none, motion by
- 4 Commissioner Weir and second by Commissioner Roberts.
- 5 All in favor, please raise your hand. Opposed? And
- 6 two abstentions; eleven to zero to two.
- 7 Thank you again, as always, to Commissioner
- 8 Holmes for her efforts in reading the minutes so
- 9 carefully.
- The next item is the public portion. I have
- 11 a number of cards here today. First one is from Mitch
- 12 Pally. Mr. Pally, you have three minutes. I have a
- 13 timer up there, which I will be using. So state your
- 14 name and spell it for the record.
- MR. PALLY: Usually on MTA, I'm on the other
- 16 side of the three minutes. Thank you. Mitchell Pally,
- 17 Chief Executive Officer of the Long Island Builders
- 18 Institute, and on behalf of the four hundred fifty
- 19 members and employees of LIBI, we are here today to
- 20 reaffirm our support for the rezoning of the property
- 21 involved in Huntington Station from single family homes
- 22 to multi-family under the Town's existing multi-family
- 23 zoning statute.
- The rezoning of this property will allow for
- 25 the one of the most beautiful and exciting housing

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 developments to be built in the Town of Huntington.
- 3 Just as such a project was already built in Melville.
- 4 The project will provide hundreds of construction jobs
- 5 and many new permanent jobs in the management of the
- 6 facility and create many new options in the downtown
- 7 areas for the many young families and young people.
- 8 The project will be tax positive for the local school
- 9 district and provide signifiant environmental benefits
- in the community by facilitating the sewage and water
- 11 flow through one managed community rather than in over
- 12 one hundred single family homes.
- In addition, traffic mitigation measures will
- 14 allow for the inclusion of new transportation features
- 15 staggered throughout the day into the road network.
- 16 All in all LIBI believes this project is the right
- 17 project in the right place at the right time in the
- 18 Town of Huntington and it meets all the specific
- 19 criteria listed in both the County's Comprehensive Plan
- 20 and the County's Smart Growth Plan.
- Even more important than that, this project
- 22 has become a linchpin for Long Island. Is Long Island
- 23 going to go forward or going to go backwards? While
- 24 almost all of the other municipalities on Long Island
- 25 were not helping to the degree necessary, the Town of

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Huntington was aggressive and forthright in making sure
- 3 that Canon would remain on Long Island and create
- 4 hundreds of jobs for our residents. Now the Town of
- 5 Huntington in cooperation with Suffolk County here
- 6 today can once again help Long Island by making sure
- 7 that these housing needs are developed in the Town of
- 8 Huntington.
- 9 It is no accident that the most important
- 10 office building project, and to a degree, the most
- important residential project, are both being built in
- 12 the Town of Huntington with the cooperation of Suffolk
- 13 County, which is what we need today, the cooperation of
- 14 Suffolk County. As we all knew from the movies, Long
- 15 Island will not go quietly into the night without a
- 16 fight. And the municipality and the municipalities
- 17 leading that way are asking this planning commission
- 18 for help in making that happen.
- 19 Your approval of the Avalon Bay development
- 20 in Huntington Station will once again showcase both the
- 21 leadership of the Town of Huntington and the leadership
- 22 of Suffolk County. We would urge its approval. We
- 23 would urge its approval in the manner in which it's
- 24 designed now by the Town of Huntington without any
- 25 additional conditions, and we would urge its approval

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 today so that the project can move forward. Thank you
- 3 very much.
- 4 THE CHAIRMAN: Next speaker is William Hubbs.
- 5 Spell your last name for the record and you have three
- 6 minutes.
- 7 MR. HUBBS: Thank you. H-U-B-B-S. My name
- 8 is William Hubbs. I've been a resident of Huntington
- 9 and Huntington Station for approximately fifty-six
- 10 years. I've seen the Station change dramatically in
- 11 this time. Right now, it's a terrible neighborhood.
- 12 What it needs is an investment. What it needs it an
- influx of money of disposable income. The developer is
- 14 willing to put over a hundred million dollars of
- 15 private money at risk in one of the worst neighborhoods
- 16 on Long Island.
- You're going to hear a lot of about how crime
- 18 ridden the area is. This project is not going to cure
- 19 all of the problems, but it is a first step. This
- 20 project will bring approximately eighteen million
- 21 dollars in disposable income into the neighborhood,
- 22 eighteen million dollars of disposable income per year.
- 23 What is that going to do to all of the retailers the
- 24 stores, the different service companies in that area?
- 25 It's going to help them dramatically.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- This is a good project. It makes sense, as
- 3 Mitch stated. It's met all the criteria necessary.
- 4 Approval is essential for the revitalization of the
- 5 Huntington Station area. If we don't get this project
- 6 approved, it's going to send a terrible message to the
- 7 rest of the development community; that is, the towns
- 8 and counties are not willing to work with them on
- 9 worthwhile projects.
- This project is key not only to Huntington
- 11 Station but to Suffolk County and Long Island in
- 12 general. Thank you for your time.
- 13 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Robert Alison.
- MR. LIFSON: L-I-F-S-O-N. The proposal has
- 15 changed, but I submit to you planning concepts haven't
- 16 changed. This particular town has spent fourteen years
- 17 revising its master plan. The new master plan has only
- 18 been in existence less than two years and it did not
- 19 specify the rezoning of this particular site or even an
- 20 additional RM-3 zoning was needed in Huntington
- 21 Station.
- 22 At the same time, the Town fathers did
- 23 indicate that we would go ahead with what had is called
- 24 a hamlet plan, and to that end it's my understanding
- 25 that we have hired or about to hire a master planner to

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 deal with the hamlet, mean meaning the area immediately
- 3 around the train station, so that would take a valuable
- 4 planning tool away from that, on planning concepts
- 5 alone it should not go as proposed.
- 6 When you last had it, it came in on the
- 7 context of a transit oriented district. This
- 8 Commission rightly found, as currently constructed, the
- 9 application of transit oriented ordinance could be
- 10 considered a spot zoning, as it's inconsistent with the
- 11 current patterns of zoning in the locale and is
- 12 exclusively applicable only to one location.
- 13 The same comments hold true here. I know
- 14 it's not in the context of a transit oriented district
- 15 but the ostensible public interest to be served in
- 16 return together with one of the most recent downzonings
- in memory of the Town was that it would provide housing
- 18 for empty nesters and entry level young people and
- 19 three bedroom apartments are not going to do that. If
- 20 the public objective was sincerely sought by the
- 21 proposal, it would have eliminated or reduced
- 22 significantly that component. So the underlying
- 23 predicate no longer exists.
- I think when stripped of everything, you can
- 25 see whether, intended or not, the only beneficial

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 effect that I can see, quite cynically, is that the
- 3 owner of the land will be able to achieve the maximum
- 4 yield possible and the reason the proposal changed is
- 5 simply because they initially proposed a zoning density
- 6 in which there was no predicate in the zoning code.
- 7 Based on your findings, it was obvious, that it would
- 8 be, found in your words, could be found illegal.
- 9 Probably would be found illegal. So they couldn't go
- 10 forward with it on that basis.
- I live in proximity. I can tell you that
- 12 Park Avenue is a county road that does not conform with
- 13 the plans of almost fifty years envisioned for it. It
- 14 cannot accommodate the severe traffic increase and
- 15 particularly where the exitway is onto Park Avenue, is
- 16 right next to the train abutment. When you are going
- from north to south, the visibility of seeing the cars
- 18 exiting from the street in question, is highly suspect,
- 19 and poses danger.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lifson. Next
- 21 we have Matt Whalen.
- 22 MR. WHALEN: W-H-A-L-E-N. Good afternoon.
- 23 My name is Matt Whalen, with Avalon Bay. We are the
- 24 proposed developer of the application that is before
- 25 the Commission. I like to call us an investor rather

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 than a developer. I would like to focus on a few
- 3 points today, because you are going to hear a lot of
- 4 things today. I would like the Commission to focus on
- 5 the following facts: This proposal represents a
- 6 hundred million dollar direct invest by our company
- 7 creating three hundred fifty-eight construction jobs
- 8 with over forty million dollars of annual earnings.
- 9 Total economic impact is two hundred eighty-four
- 10 million and over five thousand indirect jobs.
- 11 Annually, you heard earlier, this proposal would create
- 12 a total economic impact of eighteen million dollars in
- 13 the surrounding area.
- 14 Those are the facts that I ask you to focus
- on, not the location, which, in our opinion, is
- 16 perfect. It's next to a train station. It's an
- 17 appropriate area for density. Not the same density
- 18 which we built ten years ago in Melville, and has been
- 19 an integral part of the community for years. Not the
- 20 parking counts, because we own sixty nine thousand
- 21 apartment units throughout the country. We are very
- 22 sensitive to our residents' need for parking.
- When I was last before this Commission, it
- 24 seems like many years ago now but it wasn't, I actually
- 25 wrote letters to the Commission after the meeting

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 applauding the leadership of the Commission in
- 3 overriding what I believed were staff recommendations
- 4 that I believed were flawed. At this moment, I ask for
- 5 you to do the same thing, if needed, and please don't
- 6 make this process any harder than it's been to this
- 7 date because it's very challenging right now to get
- 8 private investment dollars here on Long Island. Thank
- 9 you very much.
- 10 THE CHAIRMAN: Anthony Guardino.
- MR. GUARDINO: G-U-A-R-D-I-N-O. Later
- 12 today, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, you are
- 13 going to hear -- you will be discussing this three
- 14 hundred seventy-nine unit multi-family development that
- is proposed by Avalon Bay in Huntington Station. The
- development will be comprised of three hundred three
- 17 rental units and seventy-six for sale townhouses.
- 18 Unlike the previous proposal, that required the
- 19 creation of a new zoning district, this downsized
- 20 development has been designed to fully comply with the
- 21 density, height, setbacks and parking regulations of
- 22 the Town's existing R-3M zone which permits fourteen
- 23 point five units per acre.
- This scaled down proposal contains 30% or a
- 25 hundred fifty-one units less than the original five

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 hundred thirty unit proposal and will result in
- 3 increased open space. Fifty-four units will be
- 4 affordable units that fully comply with the Town's
- 5 affordable housing regulations. I also want to point
- 6 out that the single family subdivision that was
- 7 approved does not provide any affordable housing. The
- 8 development will provide a total of eleven hundred
- 9 thirty-three on site parking spaces, will includes six
- 10 hundred forty-one off street spaces and two hundred
- 11 seventy-four spaces within garages and driveways and
- 12 two hundred eighteen land banked spaces. And all of
- which are permissible parking spaces under the Town's
- 14 zoning regulations while the development itself has
- 15 changed, its location has not.
- 16 It's still located within a walkable
- one-third mile of the Long Island railroad train
- 18 station, which is also served by the HART bus system.
- 19 While not a transit oriented development in name, it
- 20 derives the benefits of being near a large transit
- 21 center which will be accessible by way of a pedestrian
- 22 walkway.
- The proposed rezoning and development are
- 24 also consistent with the recommendations of the Town's
- 25 2020 Comprehensive Plan that was reviewed and approved

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 by this Commission on October 1, 2008. The proposed
- 3 multi-family development is also consistent with other
- 4 multi-family developments located in the area that have
- 5 been constructed in accordance with the Town's R-3M
- 6 zoning regulations and provide an appropriate
- 7 transitional use between the industrial parcels to the
- 8 north and residentially zoned parcels to the south.
- 9 As conditions of the Commission's approval of
- 10 the prior Avalon application, the Commission requested
- 11 that the Town take steps to ensure that housing types
- 12 are equitably distributed across communities of the
- 13 Town. While this Commission seeks to achieve a
- 14 laudable goal, the reality is that this condition
- 15 cannot be satisfied because high density development
- 16 requires access to the sewer intrastructure which is
- only available in limited areas of the the Town, such
- 18 as this one. Moreover, the availability of high
- 19 density housing is closely correlated with proximity to
- 20 public transportation, and this is another reason why
- 21 much of the Town's high density housing is located in
- 22 Huntington Station, which is a transit hub.
- Therefore, it is respectfully requested that
- the Commission not condition its approval on a
- 25 requirement that the Town take measures to ensure equal

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 distribution of high density and affordable houses
- 3 throughout the Town, which is simply not a condition
- 4 that the Town can comply with. Finally, we urge the
- 5 Commission to approve this application and allow for
- 6 the creation of these new jobs and investment in
- 7 Huntington Station. Thank you.
- 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Carolyn Hannan.
- 9 MRS. HANNAN: H-A-N-N-A-N. I live at 7 Lake
- 10 Road in Huntington Station. I have lived there for the
- 11 last thirty years, thirty-three years. I've also owned
- 12 a dog. I live on a half acre on a tree lined street
- with homes anywhere from fifty to twenty years old.
- 14 The crime rate is so terrible there that I
- 15 can walk my dog any time of the day and night alone on
- 16 that street. There is no crime rate in this area. The
- 17 area of the crime rate is west of Route 110. It is not
- 18 east of 110, and east is where Avalon Bay wants to
- 19 improve that blighted area on a heavily wooded piece of
- 20 land adjacent to the railroad tracks. That heavily
- 21 wooded piece of land is a carbon sink for the Town
- 22 because of the large number of trees in there. If we
- 23 take that area down we lose the carbon sink and
- 24 increase the carbon footprint of the Town of
- 25 Huntington.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Traffic congestion is another problem.
- 3 Without Avalon Bay, we have severe traffic congestion
- 4 on Pulaski Road and Park Avenue. Beside the
- 5 congestion, Park Avenue is a direct line to Huntington
- 6 Hospital. There are ambulances who do go up that
- 7 street any time of the day and night. You add another
- 8 five hundred to a thousand cars there coming out just
- 9 below the railroad, you are going to lose lives when
- 10 the ambulance cannot reach Huntington Hospital within a
- 11 reasonable length of time.
- Right now it is worth your life to get out of
- 13 Lake Road, Hofstra, Whitson onto Park Avenue and cross,
- 14 because the traffic is so heavy. Next problem, on
- 15 infrastructure.
- The question becomes what are we going to do
- 17 with the sewage from that place? In our area we are
- 18 all on cesspools. North of the railroad tracks is a
- 19 sewer district that goes up into Halesite, and there
- 20 are facilities for sewage up there. We are all south
- of the railroad tracks, and we are all on cesspools.
- 22 This is going to make quite a mess.
- The other problem is do we have enough water
- 24 for another three hundred seventy-nine apartments and
- 25 things; I don't know. Because we are always being told

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 conserve electricity. Same story, turn off the lights,
- 3 increase the temperature on your air conditioner, lower
- 4 the temperature on your furnace, et cetera.
- 5 Schools, right now we had to close a school
- 6 west of the railroad on west of 110 because of crime
- 7 and problems with that neighborhood. All of our
- 8 schools are very much overcrowded because we had to
- 9 take those students and move them. They keep saying
- 10 there will be thirty or forty students. Melville ended
- 11 up with many more students than the eighty they told
- 12 them, more like two hundred students. There are other
- 13 things that I can go on, but I won't because of the
- 14 time limit, but I will tell you this is the wrong place
- 15 for that project.
- 16 THE CHAIRMAN: Kathy Eismann.
- MS. EISMANN: Good afternoon. I'm Kathy
- 18 Eisemann; E-I-S-M-A-N-N. Kathy with a K. I am a
- 19 certified planner. I'm a partner at Nelson, Pope and
- 20 Voorhis, and I'm here to speak about the Artist Lake
- 21 Plaza application that the Commission is reviewing for
- 22 the change of zone. The property is in Middle Island.
- 23 This is a site that has been developed with a shopping
- 24 center since 1965. Since, I think it's been about a
- 25 decade, that K-Mart has been closed. It's an eyesore

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 for the community. It's an overgrown parking lot.
- 3 It's a source of loitering. There is vandalism out on
- 4 the site.
- 5 So the applicant has proposed a plan, the
- 6 Artist Lake Plaza plan, that has a mix of development
- 7 on it, which is retail as well as restaurant uses.
- 8 This plan has been developed in coordination with Town
- 9 planning and has been guided by the Middle Country Road
- 10 Land Use Plan.
- 11 The Middle Country Road Land Use Plan
- 12 included one aspect which is not included here. This
- 13 has commercial recreation. Unfortunately, that type of
- 14 use that is not been found to be economically
- 15 sustainable. We have seen that in this area,
- 16 unfortunately. Sports Plus in Lake Grove is a good
- 17 example. It's a great type of use; unfortunately, it
- 18 doesn't really work right now.
- 19 Nelson Pope & Voorhis was involved with the
- 20 environmental impact statement. We did a full
- 21 commercial market study for this to determine how much
- 22 commercial space can be supported in this area. This
- is an area that there isn't a lot of retail shopping.
- 24 I grew up in the area. There was a TSS on the
- 25 property. It was the closest shopping anywhere near

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 us. Right now, there is Wal Mart in the area, but they
- 3 were looking at the western node of Middle Country Road
- 4 in the Middle Country Road Land Use Plan, and that has
- 5 been an area with some strength. This is not.
- In fact, it's a Blight to Light. I hope you
- 7 are familiar with Supervisor Lesko's plan Blight to
- 8 Light to look at brownfield sites. This is a site that
- 9 he slated for priority. This plan includes planning
- 10 requirements, sanitary code, storm water will be
- 11 maintained on site and twenty-five acres will be
- 12 dedicated for athletic fields which is needed in the
- 13 area.
- 14 There were a few variances required. One is
- 15 for parking. This site has a lot of pedestrian
- 16 connections and I'm out of time. So I'll stop there.
- 17 Thank you very much.
- 18 THE CHAIRMAN: Douglas Hannan.
- MR. HANNAN: H-A-N-N-A-N. My wife and I
- 20 differ in approach. I listen to the people that have
- 21 spoken eloquently here. I envy them, I'm a man who
- 22 retired about fifteen years ago. I wanted to retire in
- 23 Huntington. I like to sail my twenty foot boat. We
- 24 walk the beaches at night.
- What has happened, my town is changing.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Those empty nesters are coming back again. There goes
- 3 my pension halfway through in another ten years.
- 4 Reinvestment, the gentlemen before me is an investor.
- 5 Investors want profit? How do they get it? You tell
- 6 me.
- 7 The things I'm going to talk to you -- I
- 8 forgot to say, I'm a curmudgeon and I'm a retired
- 9 political cartoonist. That makes me nasty. I don't
- 10 like the way this has been handled from the beginning.
- 11 The onslaught started in February or so, twenty-five or
- 12 thirty showed up for a typical meeting. Lo and behold
- 13 three months later there were signs going up throughout
- 14 the area, no more Avalon with a slash in the middle.
- 15 Why? They want us to take care of the
- 16 support problems while they introduce all the
- 17 buildings. We end up with schools up to the gazoo and
- 18 water up to the gazoo like when we had rain like we did
- 19 last week. Basically the manner in which it was done.
- 20 Here's an example. We went to a meeting a month ago.
- 21 The other side, everybody came early. I don't mean a
- 22 half an hour, I mean an hour early. When we got there,
- 23 three quarters of the place was already seated. It was
- 24 twenty people that spoke for it, two people against,
- and by the time you hit the third hour, everybody was

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 half asleep and the seats went away and didn't hear the
- 3 other aspects.
- 4 I realize a hundred million dollars sounds
- 5 like a lot of money. You can't buy New York with that.
- 6 It stinks. Three people on my road alone say I have
- 7 kids in town, the schools are going downhill, I'm
- 8 moving out of town. I paid a lot for my particular
- 9 living quarters. I couldn't get more than maybe two
- 10 thirds what I paid for my house now.
- Basically, it's not done the way it should
- 12 be. So I'm objecting to it. I'm saying please vote
- 13 no. Thank you very much.
- 14 THE CHAIRMAN: Councilman Mayoka.
- 15 COUNCILMAN MAYOKA: Mark Mayoka. Thank you
- 16 that is M-A-Y-O-K-A. Good afternoon, members of the
- 17 Planning Commission, I want to congratulate the
- 18 appointment for the Town of Huntington, Jennifer Casey,
- 19 for your first day. This is a little bit of a baptism
- 20 by fire. Welcome.
- The way I see it, from the Town's perspective
- 22 as a councilman, we have four issues. We have an issue
- 23 regarding infrastructure, we have an issue regarding
- 24 the school system, and we have an issue regarding crime
- and we have a need for a comprehensive integrated plan.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- If we look at the infrastructure, the current
- 3 allowed zoning is a hundred six, a hundred nine units.
- 4 If there were two cars per house it would yield two
- 5 hundred twenty cars, approximately. The current plan
- 6 allows for thirteen hundred parking spaces. This is
- 7 for an additional one thousand cars. If I come up with
- 8 a general calculation, if each car is ten feet, that
- 9 would be ten thousand feet of cars, almost two miles
- 10 long placed back to back. This feeds onto Park Avenue.
- 11 I don't know if there are any members that
- 12 have driven up Park Avenue? It's difficult for there
- 13 to be any progress lunch time, dinner time, in the
- 14 morning. This would be an undue burden on the traffic.
- The second issue is the sewer system is at or
- 16 near capacity. The issue of that has to be dealt with.
- 17 I've spoken with our internal people in that regard.
- The school system right now, you may or may
- 19 not know that Jack Abrams has been closed. Any new
- 20 student is a net increase, students are doubled and
- 21 tripled up. This is not a net tax positive
- 22 development. The cost of new students coming in will
- 23 be greater than the revenue coming in for the students.
- 24 There is some issues regarding that. There is a
- 25 development called Winoca Village, one hundred units

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 and they gave off one hundred seven students. By
- 3 comparison, there would be four hundred students. I
- 4 don't think that would be the case but it would be more
- 5 than the amount projected.
- The third issue is the crime. One of my
- 7 colleagues went so far so say that this development
- 8 would interfere with the critical mission of focusing
- 9 on crime. That hadn't changed. That hadn't changed in
- 10 six months. There is still crime. That needs to be
- 11 addressed. The county, town and state and federal
- 12 authorities have to work together and focus on the
- 13 crime.
- 14 The last issue is the importance of there
- 15 being a need for an integrated comprehensive plan, not
- 16 a piecemeal approach. There is no integration with
- 17 commercial development. There is a gateway from Main
- 18 Street in Huntington to Jericho Turnpike and New York
- 19 Avenue. This needs to be revitalized and be part of
- 20 the comprehensive plan. We have a hamlet program going
- 21 forward. Why is this not part of the hamlet program?
- 22 We can't put the cart before the horse. We need to
- 23 integrate that with the hamlet program. We need to go
- 24 forward with that with the help and quidance of Suffolk
- 25 County.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- I urge that the project be set aside as is
- 3 and help develop this comprehensive plan that is
- 4 necessary. Thank you.
- 5 THE CHAIRMAN: Let me take the opportunity to
- 6 recognize all the folks from Huntington, both those in
- 7 favor and those opposed, who came here to Riverhead to
- 8 let us know what you were thinking. The planning
- 9 members are one from each town. Once you are on this
- 10 commission a few months, you recognize how big this
- 11 county is. I want to recognize all of you, no matter
- 12 what your opinion is, for coming out here and letting
- 13 us know your thoughts. Next we have Linda Nicol.
- MS. NICOL: N-I-C-H-O-L. Good afternoon. I
- 15 live in Huntington Station. I live in Huntington
- 16 Country Farms. The proposed site is approximately
- 17 thirty feet from my back yard. After the last eighteen
- 18 years or so, Frank Petrone has managed to take a
- 19 beautiful hamlet and changed it to an overcrowded crime
- 20 ridden unsafe place to live. Using the word
- 21 "affordable," he literally has twelve people to a room
- 22 that spill out onto the streets. That is the same
- 23 street that Avalon Bay wants to build on.
- 24 Putting another fifteen hundred more people
- 25 on that street makes no sense. The Abrams School has

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 shut down for crime a few blocks away. Not to mention
- 3 the land is contaminated and an unsafe place to live.
- 4 What is Suffolk County going to do for me when my house
- 5 is deteriorated from years of dirt and infested with
- 6 poisonous rats.
- 7 Avalon Bay's application says garden
- 8 apartments. Then they're going to call them condos.
- 9 Today they call them townhouses. The rents are
- 10 twenty-five hundred to thirty-five hundred. That is
- 11 not affordable.
- This project has crash gates that go into the
- 13 woods and all this is on train tracks. The whole
- 14 project for three hundred seventy-nine units directly
- 15 affects our traffic, schools and population and air we
- 16 breath in a negative way. The last thing Huntington
- 17 Station needs is more people. We already hold 80% of
- 18 the township's affordable housing.
- 19 Frank Petrone does not even live in
- 20 Huntington. He has been doing favors and lining his
- 21 pockets off the backs of people like me that are paying
- 22 two thirds too high taxes for the square footage that
- 23 we live in. Him inviting Avalon Bay back is a
- 24 disgrace. He clearly has a job of convenience and is
- 25 not a public servant. There is no reason for this

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 project at all.
- 3 The Village of Huntington and everything
- 4 around it will become a copy of a Queens neighborhood.
- 5 Increased density in the future will drive up our
- 6 property taxes. By the time Frank Petrone is out of
- 7 office he will be in Florida and Huntington will no
- 8 longer be a nice place to go. I ask you to reject this
- 9 application. Thank you.
- 10 THE CHAIRMAN: Next we have Matt Harris.
- 11 MS. NICOL: Matt Harris was just called out
- 12 and can someone read his letter into the record.
- 13 THE CHAIRMAN: I will refer to counsel.
- 14 Would you put that on the bottom of the pile. Reverend
- 15 Artis.
- 16 REVEREND ARTIS: My last name is A-R-T-I-S.
- 17 Good afternoon, everyone, I'm Reverend Artis. I'm
- 18 pastor of Love of Christ Fellowship Church in
- 19 Huntington Station. I come here to speak against
- 20 Avalon, the development of Avalon Bay, for several
- 21 reasons. One of the first reasons is you hear people
- 22 say, well, we're going to have a hundred million
- 23 dollars and that is going to take care of everything,
- 24 but I'm here to tell you as a resident, because most of
- 25 the people who are really pushing this thing for

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Huntington Station do not live in Huntington Station.
- 3 (Applause)
- 4 Let me tell you what Huntington Station
- 5 needs. Huntington Station needs public safety.
- 6 Huntington Station needs true revitalization.
- 7 Revitalization, what that came to be revitalization is
- 8 like put an oasis on the sewer. It's just not real;
- 9 underneath you got the stink of not enforcing the
- 10 codes. We have dilapidated buildings. We have a
- 11 racial divide that we are trying to work on. We have
- 12 the problems in the schools we are trying to heal and
- 13 mend.
- 14 This is not the time to bring in anything.
- 15 First things first. Let's take care of the crime,
- 16 let's come together. These things money can't buy.
- 17 These things are lasting and everlasting.
- I personally consider Avalon Bay the
- 19 gentrification, because you are putting this thing in a
- 20 neighborhood where most working poor people cannot
- 21 afford it. Therefore, it's gentrification. You put it
- 22 in there and the working poor cannot afford -- those
- 23 homes are not affordable to none of us. I certainly
- 24 can't live there. People that work for the school
- 25 board can't live there.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 And you've heard the complaints about the
- 3 traffic. You heard about this ridiculous thing is only
- 4 going to produce X amount of kids, where it's possible
- 5 that three hundred seventy-nine units are going to
- 6 produce a lot more children than they say there they
- 7 are. We look at the other sites that did just that.
- 8 We were told they were going to produce a minimum
- 9 amount of kids, don't get me wrong, I love the
- 10 children, but they did produce a lot more children.
- 11 We are asking the County to do what the Town
- of Huntington did not do for us, help us restore
- ourselves, help us get rid of the crime and reopen our
- 14 schools and get our community back on our feet and then
- 15 we have time to think about things like that.
- 16 THE CHAIRMAN: Next we have Nancy Berg.
- 17 MS. BERG: Good afternoon. B-E-R-G. My name
- 18 is Nancy Berg. I live in Huntington Station, right
- 19 across from the train station, a couple of hundred
- 20 yards. Before most people in this room were born,
- 21 about fifty years ago, or at least adults, Huntington
- 22 Station experienced urban renewal which destroyed the
- 23 entire downtown. Older people living in Huntington
- 24 Station still remember that, still remember the
- 25 devastation and hurt of that experience.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 For the last eight years, Huntington Station
- 3 has been undergoing revitalization, but a necessary
- 4 component of revitalization is economic development.
- 5 Avalon Bay represents a huge piece of that economic
- 6 development which is necessary for revitalization. I'm
- 7 asking you, as members of the Suffolk County Planning
- 8 Commission, to approve this development without any
- 9 further delay because it may be the last big chance for
- 10 private investment in Huntington Station. Thank you.
- 11 THE CHAIRMAN: Jennifer LaVertu.
- MS. LaVERTU: L-A-V-E-R-T-U. I've been
- 13 sitting here just honestly writing pages and pages. I
- 14 can go on about Avalon Bay for hours. You just heard
- 15 from a Highview resident, she spoke about economic
- 16 development and Highview development, and I don't
- 17 understand how housing is it.
- Highview, back in 1989, the same argument
- 19 about kids, traffic, and it was built as the start of
- 20 revitalization. Here we have an example already there.
- 21 In the last ten years, it's gotten worse. How has
- 22 Highview revitalized Huntington Station? There is your
- 23 one example. All you need to do is look at this one
- 24 condensed area we have five R-3M zones; all of them
- 25 contributed to the urban downfall she spoke about as

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 well.
- 3 The Town already has a comprehensive plan,
- 4 the 2020 It states the area is zoned for hamlet zone.
- 5 It states that it needs to keep the industrial area,
- 6 put in commercial development with residential above.
- 7 There is no commercial development whatsoever economic
- 8 development in that area that would support what they
- 9 are now calling a TOD without put an overlay district
- 10 in..
- 11 The affordabilty component, what they did in
- 12 Huntington Station median income, based upon the last
- 13 United States census report, was sixty-one thousand
- 14 dollars. When Avalon Bay did their DEIS, which by the
- 15 way was a draft and was voluntarily submitted. No one
- 16 has done an independent study. I'm just Suzie
- 17 Homemaker here and I was able to see all the lies that
- 18 there was no impact to traffic, this, that and the
- 19 other. Highview originally said only eight children
- 20 would come from Highview. There are forty-seven
- 21 children from Highview.
- If we could get someone to do an independent
- 23 study instead of letting the wolf inside the chicken
- 24 coop. The original study was done over a five mile
- 25 radius which puts you in the Bay. We are looking at

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 the median income of Huntington Station five miles out
- 3 into Huntington Bay, which is increasing the median
- 4 income in the Huntington Station area. To call it's
- 5 affordable, it's not. It's one more lie on top. We
- 6 are saying we have an affordability housing crisis on
- 7 Long Island, but how is this filling it.
- 8 We are losing our workforce people. It's not
- 9 mixed use. It only applies to the workforce housing.
- 10 It has nothing to do with the median. Like I said, I
- 11 can go on about this. Thank you for your time.
- 12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Steven Spucces.
- 13 S-P-U-C-C-E-S. My name is Steven Spucces. I'm a
- 14 Huntington resident and the president of the Greater
- 15 Huntington Civic Group. We have been forced to seek
- out and retain legal counsel on the Avalon Bay and
- 17 illegal spot zoning of Huntington Station. Again,
- 18 illegal spot zoning of Huntington Station.
- I'm here today to ask you not to support this
- 20 high density cancer that will spread throughout the
- 21 Township of Huntington and throughout Long Island.
- 22 According to several brilliant legal minds, the stunt
- 23 that a few of our Huntington board members pulled by
- 24 asking Avalon Bay back after the people, the Town
- 25 Board, and the school board threw them out, is

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 unprecedented that they invited them back not six
- 3 months later. (Applause)
- 4 According to many people and many experts who
- 5 have testified in front of the Huntington Town Council,
- 6 there is no public benefit to change our zoning laws.
- 7 There is a tax negative to the school board. The
- 8 current traffic structure is dismal. It cannot support
- 9 eleven hundred new cars. High density housing in that
- 10 particular area will only add to the crime.
- 11 Again, if there is no public benefit to
- 12 Avalon Bay that it brings to the people surrounding
- 13 that area or even as a township as a whole, the Town
- 14 Council and hopefully you guys cannot allow this to
- 15 happen. If there is no benefit, why change the law?
- 16 Why change our zoning laws? So that a handful of
- 17 people, unfortunately who are in power, will benefit,
- 18 and tens of thousands of Huntington residents will have
- 19 to suffer.
- Therefore, what my organization has done,
- 21 that if this illegal spot zoning was to pass, we have
- 22 our ducks in line to file an Article 78 and take legal
- 23 action on our Town Council who has a huge hand in
- 24 undermining the great people of the Town of Huntington.
- 25 Thank you for your time and consideration on this

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 matter.
- 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Elizabeth Black.
- 4 MS. BLACK: Good afternoon to the Commission,
- 5 my name is Elizabeth Black. I'm a trustee on the
- 6 Huntington School Board, but today I speak to you as a
- 7 private citizen. On May 16th, the Huntington Town
- 8 Board held a hearing regarding the Avalon Bay project
- 9 and I spoke at that hearing. I listened to the members
- 10 of the community who live in the shadows of the
- 11 property.
- The community is strongly opposed to the
- 13 construction of the Avalon Bay project. This project
- 14 represents the sunset of any hope of revitalization in
- 15 this treasured community. One by one, parcel by
- 16 parcel, the Town has built projects that have
- 17 intensified the number of residential dwellings. The
- 18 Town has usurped quality commercial properties and have
- 19 forever removed them from the possibility of being a
- 20 part of a strong, vibrant commercial center.
- In addition to reducing the possibility of
- 22 revitalization will ever occur in the neighborhood,
- 23 this project will be impetus to the further
- 24 deterioration to the quality of life in the surrounding
- 25 community, increased enrollment will put additional

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- 2 pressure on the already crowded schools. The project,
- 3 while reducing the total number of units from the
- 4 previous application, dramatically increases the number
- 5 of two and three bedroom units. The impact on the
- 6 enrollment in the school district will be significantly
- 7 greater than the previous application.
- 8 The project will bring additional traffic
- 9 to the major artery of the only hospital in our area;
- 10 that is Park Avenue, which is a county road. The
- 11 surrounding community already presents significant
- 12 challenge to law enforcement. Over the past years
- 13 there has been little indication that the Town has been
- 14 able to deal this with ever growing problem. The Town
- officials in Huntington hail this project as an
- 16 important step in the revitalization of Huntington
- 17 Station while the community says it otherwise. It's
- 18 another step in a failed strategy that will forever
- 19 foreclose any hope this historic community will ever
- 20 achieve revitalization.
- 21 I ask the Commission to do what the Town
- 22 appears to be unable to accomplish. Help us turn the
- 23 corner on revitalization and deny this application.
- 24 Thank you.
- 25 THE CHAIRMAN: Next is Kim D'Ambrosio.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- MS. D'AMBROSIO: D apostrophe
- 3 A-M-B-R-O-S-I-O. I'm a proud Huntington Station
- 4 resident who resides in Highview, and I'm very much in
- 5 favor of the Avalon Bay project as I see it as an
- 6 important step forward in the revitalization of my
- 7 neighborhood. I've been working tirelessly as a
- 8 volunteer since 2003 to bring positive change to the
- 9 area.
- 10 Avalon Bay will be a major game changer by
- 11 bringing more people with higher incomes to support the
- 12 new retail businesses in the area and help those who
- 13 are struggling as well. I urge you to approve this
- 14 important private investment project that my
- 15 neighborhood desperately needs as most of it was torn
- down by the urban renewal process back in the 1960's.
- 17 If Avalon is built, more eyes and ears will be able on
- 18 the street to help reduce the crime.
- We have an empty school building in
- 20 Huntington Station that can be reopened and house the
- 21 students that actually come from Avalon Bay. I urge
- 22 you to approve the project, as is, for the good of my
- 23 neighborhood of Huntington Station.
- 24 THE CHAIRMAN: Nicholas Wieland.
- MR. WIELAND: W-I-E-L-A-N-D. Dear Board

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 members, my name is Nicholas Wieland. I represent two
- 3 groups in Huntington Station. The first group is a
- 4 community watch group of a hundred fifty-five homes
- 5 that is one thousand feet from that project. The
- 6 second group is Citizens for Huntington Code
- 7 Enforcement. We have a hundred seventy-nine members.
- I am a fifty-four year resident of Huntington
- 9 Station. Today I want to talk to you about numbers.
- 10 Zero, the response from the Town's sewer district
- 11 regarding this application. Zero, the further plans
- 12 and submittals of infrastructure needed on this project
- in detail. Zero, a real independent study of wildlife
- 14 and environment which lives on that land, which is
- 15 twenty-seven acres.
- Maybe there are some roseate terns there, or
- 17 certain turtles or plants that can be endangered.
- 18 Colonies of bees have been seen on the property.
- 19 Seventy-eight, the students that Avalon Bay says will
- 20 come to the school district. Two hundred thirteen
- 21 which is the number that I did research on, that says
- 22 that is how many students will come to Avalon. That
- 23 number is based on the other five other high density
- 24 properties in Huntington. That is the average. Three
- 25 million two hundred twenty-eight thousand dollars.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 That will be the cost to the taxpayers of the Town of
- 3 Huntington based on those students that Avalon will not
- 4 be paying.
- 5 Crime. Crime in the area of Lenox Road and
- 6 Fifth. Over the last two years, we have had four
- 7 rapes. We have had one murder, many assaults and other
- 8 robberies right in the area where Avalon will bring one
- 9 thousand to fifteen hundred more people. That will not
- 10 help the crime in the area, they will only be victims.
- 11 1988, the Supreme Court, actually I think it
- was in 2002 or 2003, there was a 1988 Supreme Court
- 13 decision on the Mattinicock lawsuit that told
- 14 Huntington that they were not to build any more in
- 15 their master area per their plan. That area is
- 16 Huntington Station. Yet here we are talking about
- 17 putting more high density housing in Huntington
- 18 Station.
- So, I have to ask you why, and I hope that
- 20 when you come to a vote on this, that you vote it down.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Richard Amper.
- MR. AMPER: A-M-P-E-R, with the Long Island
- 23 Pine Barrens Society. I'll give you a brief respite
- 24 from the specific discussion on projects and raise with
- 25 you an issue that I think you ought to consider because

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 it applies to so many developments that come before
- 3 you.
- In the interest of full disclosure, we are
- 5 asking all those that are involved in development on
- 6 Long Island to avoid misunderstanding and approval or
- 7 opposition to have the proposed projects that come
- 8 before you by an abandoning the use of the term
- 9 "affordable housing." Like smart growth, affordable
- 10 housing has lost a good deal of its meaning. I'll give
- 11 you some examples.
- Many times developers in the press inaccuracy
- and not usefully routinely apply the term to any
- 14 project that makes that claim. It's bad journalism and
- 15 inaccurate. It also impedes the effort to obtain such
- 16 housing which our region badly needs. Affordable
- 17 housing is defined by the federal government as housing
- 18 that is within the reach of people earning 80% of the
- 19 area median income, eighty thousand six hundred
- 20 forty-seven in Nassau, seventy thousand two hundred
- 21 eighty-one thousand dollars in Suffolk, according to
- 22 the Long Island Index. According to Fannie Mae, a home
- is affordable when the purchase price is no more than
- 24 two point five times the buyer's annual household
- 25 income.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Affordable housing should not be cost more
- 3 than two hundred thousand dollars with taxes and
- 4 utilities. If a family spends 30% of housing income on
- 5 housing, which a majority of families on Long Island
- 6 do, they can't afford a house that costs more than two
- 7 hundred twenty-five to two hundred fifty thousand
- 8 dollars.
- 9 In fact, developers routinely include as
- 10 affordable houses that would sell for a hundred to a
- 11 hundred to a 130% to an area mean income. Houses
- 12 selling for four and five hundred thousand dollars.
- 13 This includes some of that offered in the original
- 14 Avalon Bay Huntington proposal, also termed
- 15 "affordable."
- Also, Newsday stories have routinely termed
- 17 houses advanced in Legacy Village in Yaphank as
- 18 affordable, even though the houses cost more than most
- 19 of the existing homes in the area. Recently a
- 20 condition of the Carmans River Plan that permits
- 21 multi-family affordable housing was the requirement
- that "affordable" be defined as housing costing between
- 23 two hundred twenty-five thousand to two hundred fifty
- thousand dollars for the sake of honesty.
- 25 I suggest that we drop the term "affordable" all

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 together since it lacks any meaning. Instead, why not
- 3 tell the public what the house is priced at and what
- 4 percentage of the housing is priced at what levels and
- 5 let the public decide whether that constitutes
- 6 affordable housing.
- 7 When developers tell the public what the
- 8 housing they're proposing actually costs, the
- 9 likelihood of it being approved will increase. I'd
- 10 like you to consider it. Newsday agreed that they will
- 11 consider it as a publication and I think it would be
- 12 useful for you as well.
- 13 THE CHAIRMAN: I note for your edification I
- 14 actually have your op ed with me. We need to talk
- 15 about these issues like the one that you raised. I
- don't know if I agree with you or I wish to comment on
- 17 this right now. These are real issues that need to be
- 18 discussed on a regional basis. We will try to talk
- 19 about that through our comprehensive plan. We will
- 20 talk about that a little later in this meeting.
- 21 The other thing is at the end of the year we
- 22 hope to have a housing summit and talk about things
- 23 that cross county lines. Appreciate you raising the
- 24 issue.
- 25 The other thing I'll mention to you, you

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 raised when you were here a few months ago regarding
- 3 how do we define community benefits. The Town of
- 4 Southampton has a proposal on how do we define
- 5 community benefit. I think that would be beneficial to
- 6 you.
- 7 MR. AMPER: The less terminology that we
- 8 sling around, the more all of us know what we were
- 9 asking for and what we are actually getting.
- 10 THE CHAIRMAN: Richard Koubek.
- 11 MR. KOUBEK: K-O-U-B-E-K. I'm President of
- 12 the Huntington Township Housing Coalition. I'm here to
- 13 speak on behalf of Avalon Bay. I think this secures a
- 14 sustainable future for all of Long Island. We have to
- 15 think outside of the proverbial boxes. Former County
- 16 Executive Suozzi had it right when he said let's keep
- 17 90% of what has made us and defined us let's rethink
- 18 the other 10%.
- 19 Let's preserve, revitalization our downtowns,
- and keep our young people and seniors here and let's
- 21 create affordable housing. Avalon Bay does it all and
- 22 does it well. That is why we need to get it approved.
- Last night I spoke to Town Councilman Glenda
- 24 Jackson and she said defeat of Avalon Bay last year was
- 25 a defeat for Huntington and all of Long Island. The

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Wall Street Journal identified Long Island as one of
- 3 the most difficult places in the United States to
- 4 develop anything.
- 5 I'm urging you to support Avalon Bay without
- 6 condition. This proposal is different from the 2010
- 7 proposal. First of all, there is no transit oriented
- 8 district, which caused all that confusion last year.
- 9 Secondly, it conforms to the existing zoning
- 10 requirements. Someone talked about changing Town
- 11 zoning law. This does not change Town zoning law. It
- 12 still has mixed income. I agree with Mr. Amper. We
- 13 need a definition of affordable housing, it should
- 14 comply with the HUD definition. This proposal does.
- 15 The rentals are for people earning under 80% of area
- 16 median and half of those are for people earning less
- 17 than 50% of area median; that is about forty thousand
- 18 dollars. That is good stuff. We need to go forward.
- 19 Huntington Station is the most economically
- 20 challenged area in the town. Avalon Bay will bring in
- 21 a hundred million dollars in investment and millions
- 22 more from those residents, particularly those that
- 23 purchase and rent the market rate homes that will be
- 24 spending in our restaurants, in our stores and
- 25 hospitals and yes, paying taxes.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- Of course, any good proposal can be improved.
- 3 Let's not let the perfect destroy the good. This
- 4 is the time to approve Avalon Bay without condition. I
- 5 urge you to do so.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Michael Rivera.
- 7 MR. RIVERA: Good afternoon. R-I-V-E-R-A. I
- 8 live in Huntington, actually on Park Avenue. I'd like
- 9 to oppose Avalon Bay. I'm probably about a thousand
- 10 feet from the intersection of the train tracks and Park
- 11 Avenue and I would like to know what the County is
- 12 going doing to address the traffic situation that we
- 13 will have there. Our police precinct and hospital are
- 14 both on Park Avenue. Any of you can sit on my driveway
- and sit outside and see in an emergency, you can't get
- 16 through Park Avenue. Not just rush hour, police
- 17 vehicles, ambulances, you can't get through there. I
- don't know how you can expect to add a thousand cars to
- 19 the road and expect to navigate through it safely.
- I ask you, being Park Avenue is a county
- 21 road, Pulaski is a county road. What will the County
- 22 do to make sure that we are safe? I can barely mow my
- 23 front lawn. Avalon Bay will make this worse. It's a
- 24 safety issue.
- 25 Schools, crime, I agree with all of that.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 That will be a problem. My primary concern is my
- 3 safety. I have a problem getting out of my driveway.
- 4 I invite each and every one of you to come to my
- 5 driveway, see how long it takes to get in and out of my
- 6 driveway. I urge you not to approve this.
- 7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Delores Thompson.
- MS. THOMPSON: T-H-O-M-P-S-O-N. My name
- 9 is Delores Thompson. I'm owner of the Huntington
- 10 Station Enrichment Center, President and CEO. It's a
- 11 resource center as well as a youth agency since 1997.
- I stand before you partly due to the fact
- 13 that urban renewal came out and took away our
- 14 community. I have been a resident for sixty-five
- 15 years, so I guess I'm the winner here. I was a
- 16 resident when the town promised to bring back the homes
- and businesses and all of the things they took away and
- 18 make Huntington Station a better community. To this
- 19 day, it has not happened.
- Being a crime area, I disagree totally. You
- 21 have crime in every community. Is it all in Huntington
- 22 Station? No. Do we have crime in the Village of
- 23 Huntington and other places? Yes. But it's not
- 24 emphasized, it's not publicized, but it's there.
- I have not heard of another plan that is

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 going to help Huntington Station. Why we fight for not
- 3 having housing and not having the things to bring back
- 4 a community that was alive and well, no one has come up
- 5 with an alternative or anything that is going to help
- 6 bring back Huntington Station. I support Avalon Bay,
- 7 yes, I do. I've seen some of the other projects that
- 8 they have. It's managed well. Why are we not trying
- 9 to develop Huntington Station again? We have a parking
- 10 lot miles long. That is what we are happy to have.
- 11 You have go through Huntington Station and
- 12 all you have is parking. We have a parking garage. We
- 13 have parking all the way down New York Avenue. Across
- 14 from the train station, in the train station. How are
- 15 you going to ever develop a community if you constantly
- 16 say no.
- Our young people that have graduated from
- 18 high school, college, cannot return because there is no
- 19 housing for them. Many of us -- some of the children
- 20 that we have would like to leave our dwelling and move
- 21 into an apartment. But where are they going? I
- 22 strongly urge you, listen to what you hear, go to
- 23 Huntington Station, take a look. You come up with a
- 24 definitive answer that is going to make Huntington
- 25 Station come back. All the people that left have died.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Moved out of state. And yes, I'm still here, and I'm
- 3 still praying that we bring back Huntington Station.
- I urge you to develop a community that needs
- 5 to be developed. It's not all that bad. Okay. Thank
- 6 you very much.
- 7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Next
- 8 we have Bazeel Walters.
- 9 MR. WALTERS: W-A-L-T-E-R-S. Thank you
- 10 Mr. Chairman, Board for having me here. I represent
- 11 Porter-Trejo Action Network. We support Avalon Bay.
- 12 I am a resident of Huntington. I have been there for
- 13 fifty seven years. People hate change. I heard
- 14 everybody, they speak about this and that, but we need
- 15 change in Huntington. Huntington needs housing.
- 16 Whether it's affordable or whatever. We can argue this
- 17 night and day, but it's time for us to make a move.
- 18 Something is better than nothing in our
- 19 community. Our town needs employment. Avalon Bay will
- 20 bring employment to the Town of Huntington to the tune
- of a hundred million dollars. Regardless of whether
- 22 they profit, this is what businesses do. They bring
- 23 things to the an area to buy a house; they do this.
- The crime in Huntington, I can tell you that
- 25 the police department in Suffolk County, as I see it,

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 is doing their job one hundred fifty percent. They
- 3 have changed the area drastically. We use different
- 4 issues of closing Jack Abrams. Jack Abrams should
- 5 never have been closed. You don't close schools
- 6 because of crime. You enhance the police department to
- 7 do that and that is what they have done.
- 8 I'm a product of Huntington Station. I still
- 9 live there. We need this project to open doors for
- 10 housing for minority community in Huntington. They are
- 11 using this here as a poster child that it's a bad area.
- 12 You see that every day. In New York City, they don't
- 13 close schools because of a shooting. We need the jobs
- 14 desperately in this area.
- Avalon Bay is going to be a positive thing
- 16 for the community. No, we cannot afford to have low
- income housing because it doesn't exist in Huntington
- 18 any more. We know that. I want to thank you and I
- 19 want to tell you that Porter-Trejo Action Network as a
- 20 taxpayer we support Avalon Bay.
- 21 THE CHAIRMAN: Pat Bond.
- MS. BOND: Pat Bond. I live in Commack,
- 23 which is a place where everyone is pretty well off. I
- live in a community where people are pretty well off.
- 25 I think that that could happen in Huntington Station,

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 if the housing improves. So I think the bay thing
- 3 would be the thing to do, to improve the area for
- 4 everyone. Thank you.
- 5 THE CHAIRMAN: Reverand Ratzlaff.
- 6 MR. RATZLAFF: Reverand Paul R-A-T-Z-L-A-F-F,
- 7 a minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
- 8 Huntington. I want to speak in favor of the support
- 9 for Avalon Bay and encourage you as a planning
- 10 commission to adopt this resolution without changes to
- 11 the Huntington Township Authority.
- 12 As Unitarian Universalists, we have long
- 13 stood behind and valued affordable housing and the
- 14 housing of all people, and that is an important reason
- 15 for our support for Avalon Bay and the construction of
- 16 Avalon Bay. In addition, the density is a problem,
- 17 with the environment, and so, we understand the density
- is a way to advance affordable housing, which is a
- 19 value of ours.
- So I urge you to support the Huntington Bay
- 21 and Avalon Township, Avalon Bay in support of the
- 22 Huntington Town. Okay, Thank you.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I appreciate that.
- 24 Emma Ricardo.
- MS. RICCARDO: Surrender my three minutes to

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Steve.
- 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Come back, state your name and
- 4 spell it for the record.
- 5 MS. RICCARDO: R-I-C-C-A-R-D-O. I surrender
- 6 my three minutes to Steve.
- 7 THE CHAIRMAN: So you're going to read a
- 8 letter from Matt Harris. You have three minutes.
- 9 MR. SPUCCESS: Thank you very much. Members
- 10 of the Suffolk County Planning Commission. I live four
- 11 blocks from the proposed site of Avalon Bay Huntington
- 12 Station. While no one would disagree that our
- 13 community around the train station is in need of some
- 14 sort of economic development, this project is not.
- Ten years ago, another high density project
- 16 was built directly across the train station known as
- 17 Highview. A hundred townhouses on nine point seven
- 18 acres equivalent to ten units per acre, far less than
- 19 what is currently proposed for the twenty-six point six
- 20 property on East Fifth Street. At the maximum, R-3M
- 21 zoning of three hundred seventy-nine units, making it
- 22 fourteen point five units per acre, even higher than
- 23 Avalon Court in Melville at thirteen point six.
- 24 Highview did not contain any commercial or retail
- 25 development that is replaced in urban renewal in 1968.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 You still cannot buy a cup of coffee while waiting for
- 3 a train at a convenience deli or nearby convenience
- 4 store, as there are none.
- 5 What the pundits are claiming about the
- 6 project reducing crime in the area, one only has to
- 7 look at the police statistics in the area and see that
- 8 Highview did nothing to reduce the crime either. It
- 9 produced forty-seven school aged children, far more
- 10 than the estimate of twenty. It pays two hundred
- 11 thousand dollars to the Town, and the taxpayers of
- 12 Huntington District 3 must subsidize it to the tune of
- one million fifty-three thousand dollars each year.
- 14 Each school aged child after sixty children will be a
- 15 tax burden to the school district taxpayers of this
- 16 massive project.
- The merits of this project need close
- 18 scrutiny as it will impact my community and my
- 19 district, Huntington School District 3, for years to
- 20 come. Unlike Half Hollow Hills that welcomed Avalon
- 21 Court Melville into a blighted industrial area along
- 22 the Route 110 corridor, with no residential properties
- 23 nearby and a closed school due to low enrollment,
- 24 Huntington schools are in a far different position. We
- 25 had overcrowded classrooms even before one of our

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 school buildings, nearby Jack Abrams, was closed due to
- 3 the perception of crime in the same area.
- Now, of course, the overcrowding is far
- 5 worse, without the additional school aged children
- 6 Avalon Bay would bring, even if you believe the Kramer
- 7 numbers of seventy-nine, which many here in my
- 8 community do not, it would still be a tax net property
- 9 burden on the rest of the nearby home owners.
- 10 As you have rightly pointed out in your
- 11 assessment of this project under the guise of transit
- 12 oriented development, if the Town is unable or
- 13 unwilling to allow similar type of projects in the
- other three train stations in the Town of Huntington,
- 15 Cold Spring Harbor, Greenlawn and East Northport, why
- 16 should it be allowed here?
- 17 THE CHAIRMAN: Gina Florentino.
- MS. FLORENTINO: F-L-O-R-E-N-T-I-N-O, hyphen
- 19 James and the first name is Gina. Good afternoon,
- 20 ladies and gentlemen of the Board. I'd like to give
- 21 you some feelings about the project, especially since I
- 22 live within a half a mile distance from the proposed
- 23 massive housing unit. I'd like to talk about feelings
- 24 and facts. Feelings are expressed by this particular
- 25 painting. (Holding up Edvard Munch's "the Scream.")

Ι

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 think are very well expressed by this particular
- 3 painting this is how I feel and how many of the
- 4 residents that I have spoken to and I have walked many
- 5 many miles in my neighborhood feel about this project.
- 6 We feel angst we feel horror we feel dismay we this is
- 7 evidenced by the community outpouring in September at
- 8 the Town Board meeting. Perhaps a thousand people, if
- 9 they could have gotten into the building, were
- 10 concerned about this proposal. The Town's own
- 11 decision; they were opposed to it. I'm up at night. I
- 12 can't sleep. What is going to happen to my
- 13 neighborhood, to my neighbors, to my family with the
- 14 increased traffic.
- To get to the facts. The Suffolk County
- 16 Planning Board Commission guidelines say one of the
- 17 things you are supposed to do is maintain a
- 18 satisfactory environment. I think this project will
- 19 fracture and divide and further segregate Huntington
- 20 Station from other parts of town. Having 80% rentals
- 21 will allow the more transient. How do you make a
- 22 community feel comfortable? How do you make a
- 23 community feel they were part of something when they
- 24 are renters. Don't get me wrong, I started out as a
- 25 renter, too. Everyone has a place to live, and

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 deserves it. 80% is a very high number.
- 3 My father, a lawyer, was recently in District
- 4 Court in Huntington and just overheard case after case,
- 5 his ears perked up, Avalon Bay versus. Avalon Bay,
- 6 Avalon Bay. What kind of satisfactory environment is
- 7 that when people are always being brought to court?
- 8 This project will not maintain a satisfactory
- 9 environment because it will crush our community spirit.
- 10 I have heard that so many people. Hello, neighbors.
- 11 (Waving) We love each other. We have really found a
- 12 community spirit.
- 13 Another goal of the Commission, according
- 14 to the guidelines, is to lessen air pollution. There
- 15 will be standstill traffic and increased air emissions
- on Pulaski and Park. I think in a 2009 demographic
- 17 study it said the increased congestion caused by high
- density policies has adverse health consequences
- 19 vehicle exhaust contains microscopic air particles
- 20 which increase in inefficient stop-start traffic.
- 21 Another goal of the Commission is to minimize
- 22 energy consumption. According to the demography
- 23 study -- all these concerns make me want to scream. I
- 24 also have a letter from a neighbor if I can read that
- 25 at some point.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Your time expired. You can
- 3 leave that with the staff. If any one of your new
- 4 friends want to yield their time and has not spoken,
- 5 they may do so. They need to come up here for the
- 6 record and state their name. Anyone else like to speak
- 7 publicly? State your name for the record.
- 8 MR. REID: Jeffrey R-E-I-D.
- 9 THE CHAIRMAN: You are yielding three minutes
- 10 to Ms. Florentina?
- 11 MR. REID: Yes, I am.
- MS. FLORENTINO: This is from James Cruise,
- 13 Esquire. He's a neighbor, 11 Lake Road in Huntington
- 14 Station. Dear Board. In addition to such issues which
- 15 may exist regarding density and downzoning, there are
- 16 four areas, at least, in which this project and the
- 17 Town of Huntington review thereof, fall far short of
- 18 the requirements of the State Environment Quality
- 19 Review Act in the opinion of undersigned. They have
- 20 not been properly identified or drafted by the Town
- 21 Board or the developer and are as follows:
- According at the Huntington Town Board
- 23 hearing on May 16, 2011, an attorney for the developer
- 24 spoke glowingly of the proposed sewer system within the
- 25 proposed project, but blithly glossed over the fact

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 that the project's sewer system would ultimately
- 3 discharge all its effluent waste into the presently
- 4 overburdened Huntington Town system.
- 5 All projections offered by the developer as
- 6 to the increased number of students generated by the
- 7 three hundred seventy-nine residential units have been
- 8 drastically underestimated. There is a project in
- 9 Melville, a few miles south of the projected site,
- 10 which have generated far more children per unit than
- 11 the numbers they have estimated. Now we have the
- 12 closing of the Jack Abrams School that has caused
- overcrowding in the schools in the area.
- 14 Roads. The proposed project would be located
- on East Fifth Street, with its main entrance-exit on
- 16 Park Avenue, County Road 35, a north-south road. The
- 17 first cross street south of the project would be
- 18 Pulaski Road. The traffic during rush hours on Park
- 19 Avenue, usually between six and eight-thirty a.m. and
- 20 four to six p.m. is currently backed far to the south
- 21 of this exit. The Town has never addressed this
- 22 problem.
- There is a railroad crossing about fifteen
- 24 feet north of the East Fifth Street roadway with
- 25 crossing gates which frequently close during rush hours

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 to accommodate the added trains. With approximately
- 3 one thousand more vehicles to be added to the area by
- 4 Avalon Bay's projected three hundred seventy-nine
- 5 residential units, the Park Avenue-Pulaski Road
- 6 corridor is gridlock waiting to happen.
- 7 Arsenic. Although it is well known that
- 8 there exists a dangerous amount of arsenic in the soil
- 9 at the building site, the Town has identified but never
- 10 addressed this problem. The townspeople have been
- 11 waiting, and still await a report from the Town
- 12 regarding this poisonous condition, but no report has
- 13 become forthcoming.
- I'll leave the conclusion for you to read.
- 15 Thank you.
- 16 THE CHAIRMAN: The last word goes to Ken
- 17 Christiansen.
- MR. CHRISTIANSEN: C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N-S-E-N
- 19 This will probably be the first place that I ever had
- 20 the last word. I certainly don't get it at home. As a
- 21 founding member this past year, very active member of
- 22 the Huntington Housing Township Coalition for Housing,
- 23 I support this strictly for a housing initiative. It
- 24 can stand on its own merits for that.
- I personally believe, I will tell you that I

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 sit on the Economic Development Board in Huntington
- 3 Station, two of the organizations of the many
- 4 organizations that are working in Huntington Station
- 5 trying to improve a condition that has been left with
- 6 for over fifty years. We have been working very hard.
- 7 It's been a long, slow tough process.
- 8 But I look at this project, although it is a
- 9 housing project, as a necessary one of the pieces of
- 10 the puzzle that will provide the economic push to help
- 11 Huntington Station forward. And the reason for that is
- 12 when you sit on these boards and you try to get these
- developers, commercial developers interested in the
- 14 area, they're always looking at the demographics. They
- 15 always want to know can they support the businesses,
- 16 can they support the development in the area. We need
- 17 a project like this as a good shot in the arm to start
- 18 that real interest, that economic interest in
- 19 Huntington Station.
- You people have a job to do here. I don't
- 21 think you are going to be swayed by the fears and all
- 22 of the -- you have facts before you being presented to
- 23 you by the professionals. I hope you act on those
- 24 facts. This is a necessary thing. Something that
- 25 needs to be done. I ask you, not to put any additional

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 impediments into the project so that can get voted on
- 3 by the Huntington Town Board, be passed and we can
- 4 start moving in the right direction in Huntington
- 5 Station. I thank you all.
- 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your time and
- 7 thank you everyone for being here. Unless there is any
- 8 further cards, seeing none, we will close the public
- 9 portion of the meeting.
- 10 The next item is the Chairman's report. I
- 11 want to first off welcome our new commissioners. We
- 12 have with us today a former member of the Commission,
- 13 Vince Taldone. Vince is a planner, developer,
- 14 advocate, and he brought all those perspectives to the
- 15 Commission's table and he used the authority of the
- 16 Commission to do important things for Suffolk County
- 17 from public transit improvements on individual
- 18 projects, to enhancing the design of County Road 58 in
- 19 Riverhead, to authoring the Planning Commission's first
- 20 model code on universal design.
- Vince's legacy here is a positive one and we
- 22 have a proclamation for Vince during his two years in
- 23 Suffolk County. Vince I ask you to come up.
- I'll read it into the record. Whereas
- 25 Vincent Taldone has served with dedication and

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 distinction as a member of the Suffolk County Planning
- 3 Commission, September, 2008 to May 2011. Whereas the
- 4 people of Suffolk County benefited from his insight and
- 5 expertise. Whereas Vincent Taldone's input and
- 6 contributions to the deliberations and decisions of the
- 7 Suffolk County Planning Commission will be missed as he
- 8 moves onto new endeavors, now therefore be it resolved
- 9 that the Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 10 acknowledges and thanks Vincent Taldone for his service
- 11 to the people of Suffolk County through his positive
- 12 and thoughtful contributions to the Suffolk County
- 13 Planning Commission. Thank you, Vincent. (Applause).
- 14 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, if I may,
- 15 I would like add this Commission will really miss Vince
- 16 because there is nobody else in this county who is more
- 17 familiar with the transit system in Suffolk. Vince has
- 18 ridden every single bus route in this county and we
- 19 definitely will miss that input and expertise. Thank
- 20 you.
- 21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Vince, on behalf of
- 22 all of us for your service. We will hear from Joe
- 23 Gergela. Without objection, we will move Avalon Bay up
- 24 on the agenda so we hear that first.
- Let me briefly finish, do a quick update on

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 the latest activities on the Commission today. With
- 3 regard to the Comprehensive Plan, we will release Draft
- 4 I. This is an important step that has been taken. This
- 5 is an important step, one that has not been taken in
- 6 thirty years. I will present the draft to the
- 7 Legislature in the coming month and seek feedback
- 8 from the stakeholders as we seek to refine Volume I and
- 9 begin working on Volume II.
- We would like to have a meeting of the
- 11 steering committee, Commissioners Roberts, Holmes,
- 12 Kelly and McAdam. I was going to say after the
- 13 meeting, but I think it will be by phone.
- Solar permit streamlining. The Nassau County
- 15 commission signed off on the solar plan. It's in the
- 16 hands of the Nassau County Executive and we hope to get
- 17 his blessing. Then we will get a letter out informing
- 18 them of the plan and informing them of the LIPA
- 19 incentive LIPA has endorsed our plan for simplifying
- 20 the process for putting solar panels on roofs and will
- 21 provide a financial incentive for the towns and
- villages who adopt it in the next few months.
- The East End Wind Code, we had a meeting in
- 24 Southold Town Hall. Commissioner Holmes and I were
- 25 there. The staff of Southampton and East Hampton are

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 taking the lead in editing the code. we hope to have a
- 3 meeting later this month. The Commission will hold a
- 4 green methodologies for stormwater runoff symposium for
- 5 Suffolk and Nassau municipalities on June 22nd at 1
- 6 p.m. Certainly hope all planning commissioners will be
- 7 able to make it. I want to particularly thank
- 8 Commissioner Esposito on that. I don't know if there
- 9 is anything you want to add about the event.
- 10 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: We are not done
- 11 planning it. We are making tremendous progress with
- 12 efforts the US EPA, the DEC. There is a lot of
- interest and we are looking forward to a good event.
- 14 What we need is this to be geared towards planners and
- 15 municipalities so they understand green methodologies
- 16 and consultants who do development proposals for
- developers to have a more comprehensive understanding
- 18 of the green methodologies that are out there.
- It's going to be at the Hauppauge Legislature
- 20 in Suffolk, June 22nd from one to five.
- 21 THE CHAIRMAN: Please put that on your
- 22 calendars. We are sending letters out to the
- 23 municipalities on that. The energy efficiency
- 24 standards, Vice Chairman Kontokosta has been leading
- 25 that effort along with John Finn.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: We had a kick off
- 3 on that a month ago. We are going to try, together
- 4 with experts not only the towns and villages and the
- 5 experts in the sustainable designs, to look at model
- 6 standards and incentives for energy efficiency in
- 7 commercial buildings, both new construction and
- 8 existing buildings. And also exploring benchmarking
- 9 for and create an ongoing database on energy use in
- 10 commercial properties.
- 11 We have a meeting next week, some great
- 12 representation from a number of the towns already. So,
- 13 we look forward to a productive meeting.
- 14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Vice Chairman, and
- 15 Commissioner Finn on their leadership on that. There
- 16 was a big announcement a few weeks ago that I shared
- 17 with you via E-mail and a few of you read the press
- 18 conference. The sewer financing is critical to all of
- 19 this going forward in Suffolk County. The last year,
- 20 the Commission has made sewer financing a major
- 21 priority. We co-hosted with the County Executive,
- 22 Sewer Summit II in October where a major theme was how
- 23 do we finance a new sewer infrastructure. At the
- 24 suggestion of the Commission, the County Executive
- 25 created a group to focus on building Suffolk County's

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 future, where we should grow, where we should preserve,
- 3 and how we should pay for infrastructure. That effort
- 4 included the infrastructure finance working group which
- 5 included Commissioners Lansdale, Esposito, Finn and
- 6 myself.
- 7 As a result of the work of the group the
- 8 County Executive came up with a proposal that would,
- 9 for the first time, provide an annual source of
- 10 funding, approximately three hundred million dollars
- 11 over ten years. This is a tremendously important step
- 12 for Long Island's future.
- We are now working with Commissioner Lansdale
- 14 to make sure that the process includes a criteria to
- 15 make sure that the financing goes to the areas of the
- 16 County where it is most needed, and the Planning
- 17 Commission and others identified as important for the
- 18 Island's future.
- 19 I want to congratulate the commissioners
- 20 around the table who worked on that and give
- 21 appropriate credit to the County Executive for putting
- 22 that together. It's a big step for Suffolk County.
- Unified Permitting Portal. Things are
- 24 progressing. I expect this will be a multi-year
- 25 process. We are planning to have the next quarterly

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 meeting in June sometime.
- 3 The certification for commercial interiors,
- 4 to try to eliminate building inspections for routine
- 5 commercial alterations. I appreciate the Town of
- 6 Brookhaven's willingness to work with us on that. We
- 7 also have, with regard to public safety, we are moving
- 8 forward with that and housing, we will talk about that
- 9 more next month, but we wanted to do the county housing
- 10 summit at the beginning of next year or end of this
- 11 year. We want to talk about housing issues that are
- important to all of the forty-three municipalities on
- 13 Long Island. Supervisor Petrone offered for the Town
- of Huntington to co-sponsor that effort. We need a few
- 15 months to start working on that. It will be more like
- 16 the beginning of 2012.
- Just two last items, we are hoping to put
- 18 together a meeting with the Nassau County Planning
- 19 Commission, hopefully, sometime this summer. The Vice
- 20 Chairman and Director Lansdale and I had a meeting
- 21 about that. Lastly, given our handful of new members
- 22 the day of our July meeting in Hauppauge, we are
- 23 planning to do a a new member training as well as an
- 24 overview for all commissioners on transfer development
- 25 rights, Pine Barren credits, waste water credits. It's

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 an opportunity for everyone to really dig in on what
- 3 are pretty complicated issues.
- 4 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Any idea of the time?
- 5 THE CHAIRMAN: We haven't figured that out.
- 6 It will be before the meeting, I guess probably about
- 7 two hours. Any other questions? There is a lot going
- 8 on. We have a few new drivers on that. We urge you to
- 9 get involved. Director Lansdale will give a brief
- 10 update.
- 11 DIRECTOR LANSDALE: Thank you, Chairman.
- 12 It's been a little over a month since I started at
- 13 Suffolk County. I just want to acknowledge the
- 14 wonderful staff at planning department it's been such a
- 15 pleasure working with them. I have established four
- 16 goals to guide the department moving forward. One is
- 17 to create greater efficiencies with staff assignments
- 18 with respect to the department, and to that end we have
- 19 actually hired an intern this summer for free. Not at
- 20 the expense of county taxpayer dollars. She is
- 21 starting tomorrow.
- Second, it's to build relationships with our
- town and villages partners as well as community
- leaders. We are working on that as we speak.
- 25 The third is to look at the reviews and

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 restore properties to meet future environmental and
- 3 economic needs for the County, and to that end we have
- 4 drafted a request for proposals for the Mud Creek
- 5 Watershed Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, to
- 6 ecologically restore the former duck farm in east
- 7 Patchoque.
- Fourth, it's to provide valuable research to
- 9 further the policy discussions County-wide, and to that
- 10 end we have, I'm pleased to report that I worked with
- 11 the leadership of our Deputy Director, Dan Gulizio, and
- 12 other staff, including Andy, and others in the
- department to update the Suffolk County Comprehensive
- 14 Plan and create an executive summary and update it with
- 15 2010 census information, that is something the Chairman
- 16 spoke about and that will be distributed for your
- 17 review today.
- Thank you so much. It's been a pleasure the
- 19 first month.
- THE CHAIRMAN: It's a busy first month,
- 21 Sarah. Congratulations. Any questions? Seeing none,
- 22 we may be the largest suburban county in the United
- 23 States, but we are also the largest agricultural county
- 24 in New York State. Agriculture is not only our
- 25 heritage in Suffolk County, it's part of what we are

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 and part of the main drivers in the county. We are
- 3 happy to have Joe Gergela, the executive director to
- 4 the Long Island Farmers Bureau. As all of the
- 5 commissioners know, we try to, from time to time, have
- 6 leaders that affect our work and the future of Suffolk
- 7 County come and give us some insight on the issues that
- 8 matter to them in their field of expertise.
- 9 Thank you for being here and we look forward
- 10 to your thoughts on agriculture and how we, as a
- 11 county, can continue to support your industry.
- 12 MR. GERGELA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's
- 13 good to see everybody. I know you have a couple of new
- 14 members over the last few years. I would like to
- 15 congratulate Sarah as the Director of Planning. She
- 16 has a lot of responsibility working with agriculture
- 17 statutorily and otherwise we are excited about working
- 18 together going forward.
- The other person I would like to congratulate
- 20 is Carl Gabrielsen. I was talking to him earlier. He
- 21 mentioned to me when he was a teen-ager he worked on my
- 22 mother and father's house with two brothers and helped
- 23 build an extension. I go a long way back with the
- 24 Gabrielsen family.
- 25 My name is Joe G-E-R-G-E-L-A. I'm the

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 executive director of the Long Island Farm Bureau.
- 3 I've been with the Farm Bureau for twenty-three years,
- 4 I grew up on the family farm in Jamesport. My dad and
- 5 I grew two hundred acres of potatoes and vegetables.
- 6 You might say I walked the walk and know a little bit
- 7 about agricultural. I really appreciate the
- 8 opportunity to visit with you this afternoon.
- 9 Agriculture is not well known and from my
- 10 perspective, an unappreciated part of Long Island.
- 11 People may be shocked, Dave I'm glad that you know some
- of the stats. We are the leading agricultural county
- in New York State in dollars of products sold, not in
- 14 acres of land. Currently, we have about thirty-four
- 15 thousand acres dedicated to agriculture.
- But the importance to Long Island goes way
- 17 beyond that. Seven thousand jobs, the importance for
- 18 background for tourism, in the wineries, contribute a
- 19 great amount of sales tax revenue. And if you think
- 20 about horticulture, the sales tax revenue collected at
- 21 box stores and garden centers on Long Island.
- We take great pride in our homes and
- 23 horticulture is a huge part of the industry. We have
- 24 thirty-four thousand acres in production, half of which
- is horticulture, sod and woody ornamentals and

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 greenhouse production. We have two hundred fifty
- 3 greenhouse operations within Suffolk County. We have
- 4 three thousand acres in wine grape production,
- 5 forty-five wineries which are making world class wine.
- 6 We still have traditional row crop farming. We have
- 7 some potatoes, a lot of corn, pumpkins have actually
- 8 gone up in acres over the years because of the
- 9 relationship to agricultural tourism.
- I'd like to talk to you about some of the
- 11 challenges that we have as an industry so people have a
- 12 little bit of an understanding about what we are
- 13 dealing with. There are six hundred fifty farms
- 14 roughly in Suffolk County; that includes horse farms,
- 15 poultry, vineyards, horticulture, the whole thing. We
- 16 have roughly six hundred fifty farms. The biggest
- 17 challenge that we have right now is farm profitability.
- 18 Our input costs have gone up dramatically over the last
- 19 five years because the input costs are directly related
- 20 to oil, fuel for tractors, for greenhouses, our
- 21 irrigation, et cetera, et cetera. That is one tiny
- 22 little piece of it.
- Fertilizer, seed, labor, housing. Not only
- 24 the farm chemicals and fertilizer and plastic packaging
- 25 are all directly related to oil processing. The other

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 inputs costs stand on their own.
- 3 People are shocked when we tell them that we
- 4 are still number one in agriculture and the biggest
- 5 challenge is that the highest cost per acre place to
- 6 farm in the country. That in itself is a huge
- 7 challenge for us. We are dealing with a number of
- 8 public policy issues. I'm just going to quote my long
- 9 time mentor and friend, Senator LaValle, who has been
- 10 our champion here on the East End for a long time as a
- 11 state senator. You guys in your role, I give you a lot
- 12 of credit. Everybody in this room has to be solemn.
- 13 At some point when you listen to the public policy
- 14 debates when you are trying to get a project done,
- 15 everybody is right to some degree.
- If you took the sixteen million people in the
- 17 state and put them in a room, what comes out at the end
- 18 of the day you have public policy. New York is a
- 19 complicated state. It's not easy. We are concerned
- 20 about the business environment in New York State. We
- 21 know about people living, the cost of housing and on
- 22 and on. We have the same issues in the farm community.
- 23 With our employees, we have seven thousand people who
- 24 work here. Try and find reasonable places for them to
- 25 live and work. Not only agriculture, hospitality,

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 tourism, building trades.
- 3 Housing, I can go to the federal level,
- 4 immigration are very important issues to us. I have to
- 5 be very careful because the Farm Bureaus's position is
- 6 we don't have one on the total immigration reform. I
- 7 know, representing farmers, that we are very worried
- 8 about the fact that we don't have a good legal quest
- 9 worker program to be able to employ not only in
- 10 agriculture, but other parts of the industry, as well
- 11 as the landscape industry. People may not think it's
- important; it's a big deal, and Washington is stuck on
- 13 it.
- As a result, one of the things we are facing
- is called E Verify system and we are very, very scared
- 16 of that. That basically means that every employer,
- it's going to be mandated by the Department of Labor,
- 18 that you have to verify your employee's status. That
- 19 is almost an impossible task. In fact, from a legal
- 20 perspective, we are not allowed to ask certain
- 21 questions; that is one of them. When somebody shows up
- 22 at a farm or business, as long as they can complete the
- 23 I-9 form and give identification, we are not going to
- 24 allowed to ask their legal status, so they are going
- 25 about it a different way with the federal mandate and

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 we are concerned about that.
- 3 Another public policy area of great concern
- 4 to all of us is the environmental issues. The Cornell
- 5 Extension, that is our partner organization. At one
- 6 time, Extension and Farm Bureau were one, until 1995.
- 7 We do advocacy, they do the education and they work
- 8 through the land grant system. Extension means they
- 9 take the scientific empirical research done in
- 10 institutions and disseminate it and distribute it
- 11 to the countryside. That is where the term "cooperative
- 12 extension" came from. Their role is extremely critical
- 13 to the farmers and the commercial fishermen.
- One of the things we are concerned about is
- 15 the groundwater quality and surface water impacts. Why
- 16 do farmers use fertilizers? We use fertilizer because
- 17 it uses oxygen. We cannot grow crops without using
- 18 fertilizer. We need nutrients to grow plants. Part of
- 19 the public policy is the pushing and pulling of
- 20 different points of view. The environmental community
- 21 wants us to do better. We are trying. We were working
- 22 with Cornell Extension. We have over a hundred farmers
- 23 enrolled in their stewardship program. We are doing
- 24 trials out in the fields and trying to reduce the
- 25 amount of fertilizer use and even the types of

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 fertilizer, which is expensive. There is a slow
- 3 release fertilizer that is used extensively on sod. We
- 4 haven't gotten it to work successfully on row
- 5 vegetables. It's expensive and it's not as effective
- 6 as we would like it to be, but we will continue to
- 7 pursue other avenues with our management practices so
- 8 they are compatible with the environment.
- 9 The industry economically, it's almost a
- 10 three hundred million dollar a year industry, and then
- 11 the multiplier effect on the environment. There is one
- 12 other thing which I know you need me to go pretty
- 13 shortly so you can ask questions. The other thing is
- 14 the Long Island pesticide plan which we are engaged
- 15 here within the environmental groups at the table. One
- of the things that concerns me greatly, and it's
- 17 publicly stated, it's on the record, I've actually met
- 18 with the commissioner of the DEC, it's the concept of
- 19 zero tolerance, that if something is found in
- 20 groundwater, therefore you should not use it.
- 21 There are tens of thousands of chemicals that
- are used and they're all approved by EPA and New York
- 23 State before we can use them. They're crop
- 24 protectants. We have a lot of pests, fungus, all kinds
- of things. People say why are farmers using chemicals.

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- 2 Well, we have to protect the investment. The
- 3 vineyards, you're talking about a twenty-five thousand
- 4 dollar an acre investment. When we had rain like from
- 5 two weeks ago and the fog and conditions like that,
- 6 those guys that own those operations, they have to
- 7 protect an investment.
- 8 The idea of zero tolerance is not acceptable
- 9 from a public policy standpoint because the science
- 10 allows things to be measured parts per billion and
- 11 quartrillion. Certainly all of us that live here
- 12 around where I grew up on my farm, I used to move the
- irrigation pipe behind my father on the sprayer. If
- 14 anyone is concerned about the use of chemicals, it's
- 15 the farmer their families and workers. FDA in their
- 16 stats reveal that 95% of our fruits and vegetables have
- 17 no residues, so it's very de minimis exposure to
- 18 citizens with the things that we grow.
- 19 The impact on groundwater, if you were to
- 20 follow a zero tolerance, and I will use this
- 21 hypothetical, we are finding pharmaceuticals in
- 22 groundwater. That is not a good thing. Where does it
- 23 come from, urine? They can find it parts per billion.
- 24 If you were to go to a zero tolerance, that means are
- 25 you going to ban medicine? I don't think so. Finding

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 breakdowns of gas and we found other fuels in the
- 3 groundwater in de minimis levels. Does that mean you
- 4 are going to ban cars and trucks? I don't think so.
- 5 The pesticides could be considered in this
- 6 way. There is a benefit to society. For us to have
- 7 agriculture, we have to protect the three hundred
- 8 million dollar investment. People say to me why don't
- 9 you go organic. There is a handful of organic farmers
- 10 for a reason. It's very difficult. It's a lot more
- 11 labor if you don't use herbicides and things like that.
- 12 The other thing is the misconception is it's chemical
- 13 free. It's not; it means the use organic chemicals to
- 14 control their pests.
- 15 You may be surprised to learn that baking
- 16 soda is a registered pesticide. You use it to brush
- 17 your teeth, but it is a registered pesticide by EPA.
- 18 People use terms flippantly and scare tactics and say
- oh, my god, they're toxic. They are. It's there to
- 20 control a pest or fungus or weed or whatever. So they
- 21 have a role in society. We have to be careful about
- 22 the notion of absolute zero tolerance. We would be
- 23 done as an industry. As mentioned earlier by the
- 24 Chairman, the importance not only of the dollar value
- of what we do, but for the importance to Long Island,

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 for our history and everything else that comes from
- 3 agriculture.
- I could go on and on with statistics, but I
- 5 would look to do is take a few questions if there is
- 6 anything from the commissioners.
- 7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for being here. I
- 8 think it's a little later in the day than you expected
- 9 to be before us. Thank you for bringing up some key
- 10 issues affecting the community on Long Island. This
- 11 Commission reviewed the groundwater study. It's still
- 12 in draft form. It does indicate that we have nitrogen
- issues on Long Island and there are variety of forces
- 14 on that.
- What is the agricultural industry doing to
- 16 reduce nitrogen impacts?
- 17 MR. GERGELA: We're aware of it. We are an
- 18 easy target with only six hundred fifty farms. They
- 19 tell us, you know, you guys have to do better. Most of
- 20 the farmers are enrolled in the stewardship program
- 21 with Cornell Extension, they are doing everything they
- 22 can do with the best technologoy that we have on doing
- 23 better on their management. One of the examples is the
- 24 Carmans protection area in Brookhaven town. I looked
- 25 at the data and I had conversations with the Legal

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Department, which has not really weighed in heavily on
- 3 the Carmans River by the way. 16% of the nitrogen
- 4 loading is from a handful of farms. 43% of the
- 5 nitrogen is coming from septics and lawns on homes.
- 6 There is a great deal of land preserved in
- 7 that area. Certainly there is a few farms that are
- 8 protected already. We have called a meeting together
- 9 through Dan Panico, the councilman, with the ACT
- 10 community, we have an ACT community, and we are going
- 11 to be basically stating that we are going obligate each
- of those farmers to work with them on extension on
- 13 changing or evaluating how they're applying pesticides,
- 14 et cetera, to reduce the impacts as much as possible.
- Our constitution in New York, public policy
- 16 and both En Con law and Ag and Markets law that
- 17 agriculture is a preferred land use, in spite of the
- 18 fact that there are negatives that come from
- 19 agriculture. As you know, public policy is about
- 20 balancing everything. We are doing the best that we
- 21 can, we continue to do better, and we rely on the
- 22 research that comes out of institutions.
- The next farm bill is coming up. The Senate
- 24 is holding hearings already. One of the things that we
- 25 want to make sure is that there is funding for Cornell,

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 through Extension. All farmers are From Missouri; we
- 3 have to demonstrate to them. People ask, are you doing
- 4 sustainable farming. The sustainable farming to us
- 5 means people can pay their bills from their business.
- 6 It's very important that people are able to make a
- 7 living with this land use.
- 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any other comments
- 9 or questions?
- 10 COMMISSIONER GABRIELSEN: Being in the
- 11 horticulture business, farmers, we are an easy target.
- 12 Talking about sustainability, we all, as farmers, we
- 13 all want to move forward. We don't want to turn our
- 14 backs on on new things. As Gabrielsen Farms CEO, we
- 15 changed a lot. You talked about water runoff. In our
- 16 operation we are recycling water and using drip
- 17 irrigation systems. Before it was flood everything.
- 18 Now it's about economics. We don't want to
- 19 waste our fertilizers, we want to try and save money.
- 20 The farmers here in Suffolk County, we are absolutely
- 21 open to change, but we have to have a viable
- 22 alternative. We can't just say okay, no more
- 23 pesticides or whatever. It has to be something to
- 24 replace what we are doing. We are moving forward.
- 25 Joe, as you know, we have some of the oldest farms in

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 this country and we managed to stay in business for
- 3 hundreds of years because we are able to change.
- 4 Going forward, I know with our own business
- 5 as far as with the pesticides, we are releasing
- 6 beneficial insects which is combating some of the bad
- 7 things. We are having problems with some resistance
- 8 and things like that. We are looking for alternatives
- 9 and we are not just sitting here and saying we will not
- 10 change. The farmers out here are willing to change to
- 11 adopt new growing methods.
- 12 THE CHAIRMAN: I will say just to wrap up, I
- 13 think there are some interesting things that we as a
- 14 commission and other planning commissions in this state
- 15 have been working on agricultural issues. I think it's
- 16 something we should focus on with the leadership of
- 17 Director Lansdale and Joe Gergela and our new
- 18 commissioner, Mr. Gabrielsen. We should find out what
- 19 policies we should continue to promote to try and
- 20 strike that balance. There are policies, like Joe and
- 21 I were talking earlier, like farm to school. How do we
- 22 incentivize institutions out here to buy local.
- MR. GERGELA: If you don't mind, if I may make one
- 24 more comment. People ask how can they help
- 25 agriculture. The number one is buy local wherever

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 possible. The second thing we are farming in suburbia
- 3 and it's a suburban value system. When people come out
- 4 from the East End, one of the things that drive us
- 5 crazy is when somebody pulls up behind a moving
- 6 tractor, and the farmer is going from field to field to
- 7 do his job, it's unpleasant when someone waves their
- 8 finger at them when they go by. They wanted to come
- 9 out here and enjoy the area, but God forbid they're
- 10 held up on the road for a few minutes.
- 11 We have growing pains with tourism. We have
- 12 a couple of complaints with some of the complaints.
- 13 Twenty years ago people said we want the wineries, it's
- 14 good clean industry, it brings jobs. People want to
- 15 come out to the East End and go to the restaurants, et
- 16 cetera. Now guess what? We have traffic, we have
- 17 issues about parking. We have issues about inherent
- 18 conflicts with neighbors because our zoning is
- 19 residential slash agricultural. When a winery opens up
- 20 next to a community that has been there, we have
- 21 neighbor complaints. Squeaky wheels get the grease.
- 22 The next thing, the reaction of local government is we
- 23 have to do something about it, let's stop this
- 24 activity.
- I was just up the at Executive Mansion last

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 week for the first time in twenty-three years, I was
- 3 invited to meet with the governor. We had a discussion
- 4 about this. From an economic development standpoint,
- 5 people always talk about how many new jobs. How about
- 6 job retention for the traditional industries out here?
- 7 How important is that to our tax base and quality of
- 8 life.
- 9 We need some reasonableness in dealing with
- 10 town and land use policy. You guys actually are in a
- 11 position to help us to try and hold onto the
- 12 agriculture we have.
- 13 THE CHAIRMAN: We look forward to working
- 14 with you on that. Any other comments on the table?
- 15 COMMISSIONER LANSDALE: Thank you for your
- 16 tireless work on behalf of Long Island and particularly
- 17 on behalf of the farmers. Thank you.
- MR. GERGELA: Thank you for the opportunity
- 19 to speak.
- 20 THE CHAIRMAN: Last presentation is the
- 21 Village of Southampton Planning Director, Jeffrey
- 22 Murphee.
- DIRECTOR MURPHEE: I'm the town planning and
- 24 development administrator. On behalf of Southampton
- 25 Supervisor, Anna Throst-Holst, I thank you for the

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 opportunity to address you today. It was the
- 3 supervisor's initiative, when she ran for the
- 4 supervisor position back two years ago.
- 5 One of her priorities, when she was running
- 6 for office and took office, was to examine our whole
- 7 planning review process. This was an issue raised by
- 8 constituents in the Town of Southampton and the
- 9 question was why. This really became an issue with
- 10 regard to our change of zone applications, known as
- 11 PDD's, which are planned development districts. The
- 12 question was why was this issue such an issue with the
- 13 community.
- 14 There are two reasons. One was that the
- 15 public was uncertain, and also highly critical of how
- 16 decisions were being made by the Town. Second reason
- was that the developers and the applicants were
- 18 suspicious and critical of the way that PDD's were
- 19 being reviewed. The question was if there was a need
- 20 for more transparency and more certainty. These are
- 21 two words that are absolutely critical to any planning
- 22 review process, transparency and certainty.
- The question is how is transparency and
- 24 certainty play into the issue of public benefits. Well
- 25 the question is there are actually two prongs. One is

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 what needs to be transparency and certainty in the way
- 3 that PDD's are being reviewed, the process in which
- 4 planned development districts were being reviewed by
- 5 the Town Board, and you already addressed this and the
- 6 Town Board already addressed this.
- 7 Back in January you reviewed our amendment to
- 8 Chapter 330-244 to which we now require a
- 9 pre-commission conference by the applicant before the
- 10 town board. Too often the application would be taking
- 11 two, three or five years and the developer still didn't
- 12 know what decision would be made on the application.
- 13 This led to a highly suspicious by the public as to
- 14 what was going on with the review process, so we
- 15 reformed the process so that the developer would know
- 16 early on in the decision. You reviewed this back at
- 17 your January meeting and you issued a letter of local
- 18 determination.
- 19 What the second part of that process is the
- 20 community benefits. Unlike straight up change of zone
- 21 applications, if you go from residential to commercial,
- 22 a planned development district under town law, towns
- 23 and villages can require public benefit or community
- 24 benefit; the words are interchangeable. That
- 25 authorization comes from 261B of Town Law. 261B of

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Town Law defines public or community benefit as open
- 3 space, affordable housing or cash in lieu of, which was
- 4 a very contentious issue in and of itself. How do you
- 5 calculate what cash in lieu of is for a change in zone
- 6 application.
- 7 The question is one, is how you quantify a
- 8 public benefit and how do you identify a public
- 9 benefit. That is what this chapter before you today
- 10 is. How do you quantify and identify an open
- 11 transparent process and how do you provide certainty to
- 12 both the community and the applicant as to what is
- 13 going to be required.
- Without reviewing the law verbatim line by
- 15 line, in terms of how do you quantify public benefit,
- one of the things we require an applicant to do is a
- 17 provide a yield analysis in terms of what is allowed as
- 18 of right zoning and also what is being proposed, so you
- 19 try to get some sort of analysis if you are going from
- 20 a single family R-40 up to multi-family you know he's
- 21 asking for X additional dwelling units. It's more
- 22 nebulous when you go to a commercial from residential
- zone as to exactly how much more a benefit or how much
- 24 more development is actually being sought by the
- 25 public.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 The second way you can quantify a public
- 3 benefit is a through a fair market appraisal. We
- 4 require that an appraisal be done, paid for by the
- 5 developer. In terms of what would be allowed
- 6 as-of-right zoning versus what is being sought by the
- 7 developer. In terms of what is a community benefit,
- 8 that becomes a little bit more mathematical. That is
- 9 just one of the criteria and standards of the proposed
- 10 amendment, and I would just read you this one that says
- 11 the public benefit will be a list of desired hamlets,
- 12 specific community benefits, maintained by the
- 13 Department of Land Management and prepared in
- 14 accordance with Subsection i, community input, and
- 15 Subsection ii, hamlets identified in the comprehensive
- 16 plan and/or other related studies. Said list shall not
- 17 be exclusively.
- When we look at this, we look at other
- 19 documents; for example, the Pine Barrens Plan. Are
- 20 there unredeemed Pine Barrens credits within the school
- 21 district being sought. Do we have all the answers in
- 22 this local law? Absolutely not. Planning is a very
- 23 dynamic process. It's a never ending process. We
- 24 think this is a quantum leap forward. When we prepared
- 25 this law, it was prepared with members of the advisory

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 committee, civic organizations, land use attorneys,
- 3 environmental groups, developers, and when we had the
- 4 public hearing on this, Bob DeLuca and Mitch Pally also
- 5 came out in support of it.
- Is it perfect? No, but it's one that we
- 7 think warrants approval and we look foward to your
- 8 support.
- 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Director Murphee.
- 10 I think we will move onto our regulatory agenda.
- 11 Without objection, I would like to take out of order
- 12 the Avalon Bay Huntington Station. Seeing no
- 13 objection, Deputy Director Gulizio will provide a staff
- 14 report.
- 15 For the record, we have several recusals on
- 16 this project, Director Lansdale, Commissioners Kelly,
- 17 Weir and Chartrand. If anyone would like to state
- 18 anything on the record, you may.
- 19 COMMISSIONER WEIR: Long Island Housing
- 20 Partnership worked with Avalon communities in
- 21 Huntington on one of their developments and other
- 22 developments.
- 23 COMMISSIONER LANSDALE: I would like to state
- 24 why I'm leaving the room. Prior to starting with the
- 25 County, I have in the past spoken about this

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 application and for clarity sake, I'm not participating
- 3 in any way in the handling of this application. I
- 4 delegated all my responsibilities as director to my
- 5 Deputy Director, Daniel Gulizio.
- 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Members of the audience, you
- 7 will see a big white screen in front of you. We will
- 8 see a bunch of maps and stuff.
- 9 MR. GULIZIO: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,
- 10 members of the Commission and interested residents and
- 11 participants of the hearing. The subject application
- 12 known as Avalon Bay in Huntington Station is a referral
- 13 from the Town of Huntington located in the Hamlet of
- 14 Huntington Station in the Huntington SCHOOL district in
- 15 the Huntington Manor Fire District, in the Huntington
- 16 Station Postal District.
- 17 The application involves a twenty-six point
- 18 five acre parcel. The site is a twenty-six point five
- 19 acre site located on the north side of East Fifth
- 20 Street in Huntington Station, approximately one
- 21 thousand one hundred thirty feet west of Park Avenue.
- 22 The application involves a request for change of zone
- 23 from R-7 residence district to R-3M garden apartment
- 24 special district. R-7 residence district allows for
- 25 single family home on lots of minimum lot area of seven

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 thousand five hundred square feet, and R-3M garden
- 3 apartment special district permits a maximum density of
- 4 fourteen point five units per acre, roughly one unit
- 5 for every three thousand square feet of lot area.
- I have to say for the record that my mother,
- 7 who passed away about five years ago, I used to torture
- 8 her at every family gathering because I didn't like to
- 9 have my picture taken. I have to think that she is
- 10 smiling down now having a good laugh with all the
- 11 photographers in the room.
- 12 The three hundred seventy-nine apartment
- 13 units involves a density of fourteen point two units
- 14 per acres, eighty-twenty split between rental, three
- 15 hundred three rental and seventy-six ownership units.
- 16 Proposal to include fifty-four workforce or affordable
- 17 housing units, forty-three rental and eleven for sale
- 18 units.
- 19 In response to some of the comments earlier
- 20 today, the information that we have received from the
- 21 Town as part of the referral indicates that the
- 22 forty-three rental units will vary between 50% and a
- 23 110% of median incomes, and the for sale between 80 and
- 24 120% of median income based on the number of bedrooms.
- I would point out median income is

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- 2 established by HUD, and consists of median income for
- 3 the Nassau-Suffolk County region. The proposal
- 4 includes ninety-four one bedroom units, a hundred
- 5 forty-two two bedroom units, sixty-six three bedroom
- 6 units. The for sale units will be split evenly between
- 7 two bedroom and three bedroom units with thirty-eight
- 8 each.
- 9 The proposal involves the development of one
- 10 thousand one hundred thirty-two parking spaces. Town
- 11 code requires one thousand ninety-eight. That will
- 12 include six hundred forty-one parking spaces defined as
- off street or on site parking spaces. There is also a
- 14 hundred thirty-seven spaces within the proposed
- driveways for the units, a hundred thirty-seven spaces
- 16 within proposed garages and there is a proposal for two
- 17 hundred eighteen land bank spaces.
- 18 There is some confusion as to whether or not
- 19 the site is within the sewer district. The application
- 20 specifically says that the site is located within the
- 21 Huntington Sewer District; however, a review of the
- 22 Horizons 2020 Comprehensive Plan indicates that the
- 23 area north of the Long Island Railroad, speaking of
- 24 Huntington Station, is served by Huntington Sewer
- 25 District while the area to the south is not. It goes

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 go on to state there is limited space for new septic
- 3 systems. For that reason, larger scale development
- 4 should be considered north of the tracks first. This
- 5 is referenced on Page 10-10 of the Huntington
- 6 Comprehensive Plan Horizons 2020.
- 7 This site has been before the Commission on
- 8 three prior occasions, 1991 for a subdivision, 1998 for
- 9 another subdivision, which allowed for a hundred
- 10 ninety-eight units. Both were recommended for approval
- 11 by the Commission, and finally, most recently, March 3,
- 12 2010, the site was the subject of a change of zone and
- 13 code amendment to a Huntington Station transit oriented
- 14 district. Originally proposing five hundred thirty
- apartment units with an eighty-twenty split, 80% rental
- 16 to 20% ownership. I point out, the Horizons 2020
- 17 Comprehensive Plan update was also considered by the
- 18 Commission and recommended for approval October 1,
- 19 2008.
- When we look at an application for a
- 21 rezoning, it's important for background purposes that
- 22 we don't apply our own individual viewpoints in terms
- of what constitutes good planning and what constitutes
- 24 concerns associated with a planning project. What we
- 25 try to do is analyze the project on three basic levels.

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- 2 First level, if you look at it in terms of town-wide or
- 3 regional planning policy considerations, that is
- 4 typically embodied in a comprehensive plan, or in the
- 5 case of the Planning Commission, we use the Commission
- 6 quidelines as a framework for making decisions.
- Next, on a second level we look at the
- 8 application in terms of the nature and compatability
- 9 with development in the area. How does it fit in the
- 10 fabric of the neighboring property. We will look at
- 11 issues like traffic and density in connection with
- 12 those considerations.
- Finally, on a third level we look at the
- 14 application from a site specific standpoint. How does
- 15 the proposal fit into code requirements. Does it have
- 16 enough parking, proper setbacks, drainage and proper
- amount of landscaping and buffer requirement.
- So we look at it at those three basic levels,
- 19 town-wide and regional considerations, compatibility
- 20 with the area and finally on a site specific level.
- 21 As I indicated, we have a comprehensive plan
- 22 recently prepared by the Town and recently approved by
- 23 the Commission. When we look at it in connection with
- 24 zoning policy associated with the property, it's
- 25 important to point out the site is recommended for R-7

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 district. It's not recommended for rezoning in
- 3 connection with the current plan. Secondly, there are
- 4 several statements regarding high density housing
- 5 development and housing policy contained within the
- 6 plan. If I could I would like to quote a couple of
- 7 sections from that.
- 8 The plan recommends steps be taken to ensure
- 9 equitable housing types throughout the town and school
- 10 districts. The plan goes on to recommend mixed used
- 11 development and higher density should be disbursed
- 12 throughout the town in as many suitable locations as
- 13 possible. In addition, the plan recommends that land
- 14 for higher residential density development should be
- 15 sought where existing commercial industrial land
- 16 interfaces with the existing residential land and
- 17 rezoning commercial industrial parcels rather than
- 18 redesignating lower density residential areas for such
- 19 uses.
- Finally, the plan recommends the Town
- 21 implement thresholds and standards for the high density
- 22 housing to ensure compatibility with land uses and
- 23 avoid impacts on traffic, neighborhood school districts
- 24 and sensitive environmental resources. In terms of
- 25 county-wide planning considerations embodied within the

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Suffolk County Planning Commission guidelines, the
- 3 guidelines also talks to the idea under the equity
- 4 provision having equity in both the distribution of
- 5 benefits and burdens within the communities.
- 6 Finally, the guidelines advocate tying
- 7 increases in density to the transfer of development
- 8 rights or to an offset in density for rezoning of
- 9 privately held land in order to promote smart growth
- 10 principals.
- 11 Background data associated with this
- 12 application in particular with Huntington Station
- 13 reveals the following: Huntington Station contains
- 14 currently the second most number of multiple units in
- 15 the entire town. According to Suffolk County Planning
- 16 data, that includes seven hundred fifty-five multiple
- 17 familyl units. In addition, Huntington Station
- includes that highest number of multiple -- excuse me.
- 19 Huntington Station contains the second highest
- 20 percentage of multiple rental units at 59%. Finally,
- 21 Huntington station contains the highest percentage of
- 22 all types of rental units when combined 39%. In
- 23 addition, if is noted that non-senior, workforce or
- 24 affordable housing units, Huntington Station, contains
- 25 72% of all those units within the town currently.

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| 2 | Finally, and it was referenced early, it's |
| 3 | important to note that previous housing policies within |
| 4 | the Town have had an impact in terms of segregation |
| 5 | within the Town and those concerns have been evidenceed |
| 6 | in a number of Federal housing court cases that have |
| 7 | worked their way through the court system over the last |
| 8 | ten to twenty years. In terms of the nature and |
| 9 | character of the development surrounding the subject |
| 10 | property, I note the following statistics. Town-wide, |
| 11 | it is five point one units to the acre. Huntington |
| 12 | Station is higher than that, at nine point five units |
| 13 | to the acre. One of the contributing factors for the |
| 14 | high density in Huntington Station is the fact that |
| 15 | Huntington is included within a sewer district, as is |
| 16 | Melville. When we look at distribution of housing |
| 17 | units, specifically multiple family housing units |
| 18 | throughout the Town, it's no surprise that the highest |
| 19 | number of units is in Melville and Huntington Station |
| 20 | because of the location of these sewer districts. |
| 21 | The surrounding neighborhood also contains a |
| 22 | number of higher density housing developments. There |
| 23 | are five. Walt Whitman Village on the west side of New |
| 24 | York Avenue, just north of the train tracks is the |
| 25 | highest density project, R-3M, and maintains a density |

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- 2 of approximately seventeen units to the acre. Winnoka
- 3 Village, south and west of the subject property, also
- 4 on East Fifth north side -- of Pulaski, excuse me,
- 5 maintains a density of approximately eleven units
- 6 to the acre. Highview which is located north of the
- 7 Long Island Railroad station on the east side of 110
- 8 maintains a density of ten units. Huntington Country
- 9 Farms, located to the south of the subject property,
- 10 maintains a density of seven units to an acre, and Town
- 11 Homes Huntington Glen maintains a density of seven
- 12 units to the acre.
- When we consider traffic, we note that a
- 14 hundred nine units, which generate on average,
- 15 according to the Institute of Trip Generation Manual,
- one thousand ninety trips per day in connection with
- 17 the permitted one hundred nine residential units. The
- 18 apartment development that is proposed in connection
- 19 with the application would generate a slightly less
- 20 number, on a per unit basis, but would overall produce
- 21 twenty-five hundred trips a day according to an
- 22 estimate of six trips per unit.
- In reviewing the application, material has
- 24 been referred from the Town in connection with this
- 25 application from a traffic standpoint, we note the

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- 2 following. Number one, that the level of service for
- 3 turning movements from East Fifth Street onto Park
- 4 Avenue is a level of service F, failure of conditions
- 5 on all peak periods currently. In addition there are
- 6 multiple failure conditions on turning movements
- 7 associated with Pulaski Road and Park Avenue
- 8 intersection during peak periods currently. The Town
- 9 through the referral material, proposes a signal at the
- 10 intersection of East Fifth Street in order to address
- 11 the turning movement concerns; in addition signal
- 12 retiming along Park Avenue. That would, according to
- 13 the Town, improve the level of service to at least a
- 14 level of D.
- 15 In connection with some site specific
- 16 concerns associated with the application, we noted
- 17 earlier that the site proposed is approximately one
- 18 thousand one hundred thirty-three parking spaces on
- 19 site and the code requires one thousand ninety-eight
- 20 parking spaces. One concern we have as far as the
- 21 numbers, six hundred forty-one spaces as indicated
- 22 earlier would be provided off street. We have no
- 23 objection to that, no concerns.
- In addition, it's fairly typical for a
- 25 multi-family housing development to include parking

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 spaces within the driveways directly adjacent to the
- 3 units. However, there are a hundred thirty-seven
- 4 parking spaces proposed within the garages associated
- 5 with the units. This represents approximately 12.5% of
- 6 the required on site parking. Our history with the
- 7 parking within garages it's difficult to maintain over
- 8 time. It's difficult to enforce and ultimately those
- 9 spaces tend to become utilized with storage associated
- 10 with the unit. We have some concerns associated with
- 11 the use of the garages to meet the minimum required
- 12 parking spaces on site.
- In addition, the plan proposes two hundred
- 14 eighteen land banked parking spaces which represents
- 15 19.8% of the required on site parking. Land banking is
- 16 a fairly common approach to increase the amount of
- 17 available landscaping area on site in order to reduce
- 18 the amount of impervious surface and we certainly have
- 19 supported the idea of land banking in the past.
- Our main concern with the land banking in
- 21 connection with the subject application involves the
- 22 ninety spaces proposed in the planned pond areas. It
- 23 doesn't seem realistic or practical, from a planning
- 24 standpoint, to propose parking areas near a water
- 25 element on site. This would result in either the

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- 2 elimination of a portion of the water element and the
- 3 need to replace water storage capacity because it does
- 4 function both in terms of aesthetics as well as
- 5 drainage purposes on site, and we would advocate a
- 6 different approach rather than providing land banked
- 7 parking on site.
- 8 The hour is late. There has been a lot said
- 9 on the application. We tried to provide background on
- 10 the comprehensive guidelines associated with the
- 11 property as well as a brief review of the Planning
- 12 Commission guidelines, both of which have been adopted
- 13 as policy by the respective boards. Based on that
- 14 information, staff is respectfully recommending that it
- 15 be approved subject to the following conditions. I
- 16 don't normally read the conditions in the record. In
- 17 this case, I think it's appropriate to read some the
- 18 conditions at least.
- 19 First is we would like to address is the idea
- 20 of implementing standards and thresholds for the
- 21 location of higher density housing prior to the
- 22 establishment or approval of additional multiple family
- 23 complexes within Huntington Station. This is based on
- 24 the concern that the staff had on the percentage of
- 25 number multiple housing units that already exist in

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Huntington Station, along with some of the concerns
- 3 that are a result of past practices, not current zoning
- 4 process associated with higher density housing in
- 5 Huntington Station.
- The second condition we would like to propose
- 7 is that the Town consider a reductions in density
- 8 associated with the application more consistent
- 9 with the nature and character of the development of the
- 10 property, more consistent with the Huntington Station
- 11 average, which is below ten units per acre, and more
- 12 consistent with the town-wide average, which is just
- 13 above five units per acre. We recommend a more
- 14 rational approach for that recommendation.
- Third, we would like the Town to consider an
- 16 increase in the number of ownership units and decrease
- 17 the percentage of rental units. This is based on some
- of the percentages that already exist in Huntington
- 19 Station, that has the highest number of rental units of
- 20 any hamlet in the town, and second highest percentage
- 21 of multiple family rental units.
- Fourth, we need to look in terms of,
- 23 personally for a moment, I have worked as a
- 24 professional planner for the last twenty-four years
- 25 during that time I have attended hundreds of these

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 meetings and advocated both for and against literally
- 3 hundreds of projects that included individual
- 4 affordable housing components. I would like to think I
- 5 have been a tireless advocate for affordable and
- 6 workforce housing in the region. When we look at the
- 7 number of affordable housing units distributed in
- 8 Huntington Station, look at the 72% of all the
- 9 non-senior housing being located in one hamlet center,
- 10 we think it would be prudent for the Town to consider
- 11 the development of an affordable housing a plan that
- 12 would provid for a rational distribution of housing
- 13 units before any additional housing units are
- 14 considered in Huntington Station.
- 15 Fifthly, we would like as indicated earlier,
- 16 for the Town to give consideration to a revised parking
- 17 plan to eliminate land banked parking within the ponds
- 18 and consider an alternative to consider parking within
- 19 the proposed garages.
- Six, we would like to recommend that the Town
- 21 consider tying increases in the density associated with
- 22 this project to the preservation of open space or
- 23 transfer of open development rights or offset of
- 24 density consistent with Planning Commission guidelines.
- A general comment, we would like to add that

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- 2 the Town, or Commission should consider, I apologize,
- 3 the idea of consultation with Planning Commission
- 4 guidelines regarding energy efficiency, public safety
- 5 and I also note for the record that the prior
- 6 application included comments regarding a bus shelter
- 7 that didn't appear to be included with this
- 8 application. I note it for the record. And there was
- 9 also a comment associated with the last application
- 10 with regard to emergency access. I apologize at the
- 11 tail end of this for taking up so much time but I'm
- 12 happy to answer any questions that the Commission
- 13 members may have.
- 14 THE CHAIRMAN: I note for the record that is
- of course the same piece of land that we saw in the
- last year, and this is a different proposal and we need
- 17 to look at this with fresh eyes. This is a Huntington
- 18 application; as such, commissioner from Huntington like
- 19 to lead off the conversation
- 20 COMMISSIONER CASEY: Thank you. What a great
- 21 way to start my career here. I'm a Huntington Station
- 22 resident; I've been there for eleven years. I think
- 23 this is a really good project; I support it. I think
- 24 that Huntington Station needs something like this from
- 25 a planning perspective. I think that the proximity of

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 the train station is very key for it to succeed.
- 3 COMMISSIONER FINN: A very thorough report.
- 4 As we sit regionally, some of the issues that arise in
- 5 housing across Long Island, this particular application
- 6 I think needs to address a lot of the concerns. We
- 7 have toured other districts and other municipalities as
- 8 a commission and looked at the suggestions of how
- 9 projects such as this with their approval and
- 10 implementation of how they create a vibrancy to a
- 11 community which, in this instance, could benefit from
- 12 such a project.
- 13 The issues that are laid out in the
- 14 conditions, I think we have identified those in past
- 15 applications as not necessarily to be conditions, but
- 16 they are worthy to make mention of but not worthy to
- 17 make conditions. Dan, I wasn't clear by your report is
- 18 this project in the sewer district or not in the sewer
- 19 district?
- 20 MR. GULIZIO: According to the site plans
- 21 submitted by the applicant, it's in the sewer district.
- 22 According to the Town's comprehensive plan it is not
- 23 located within the sewer district.
- 24 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: It would have to be
- 25 hooked up to the sewer district. This a is highly

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- 2 dense and intensified plan and I don't think it would
- 3 be getting permits from Suffolk County for septic
- 4 systems.
- 5 MR. GULIZIO: My understanding, in speaking
- 6 with town representatives, there would be an
- 7 application made to the sewer district to see if they
- 8 would be eligible to be included. They apply specific
- 9 criteria in this review process. According to the
- 10 comprehensive plan, it's not currently within the sewer
- 11 districts.
- 12 COMMISSIONER FINN: You mentioned a lot of
- 13 statistics on percentages, numbers are thrown around
- and it's hard to follow them. Mr. Amper pointed out
- 15 earlier about the affordability aspect. One of the
- 16 percentages I was curious about is what is the
- 17 percentage of rental housing versus single family
- ownership in Huntington Station and the hamlet?
- MR. GULIZIO: Huntington Station has the
- 20 highest percentage of rental housing of all types in
- 21 Huntington of 30%.
- 22 COMMISSIONER FINN: And 70% single family.
- MR. GULIZIO: 70% ownership. I assume there
- 24 are a number of two family homes that are owner
- 25 occupied. I'm not sure how they count those.

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- 2 COMMISSIONER McADAM: Dan, the number of the
- 3 conditions require that a housing plan be completed, or
- 4 some kind of study, and it's my feeling, I don't
- 5 believe there is a study or plan that already is in
- 6 place should hold up or be part of an application for
- 7 Avalon Bay, and at the very least I think we should
- 8 move some of the conditions -- I think it's one, three
- 9 and four, at least to the comment stage at the very
- 10 least. It's just my feeling that this should not be
- 11 tied directly to the application.
- MR. GULIZIO: It's certainly within the
- 13 discretion of the Commission; we respect that. The
- 14 reason it was included was because the Town's
- 15 comprehensive plan requires or recommends that the Town
- 16 implement threshold and standard for the location of
- 17 these high density housing projects.
- 18 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: For the Planning
- 19 Commission, it's I think it's important to note that
- 20 when it can hook up to the Huntington sewer treatment
- 21 plant that would be a positive thing since that
- 22 facility has been upgraded to meet the new TDL
- 23 standards for Long Island Sound. What that means, it's
- 24 been upgraded to the best technology available to
- 25 reduce nitrogen loading into the body of water it

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 discharges into.
- When we reviewed the application last time,
- 4 we asked that the developer incorporate some of the
- 5 green methodology for storm water runoff. I don't see
- 6 any of that in here. Was that ignored?
- 7 MR. GULIZIO: No, it wasn't. One of the
- 8 things, I apologize for not calling that out
- 9 respectfully suggest that the Commission include
- 10 language that the applicant consult Commission
- 11 quidelines.
- 12 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: I didn't mean did you
- ignore it, I meant when you sent it out to the
- 14 developer, when you said there are alternatives to
- doing recharge basins and ponds, which I don't
- 16 personally consider recharge, they should incorporate
- 17 it in here. It doesn't seem that the revised proposal
- 18 has incorporated that.
- 19 MR. GULIZIO: I didn't have any discussions
- 20 with the applicant and it didn't come up in discussions
- 21 with the Town.
- THE CHAIRMAN: We have a standard practice
- 23 around the table of including that as a comment. That
- 24 will come back as a site plan to see if bioswales and
- 25 things are included. It's good before site plan to

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 mention it now. This is conceptual.
- 3 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: Conceptually, they
- 4 could have included it. We mentioned it as a comment.
- 5 Again, the developer is here. We want them to listen.
- 6 I don't want to go through a fruitless exercise. Dan,
- 7 can you clarify.
- I agree with your comment about not wanting
- 9 to go use the pond as the land bank parking. What
- 10 is the remedy for that?
- 11 MR. GULIZIO: In speaking to Town staff,
- 12 there are no specifically required landscaping
- 13 requirements on site. One of the easiest alternatives
- 14 would be to find other locations outside of the ponds
- 15 that could be used for land banked parking. There is a
- 16 slight surplus of parking on site. With a little
- 17 finagling or gerrymandering they should be able to meet
- 18 the parking requirements and keep the land banked
- 19 parking outside of the ponds.
- THE CHAIRMAN: That is a site plan issue
- 21 which we can address. I think it's appropriate to
- 22 comment on that now and identify that as something that
- 23 we see as an issue.
- MR. GULIZIO: One of the helpful reasons for
- 25 identifying the site plan related issues now, once the

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 density is set, there is less opportunity to look at
- 3 those types of considerations and find room for
- 4 additional landscaping or additional parking.
- 5 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: Dan, you list three
- 6 previous submissions. Were Timber Ridge and
- 7 Cobblestone also owned by the same developer that is
- 8 presenting Avalon Bay?
- 9 MR. GULIZIO: I don't believe that is the
- 10 case.
- 11 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: I'd like to follow up
- on a comment that Commissioner Finn made about comments
- 13 conditions. I read many of these as comments, not
- 14 conditions. We are using language like "recommend" or
- 15 "should consider." In one, two, three, six, and
- 16 usually for conditions we would say that they should be
- 17 lowering density and usually they should be actually
- increasing ownership. We don't usually use the
- 19 language of recommendation or considering in
- 20 conditions.
- In my opinion, we should either lower these
- 22 to comments or strengthen them to conditions.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Good point. Commissioner
- 24 Horton.
- 25 COMMISSIONER HORTON: The staff report

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 addressing directly the Conditions 1 through 6, I agree
- 3 with Commissioner Roberts' assessment that there is
- 4 language that is not necessarily a condition, but not
- 5 necessarily a recommendation or comment, I should say.
- 6 I also quite frankly think there is a fair amount of
- 7 judgment within the context of these conditions. And I
- 8 would -- I'm happy to go through them point by point as
- 9 to why I have come to that conclusion, but I can also
- 10 just sum it up by saying that one through six, should
- 11 all be at best comments, and I would like to see much
- 12 of the language removed.
- 13 THE CHAIRMAN: Instead of doing one by one,
- 14 we will do that at end, I would like to see where folks
- 15 are as a commission.
- 16 COMMISSIONER HORTON: If I may, as it relates
- 17 to energy efficiency, that is a condition I continue to
- 18 support as it relates to that project.
- 19 THE CHAIRMAN: You are suggesting that it be
- 20 a condition?
- 21 COMMISSIONER HORTON: I'm suggesting it be a
- 22 condition.
- VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: I'd like to say I
- 24 appreciate all the positions and comments on this
- 25 application on both sides. A project this scale always

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 elicits a heated conversation, and that is certainly
- 3 what we have here.
- I also want to thank Dan for a very thorough
- 5 staff analysis. I was talking to Commissioner McAdam
- 6 before and I realized I'm one of the veterans of this
- 7 Commission having been here for six years.
- 8 It's nice to see the discussion on equity
- 9 issues and distribution of housing, affordable housing
- 10 as part of the staff analysis, something we did not get
- 11 into years ago. This is an important move in the right
- 12 direction. That being said, the statistics are
- 13 fantastic, I think they're interpreted improperly in
- 14 some cases. I would like -- I don't see them
- 15 necessarily valued as comments either.
- 16 THE CHAIRMAN: Before we do that, I'm
- 17 thrilled with that. I want, before we start going
- 18 through the conditions, I want to make sure one by one
- 19 everyone has a chance to say anything general they want
- 20 to say.
- 21 COMMISSIONER CASEY: I want to agree that I
- 22 think a lot of these conditions also should be comments
- 23 and not conditions.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Here is what I'm hearing. I
- 25 haven't heard anyone say anything other than speaking

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 in terms of approval. In order to flush out anyone
- 3 that thinks in of terms of making this a disapproval?
- 4 Seeing none, then we are talking about approval.
- In that case, we should walk through the
- 6 conditions one by one. Why don't we walk through the
- 7 conditions one by one, and a couple of -- the vice
- 8 chairman helping lead this conversation too. We walk
- 9 on the down the line assuming we are talking about
- 10 approval. Question is how.
- 11 The first recommendation is, Dan read it,
- 12 basically talks about the equity issue. Why don't we
- 13 start with that keep our comments focused condition by
- 14 condition and we march through them.
- 15 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: I think the issue
- 16 that we are looking at in terms of equitable
- 17 diversifying housing stock around the county is an
- important one and an important policy focus of the
- 19 commission. It's designed not to punish the
- 20 municipalities that are trying to do it, it's designed
- 21 to encourage the municipalities that are not providing
- 22 multi-family housing to do more. I don't want to see
- 23 this as a negative. I think that issue which applies
- 24 to Condition 1 and 4, as well, I don't necessarily
- 25 think are appropriate, perhaps a comment in terms of

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 the need to diversify the housing stock across the
- 3 county is a critical one, and frankly, that is on us at
- 4 the county level to create a regional housing policy
- 5 and I hope we are in the direction of doing that.
- I don't see that as a reason to punish an
- 7 applicant or municipality that is trying to move in
- 8 that direction because perhaps they have a higher share
- 9 already than some other towns or villages may have.
- 10 That would be my comment.
- 11 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: Are you suggesting
- 12 eliminating it entirely?
- 13 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: Yes, one and four
- 14 should be combined into a policy.
- 15 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: I still don't
- 16 understand. Are you recommending that they be
- 17 eliminated or just be reduced to policy?
- THE CHAIRMAN: What he just said was they be
- 19 eliminated, but maybe they be a comment to capture some
- 20 of the essence of the equity issue being important to
- 21 us. Let's walk through this. One thing I noticed in
- 22 the staff report is a couple of these are related. If
- 23 we have a comment a comment might relate to one and
- 24 four captured with the same comment.
- It seems like one and two, maybe there are

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 too much. The staff was indicating a concern about the
- 3 density. Three talks about maybe there is too much
- 4 rental, four talks about affordable.
- 5 Following up on what the vice chairman said,
- 6 these are all things that we've promoted, whether
- 7 affordable or rental in the appropriate places,
- 8 dennsity. Let's keep the discussion on Condition 1
- 9 The suggestion was to strike it.
- 10 COMMISSIONER HORTON: I want to second that.
- 11 That suggestion is strike Condition 1. I don't think
- 12 that warrants a comment. If there was any dialogue
- 13 about a housing plan, it should be reflected in the
- 14 County and this Commission's effort to promote a
- 15 regional housing plan, not something in the context of
- 16 how it's written.
- 17 COMMISSIONER McADAM: I want to say I agree
- 18 with that, too, as I said before. If we are heading in
- 19 that direction, I'm wondering if we eliminate some of
- 20 these conditions or convert them to comments, how are
- 21 we going to get our point across to the Town that we
- 22 would like them to do certain things about it if
- doesn't become part of an application? Is there any
- 24 way that we can do it in a letter or report to the Town
- 25 saying that a number of items came up with this

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 application, you may want to look into these things?
- 3 THE CHAIRMAN: We can include in the comment
- 4 a request to the Town that they conduct some kind of
- 5 town-wide analysis to look into equity. That is a good
- 6 way to do it, rather than conditioning it on a project
- 7 specifically saying this is we as a regional body, we
- 8 think that the Town needs to look at.
- 9 Let's hold that thought and see where we go.
- 10 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: I don't understand
- 11 our hesitance to at least add it as a comment. Saying
- 12 that it should be a regional plan or county regional
- 13 plan is nice, but we have been saying that for two
- decades and that hadn't happened. We know that the
- 15 problem is it's left up to the local municipalities,
- 16 towns and villages.
- I think it's appropriate for the regional
- 18 planning commission, which is the County, to suggest to
- 19 the Town once again, look at thresholds and standards
- 20 for location of higher density. I think that is a good
- 21 recommendation and I think it's the kind of thing that
- 22 we should be doing. I agree that it should not be a
- 23 condition, because it doesn't yet exist. That would be
- 24 putting the cart before the horse. To be a comment, I
- 25 think is not only reasonable for us, I think it's what

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 we do and I think it's an obligation that we have.
- 3 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm trying to keep notes about
- 4 that and let's see if we can form a comment on the end.
- 5 The other thing I'll say, this county needs to do what
- 6 we are proposing, which is have a housing summit to try
- 7 and encourage the kind of housing that we need. That
- 8 is a personal policy reflection of mine. Anyone have
- 9 comments on Number 1? Any other conversation about
- 10 Number 1.
- Seeing none, let's move onto Number 2, which
- is the density is above the average for the area. I do
- 13 recall we had the same issue the last time we dealt
- 14 with this location. In fact, this condition was
- 15 actually -- although it should be said that the prior
- 16 proposal included a TOD, which this commission opined,
- 17 should be a model for Huntington as well as the County.
- Number 2, any comments on proposed Condition
- 19 Number 2? Commissioner Finn.
- 20 COMMISSIONER FINN: As a commission, we often
- 21 address density and where it is proper and where it
- 22 should exist. This parcel is in not in the Carmans
- 23 River estuary, the Farmland Protection Area, or the
- 24 Pine Barrens. It's in proximity to the train station.
- 25 It's a walkable component. These are all the buzz

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 words and items that we discussed on where density
- 3 should be. So here is an example and here's an
- 4 opportunity to implement a method of development and
- 5 density that would be consist with what we are talking
- 6 about. It may be, in particular to some adjacent
- 7 parcels, but it is far less density than what -- as far
- 8 as density, we visited other communities and everybody
- 9 kind of gets wrapped up in density. It's more of, as
- 10 we heard of other successful projects, it's more design
- 11 than density, its proximity to the train station.
- 12 And Huntington is a township that is
- 13 thriving. The economic development with the 110
- 14 corridor and let's not forget this area does have
- 15 sewers. These are the restrictions that prevent other
- 16 municipalities because of the lack of sewers. You have
- 17 sewers, you have the ability to not be a septic
- 18 situation these are the areas and have the ingredients
- 19 where density to be somewhere we should encourage.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Any other comments on
- 21 Condition 2?
- 22 COMMISSIONER McADAM: About Condition 2, I'm
- 23 not sure I'm right about this. If someone can correct
- 24 me, I'll be very happy. I think when using a statistic
- 25 like this you also have to consider the size of the

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 property that was used in calculating these averages;
- 3 in other words, if you have a twenty-six acre piece of
- 4 property, and other projects in the town with fourteen
- 5 acres, I think that is going to affect the way the
- 6 numbers are presented.
- 7 THE CHAIRMAN: That is certainly an issue.
- 8 We don't have the photos in front of us, but I know we
- 9 showed them last time.
- 10 MR. GULIZIO: I'm sorry to interrupt.
- 11 THE CHAIRMAN: You're not interrupting,
- 12 you're doing your job.
- MR. GULIZIO: Two quick comments. Number
- 14 one, the typical distance that we would love to see in
- 15 terms of walkability, and recognize there are a number
- 16 limited number of sites, is a quarter mile distance
- 17 from the train station. In a study a couple of years
- 18 ago regarding development in and around train stations
- 19 and downtowns within a half mile of that train station,
- 20 this site was outside of that catchment area. This is
- 21 a little bit further than a half mile from the parking
- 22 garage from Highview. There is a density of ten units
- 23 per acre.
- Staff recommendations, in consideration of a
- lower density, was based on the fact that they're

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- 2 proposing a density 40% greater than Highview in
- 3 Huntington and further from the train station than
- 4 Highview in Huntington.
- 5 THE CHAIRMAN: Any further comments?
- 6 Commissioner Holmes.
- 7 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: I note that the staff
- 8 report mentions concerns with respect to traffic and on
- 9 site parking demand and whatnot, and goes on to say
- 10 that the Town consider a reduction in density more
- 11 consistent with the nature and character of the
- development in the Town as a whole, which kind of begs
- 13 the question about the fact that many commissioners
- 14 feel this is a suitable area for this type of density.
- But, the mitigation of traffic is something
- 16 that should be looked at and considered, and I'm not
- 17 quite sure how we might make that as a comment, but I
- 18 think it should be mentioned. Traffic mitigation is
- 19 definitely a problem in that area already.
- 20 THE CHAIRMAN: It's a good point. I'm noting
- 21 for everyone's information I went through our report
- 22 from last time -- our resolution, sorry -- and it did
- 23 include in a comment traffic signal mitigation. I kind
- of wanted to save that for the end.
- 25 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: You mean traffic

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 signal? Mitigation, in other words, creating traffic
- 3 signals.
- 4 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. That is an issue we
- 5 addressed last time. The proposal changed a little
- 6 bit. It's the same location with the same general
- 7 traffic issues.
- 8 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: The comment, if we
- 9 turn it into a comment, it might suggest that the Town
- 10 consider traffic signal.
- 11 THE CHAIRMAN: I can read the language from
- 12 last time. I'd like to hold that to the end. I made a
- 13 note of it. There is language used last time that we
- 14 can use as a jumping off point. I'm writing that down
- as something to talk about. As part of the condition
- 16 we want to rescue a piece of it for a comment.
- 17 COMMISSIONER HORTON: On Number 2, I see
- 18 where it comes from. But, in the face of this, it
- 19 would be the same for us to say that the Town consider
- 20 an increase in density. If we recommend and consider a
- 21 reduction in density in our comments as it related to
- 22 Number 1, we were talking about reviewing an overall
- 23 plan and where housing or where high density
- 24 development should take place, if we were going to push
- 25 that forward on point number one.

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- 2 Then Number 2, saying that the Town consider
- 3 a reduction in density is just as meaningful or
- 4 meaningless, the same as the Town consider an increase
- 5 in density. I don't think it achieves the goal that I
- 6 think is intended here.
- 7 THE CHAIRMAN: Why don't we work on that
- 8 language when we get to this? What we said last time
- 9 is simply, last time we supported the general outline
- 10 of this, which was more density. But let's -- there
- 11 are some traffic issues. Again, we included that as a
- 12 comment. I have that as a comment to East Fifth Street
- 13 and Park Avenue.
- Is there anyone that thinks we should
- 15 maintain Condition 2 as a condition?
- 16 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: No.
- 17 THE CHAIRMAN: Seeing none, let's move on.
- 18 Condition 3 talks about rental units within Huntington
- 19 Station. Thoughts on that condition.
- 20 COMMISSIONER HORTON: I have a question as it
- 21 relates to that. Therefore, it is recommended that
- 22 consideration be given to increasing the percentage of
- 23 ownership units for the project in order to ensure
- 24 there is appropriate diversity of housing types within
- 25 the community.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- What does that mean? Is there something we
- 3 need to be aware of as it relates to rental properties?
- 4 I don't understand this.
- 5 MR. GULIZIO: When we looked at the
- 6 distribution of rental units throughout the Town on a
- 7 hamlet by hamlet basis, we found that Huntington
- 8 Station had the highest percentage of rental units of
- 9 any hamlet in town and highest percentage of multiple
- 10 family units, second only to one other hamlet, that
- 11 contained one multiple housing development that was
- 12 rental, Paumanok Village.
- Our concern was to ensure, as the Town
- 14 comprehensive plan says, an equitable distribution of
- 15 all units, including rental units throughout the Town.
- 16 The planning staff has very specific guidelines in
- 17 terms of what particular percentages ought to be or
- 18 ought not to be. What the Commission has endeavored to
- 19 do in recent years is raise the issue as a concern for
- 20 a referring municipality and suggest that they evaluate
- 21 the issue and develop a rational basis for moving
- 22 forward in terms of staff policy.
- 23 If you would prefer us to put in more
- 24 specific standard we would be happy to do it. We have
- 25 been trying to raise the attention to municipalities

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 without dictating what the outcomes ought to be.
- 3 THE CHAIRMAN: I think the town-wide analysis
- 4 that I reference is consistent with, some kind of
- 5 town-wide analysis in terms of equity. Alternatively,
- 6 it's possible to mention this to the Town as an issue,
- 7 piggybacking on what Commissioner McAdam said. I guess
- 8 this group can decide whether it should come before or
- 9 after that. We want to speak to the Town in terms of
- 10 the need for regional analysis.
- 11 MR. GULIZIO: Just to be clear, the County
- 12 certainly has a responsibility and obligation to
- 13 provide guidance on regional housing policies.
- 14 Certainly Towns have a similar responsibility to
- 15 establish a rational approach to housing units and
- 16 types throughout their communities. The language
- 17 quoted is from the Town's comprehensive plan about
- 18 establishing standards and guidelines for the
- 19 distribution of units. It's not County policy, it's
- 20 Town policy as embodied within the recently adopted
- 21 2008 comprehensive plan.
- 22 COMMISSIONER HORTON: Is it your opinion and
- 23 would it be our opinion, if we were to adopt this as a
- 24 body, that we have a concern that there too much rental
- 25 housing in Huntington, and what does too much mean and

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 why would that be too much? What is the negatives of
- 3 rental housing? What is the problem with rental
- 4 housing? That is what I want an answer to.
- 5 There is a lot of planning dialogue and a lot
- of loose dialogue here that enables the County and Town
- 7 to do something or to do nothing. My concern is what
- 8 is inequitable or a not fair share of rental housing
- 9 and why would that be problematic, having lived in
- 10 rentals most of my adult life.
- 11 THE CHAIRMAN: The Long Island Index came
- 12 here and we talked about the need for more rental
- 13 housing on Long Island generally, compared to similarly
- 14 situated suburban counties. I think Westchester has
- 15 thirty some odd percent. We have significantly less
- 16 than that. The question becomes -- the fact that we
- 17 need more elsewhere, does it mean we should have less
- 18 here? I don't know that is what we are trying to say.
- 19 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: That isn't what the
- 20 staff report is saying. The staff report is simply
- 21 pointing out that this location with this application
- 22 in Huntington Station already has an abundance of
- 23 rental, and the staff is recommending, if I understand
- 24 properly, that there be more of a balance in this
- 25 application, between ownership and rental.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- So, it's more equitable to have a little more
- 3 ownership in that development than rental because there
- 4 is already so much rental in this particular location;
- 5 am I correct?
- 6 COMMISSIONER HORTON: Again, the question is,
- 7 what is the issue and what is that makes home ownership
- 8 more desirable for a community than having rentals?
- 9 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: Not for the community,
- 10 just for this area.
- 11 THE CHAIRMAN: I think Josh's point is a
- 12 policy issue. It's somewhat difficult to make policy
- on individual applications. That is what I'm reading
- 14 you as trying to say.
- 15 COMMISSIONER HORTON: Making a judgment.
- 16 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: I don't think this is
- 17 about making a judgment. I think we should go back,
- 18 what I think our role is, which is a regional planning
- 19 commission, from a broader context. I believe the
- 20 point here is rightly pointed out that if you -- that
- 21 the Town is now having much greater levels of rental
- 22 than it does ownership, and is that what they want to
- 23 do.
- It's not making a judgment whether it's good
- 25 bad or anything, it's making a call, is that the best

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 for the planning for the Town and the way it's supposed
- 3 to evolve and develop. I think that is a legitimate
- 4 question that the Town hadn't answered either. We are
- 5 supposed to make them ask it and answer it.
- 6 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: Isn't this just
- 7 concentrated on Huntington Station rather than the
- 8 entire Huntington Town? What staff is saying that is
- 9 Huntington Station itself already has a great imbalance
- in terms of rental versus ownership.
- 11 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think that the staff
- 12 used the pejorative imbalance. What was the staff
- 13 saying?
- 14 MR. GULIZIO: I think the staff is saying
- 15 that the Town's comprehensive plan as well as the
- 16 Planning Commission guidelines talk repeatedly about
- 17 taking steps to ensure the equitable housing types
- 18 throughout the town and school districts. If there are
- 19 individual hamlets that don't have rental housing, and
- 20 rental housing is a housing type, that perhaps might
- 21 not the most equitable distribution of housing types.
- 22 If an individual hamlet has the highest percentage of
- 23 rental housing and there is a proposal to increase
- 24 rental housing that is something that may raise
- 25 concerns based on policy adopted by the Town to ensure

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- 2 a fair share distribution of housing types through all
- 3 communities.
- 4 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: Deputy Director
- 5 Gulizio, I casually referred to you as Dan before and I
- 6 wanted to make sure we remain official. Suffolk County
- 7 has a major problem of concentrations of housing by
- 8 income and by race. There are pockets of these areas
- 9 that have disproportionate amounts of low income
- 10 housing, rental housing and high density housing.
- I think what the staff is asking us to do is
- 12 really enforce our own comprehensive plan and so
- 13 everything is not put into Huntington Station or one
- 14 particular hamlet. That being said, it's a critical
- 15 comment, but I don't see it as a condition of this
- 16 particular application. I don't see our body as
- 17 creating policy through individual applications.
- This is a bit of a stretch, but I see this as
- 19 an important comment to relate to this town and all of
- 20 the towns, frankly.
- 21 THE CHAIRMAN: With regard to the comment, we
- 22 talked about having as a comment town-wide analysis
- 23 with regared to equity. The rental ownership balance
- 24 might include the affordable, non-affordable balance.
- 25 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: Condition 1 If I

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- 2 may cut to the chase, high density housing, rental
- 3 housing or affordable housing. We can add to that and
- 4 we covered Condition 1, 3 and 4. I think that would be
- 5 a way to succinctly put the feelings of the staff into
- 6 this application.
- 7 THE CHAIRMAN: We are not voting on this.
- 8 It's a thought. It's a way to capture a couple of
- 9 conditions that are sort of similar. It talks about
- 10 from the perspective of policy issues, which
- 11 Commissioner Horton noted are difficult to address on
- 12 one application. The proposal is essentially that the
- 13 Town conduct a town-wide analysis that will allow them
- 14 to implement thresholds and standards of the location
- and design of high density housing, affordable housing
- 16 and rental housing. We can work on that specific
- 17 language before we vote on it. That is the general
- 18 concept. Anything else on Condition 3?
- 19 COMMISSIONER McADAM: Rental housing, when
- 20 you -- I guess where you got these numbers from, are we
- 21 talking about legal rentals versus -- are these legal
- 22 rental units, because we all know that there are a lot
- 23 of -- if you talk about ownership units, some houses or
- 24 some properties can be listed as single family and
- obviously are used as rentals. That was the other

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- 2 question.
- 3 MR. GULIZIO: Legal rentals. I don't
- 4 believe we have a reliable number in terms of other
- 5 rental types.
- 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other conversation with
- 7 Condition 3
- 8 COMMISSIONER CASEY: I just wanted to
- 9 comment with respect to the rental housing in
- 10 Huntington Station. I think that it's very important
- 11 that the Town looks to where the rental housing is
- 12 placed. With respect to a project with this density, I
- think the location near the train station is very
- 14 important. That is what I think the overriding part
- 15 is. You have the density rental units near a train
- 16 station, you're not placing it anywhere. That is what
- 17 you need, to place it there, even though it's not
- 18 transit oriented development. It's still working
- 19 toward that theme.
- THE CHAIRMAN: I have the suggested comment.
- 21 Your thought was to -- there was one suggestion that
- 22 delete Condition 3 and capture some of the things we
- 23 want to capture from the additions into a comment.
- 24 Condition 4, from what I hear around the table, is the
- of affordability aspect of it. It talks about

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 equitable distribution again. Commissioner
- 3 Schoolman.
- 4 COMMISSIONER SCHOOLMAN: There is a real good
- 5 possibility, I absolutely don't know what I'm talking
- 6 about as someone who is brand new. But I would like to
- 7 make an observation as a business person. What I see
- 8 here, or listening to it for the first time, three
- 9 months from now maybe I will say boy, I sure didn't
- 10 know what I was talking about.
- 11 Isn't there a real problem with just
- 12 paralysis by analysis? I mean, some of the things, you
- 13 look at Long Island. So many things just never get
- 14 done. You look at the number of foreclosures in the
- 15 marketplace and you look at the number of people who
- 16 are out of work. You look at the immediate horizon for
- 17 Long Island is not very bright.
- My first reaction is, someone takes a risk
- 19 invests money, they're going to build a property. The
- 20 laws of supply and demand will determine whether that
- 21 is successful or not. Getting into monstrous
- 22 discussion as to what percent of rental units, when I
- 23 first got married and couldn't get a job and got out of
- 24 engineering school in the middle of a recession, I
- 25 lived in a garden apartment and I was glad I could find

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 one for a hundred twelve dollars a month.
- I know this is a little bit more upscale. We
- 4 have to start getting things done on Long Island. It
- 5 seems you can overanalyze everything. I think that you
- 6 always go to somehow support the guy who is taking the
- 7 financial risk, that somehow he knows how to invest his
- 8 money. That is what I hope.
- 9 I've lived on Long Island all my life and I
- 10 would like to see the Island doing better. That is my
- 11 comment as a newcomer listening to all this.
- 12 THE CHAIRMAN: Welcome aboard. Condition 4,
- 13 my question to the table is there anyone that would
- 14 keep Condition 4 in light of the discussion we are
- 15 having about having the Town conduct an analysis?
- 16 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: I feel we should
- incorporate it as the vice chairman suggested, to
- incorporate it into the Comment 1.
- 19 COMMISSIONER HORTON: Exactly how he said it
- 20 as well.
- 21 THE CHAIRMAN: Let's go to Number 5 talks
- 22 about the parking. It was actually the same issue we
- 23 dealt with the last time we heard the project.
- 24 Commissioner Esposito mentioned that as the issue with
- 25 the ponds, we would ask the Town, that may be

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 impractical and they should look at that with regard
- 3 to the site plan.
- I think that should be rescued. Any other
- 5 thoughts on Condition 5, regarding parking on Condition
- 6 5?
- 7 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: I would make it a
- 8 condition. If no one else agrees, I'll go along with a
- 9 comment. But I don't see why it wouldn't be a
- 10 condition.
- 11 COMMISSIONER HORTON: I think it's a fair
- 12 point, to have as a comment. It makes an assumption
- 13 that garages will be converted to something other than
- 14 parking spaces. Those are things that can be
- 15 recommended indeed through association rules and code
- 16 enforcement and things of that nature. I don't think
- it's safe for us to make it a condition, particularly
- on the assumption that they may become something other
- 19 than garages.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Other thoughts on Condition 5?
- 21 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: I agree with making it
- 22 a comment.
- THE CHAIRMAN: We should make the whole thing
- 24 a comment, actually.
- 25 COMMISSIONER McADAM: Dave, I was wondering,

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 it's not about any of the conditions, but we do have
- 3 new members and I'm not sure if they understand
- 4 condition versus comment and what the importance of it
- 5 is.
- 6 Commissioner Schoolman brought it up in a
- 7 broader sense. I think it might be helpful if either
- 8 you or our attorney could explain that.
- 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Just so everyone is clear, I
- 10 think I tried to welcome our new members and give them
- 11 a little bit of a flavor between the difference of
- 12 condition and comment and the legal difference. Tom
- 13 Young, I'm sure would be happy to answer.
- 14 COMMISSIONER SCHOOLMAN: One is a legal
- 15 requirement and one is a comment.
- 16 COMMISSIONER CASEY: I too understand the
- 17 difference.
- 18 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: I think that the point
- is well made by Commissioner McAdam, that the
- 20 difference for us is that with a condition, the Town
- 21 has to have a super majority to override it, the Town
- 22 Board. If it's a comment, they take it into
- 23 consideration and they ponder it, but they don't have
- 24 to have a super majority to override it. I think that
- 25 is the importance.

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- THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions? Okay. Next we
- 3 have Condition 6, density increase. Thoughts or
- 4 comments on that?
- 5 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: It's come up a
- 6 bunch. It's somewhat semantics, but I think it's an
- 7 important consideration. The staff, in typing up the
- 8 report, and I'm sure it's a typo, left out an important
- 9 "should," "increase in density should be tied." It's
- in the analysis, but not in the condition. I don't
- 11 think there is a universal agreement that a one-to-one
- density offset is required for any and all increases in
- density across the county. It's a powerful statement
- 14 as written, but it's a powerful statement that I don't
- 15 think this Commission has actually agreed to or come to
- 16 some conclusion on.
- 17 MR. GULIZIO: Just to be clear in response,
- 18 it's from the Commission guidelines. I apologize for
- 19 the "should." In its entirety, it's from the
- 20 Commission guidelines. We are happy to apply whatever
- 21 standards were contained within the Commission
- 22 guidelines. In the absence of an amendment to the
- 23 condition or the adoption of new guidelines, we are
- 24 obligated to bring in the guidelines that apply to a
- 25 specific situation to the Commission.

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- THE CHAIRMAN: We appreciate that, Dan. This
- 3 has come up a few times. A few times and we have
- 4 talked about figuring out how to change that in the
- 5 guidelines. I think that is an open issue. Several
- 6 times you have suggested and it and several times we
- 7 have taken it out. Our guidelines haven't been changed
- 8 yet. We have a guidelines committee that is not going
- 9 to have time to meet today.
- We can keep it in or keep it out, depending
- 11 on the decision of the Commission. Comments, on
- 12 Condition 6?
- 13 COMMISSIONER HORTON: My only thought is if
- 14 this is a part of the report that we issue to the Town,
- 15 that we not issue that as a condition.
- 16 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: I agree with
- 17 Commissioner Horton, that it should be at best a
- 18 comment.
- 19 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't remember if we have,
- 20 this is just, someone help me. I know this has come up
- 21 a few times on different staff reports in the last
- 22 couple of months. I don't know whether we kept it at
- 23 all or kept it as a comment. Maybe we dealt with it
- 24 differently in different cases.
- 25 COMMISSIONER CASEY: I think it's fine to

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- 2 keep it as a comment to further recommend that to the
- 3 Town to keep that in mind.
- 4 COMMISSIONER HORTON: If I may, if we do keep
- 5 it as a comment, I think we should strike the language
- of it that it be one-to-one density offset. If we have
- 7 if as a comment, we reference transfer development
- 8 rights. Transfer development rights, however, log into
- 9 one-on-one, however, I think is not benefiting the
- 10 application at all.
- 11 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: Take off the last
- 12 part where it says one-to-one density offset.
- 13 THE CHAIRMAN: We have a menu of things. We
- 14 need to either -- we have not done the work to analyze
- 15 this as to how we are going to do that, change this in
- 16 the guidelines. I think we may want to say something
- 17 general in this. I think quoting the guidelines may be
- 18 somewhat problematic because we already discussed this
- 19 around the table, changing the guidelines. I don't
- 20 want to make Commission policy sitting around
- 21 discussing the application.
- 22 COMMISSIONER FINN: It has come up in past
- 23 applications and we have eliminated it altogether
- 24 because it is rather penal. I think in this instance
- 25 from a dollar standpoint it will make this project in

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 effect a non-starter. It is a sewered development.
- 3 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: It's a comment. If we are
- 4 going to abandon our own guidelines, I need to know
- 5 now.
- 6 COMMISSIONER FINN: We have removed it on
- 7 other applications because it's penal.
- 8 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: It's not penal if
- 9 it's a comment. It's not a condition.
- 10 COMMISSIONER FINN: I'm saying just remove it
- 11 altogether, whether it's a comment -- we addressed
- 12 regionally again how we deal with these offsets. We
- 13 spend hundreds of millions of dollars on open space
- 14 preservation, and take those credits and do nothing
- 15 with them.
- 16 THE CHAIRMAN: We don't need to have a
- 17 general policy debate about open space policy in the
- 18 County now. The question is some people want it be a
- 19 comment, some people want to take it out altogether. I
- 20 say what we should do is entertain a motion to withdraw
- 21 it and someone make a motion to put it back in as a
- 22 comment.
- Is there any further conversation about
- 24 Number 6 before moving in this direction?
- 25 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: I do not think that we

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 should put ourselves in the position of being here to
- 3 help somebody develop property. We are here to look at
- 4 the application and apply our standards to it. To me,
- 5 leaving it as a comment is --
- 6 THE CHAIRMAN: I'd like to entertain a motion
- 7 to remove it and put it back as a comment. Without
- 8 objection, I'd like to remove it altogether from the
- 9 application. Seeing none, then Commissioner Holmes
- 10 makes a motion to put Condition Number 6 back in as a
- 11 comment.
- 12 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: Is that for all of
- 13 them?
- 14 THE CHAIRMAN: The others, there was no
- 15 objection. There is on this one. Second by Secretary
- 16 Esposito. All those in favor of putting it back in as
- 17 a comment raise your hand. (Show of hands).
- 18 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: Also a note to
- 19 correct the actual wording in the guidebook.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for noting that.
- 21 The editing, the proposal is to add it back as a
- 22 comment with the word "should" between "density" and
- 23 "be." All in favor? We have a substantial majority of
- 24 the Commission. I think it's eleven to zero.
- 25 COMMISSIONER FINN: Number 6 is a comment.

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- 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Bear with me while I try to
- 3 keep track of this. We have as a comment right now
- 4 that the applicant should consult the Planning
- 5 Commission guidelines. There was a suggestion that we
- 6 make a condition that we typically do. I don't have a
- 7 problem with that. Consistent with our practice, I
- 8 think we should word it a little more eloquently and
- 9 also include the reason, as we have when we do
- 10 conditions, that would be that the Town shall
- 11 actually -- let me ask, is there any other discussion
- 12 about that before I get into reading a proposal.
- 13 I'm talking about this comment on energy
- 14 efficiency and public safety. Seeing none, my proposal
- 15 would be that -- the Town shall direct the developer to
- 16 consult the Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 17 quidelines with respect to energy, efficiency and
- 18 public safety. Reason: the Suffolk County Planning
- 19 Commission has identified energy efficiency and public
- 20 safety as critical county-wide land use priorities. By
- 21 directing the developer to consult these guidelines,
- the Town will be ensuring that public safety and energy
- 23 efficiency principles are considered in development
- 24 plans relating to this location, period.
- 25 Any questions or additions to that?

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- I went through the minutes the last time we
- 3 heard this, the other proposal at this location. There
- 4 are some differences between the things that we voted
- 5 on and the things that made it in the resolution. I
- 6 want to be very careful. I'm going to read exactly
- 7 what we propose.
- 8 Other aspects. Condition on energy
- 9 efficiency and public safety. We have a comment with
- 10 regard to town-wide housing analysis. I'll read that
- 11 before we get into details. We have a comment on land
- 12 bank. We have a comment on green methodologies for
- 13 energy stormwater runoff, and we have a comment that
- 14 was the old Number 6. I'm sorry, when I said "land
- 15 bank," I meant the whole Condition 5 as a comment.
- Green methodologies and the old Condition 6
- 17 with the word "should" added. Dan, you mentioned a few
- 18 other items that we might want to consider as comments
- 19 coming from, I think staff's past analysis and I didn't
- 20 catch all of them. If you would let us know, traffic
- 21 mitigation, we have to talk about that.
- Other than that Dan, I think you talked about
- emergency access.
- MR. GULIZIO: I don't recall if it was a
- 25 comment or condition on emergency access. There was

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 also a condition on a bus shelter being constructed by
- 3 the applicant.
- 4 THE CHAIRMAN: Emergency access and bus
- 5 shelter are really the two. Any objection to adding a
- 6 comment on emergency access? Let me read what we
- 7 passed last time. Let's make sure it makes sense. "An
- 8 alternate or emergency access should be constructed on
- 9 the western portion of the subject property from the
- 10 proposed parking area to the paper street of Wicks
- 11 Avenue existing parking area." That was off the old
- 12 conceptual. Is that still relevant?
- MR. GULIZIO: I think it's still relevant.
- 14 THE CHAIRMAN: Any objection to that as a
- 15 comment? Commissioner McAdam.
- 16 COMMISSIONER McADAM: I don't have an
- 17 objection adding that as a comment. Is that a paper
- 18 street that goes through or is it some street that has
- 19 to be developed?
- 20 MR. GULIZIO: Paper street is a road that is
- 21 mapped, placed on the official town map and not opened
- 22 or improved. Yes, there is a possibility once it's
- 23 placed on the town map, it has the ability to be opened
- 24 by property owners that have rights of access to the
- 25 paper street.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Does the staff still think
- 3 it's a good idea to include that as a comment?
- 4 MR. GULIZIO: Sure.
- 5 THE CHAIRMAN: Any objection to that,
- 6 Commissioners? Seeing none, the bus shelter was a
- 7 condition last time. I'm sort of surprised it was.
- 8 "Applicant will be directed to construct bus shelter
- 9 for a HART bus if deemed appropriate by HART," which
- 10 is the rapid transit in Huntington. Any thoughts on
- 11 whether that should be a condition or comment? Other
- 12 thoughts on that? Anyone feel strongly it should be a
- 13 condition?
- 14 COMMISSIONER HORTON: I think it's
- 15 appropriate as a condition. You are talking about a
- 16 fair amount of people that need to wait for the bus. I
- 17 think it's responsible, whether it's the municipality
- 18 or the whatever the governing entity is for transit
- 19 mechanism or the developer, but I do think, there was a
- 20 lot of thought that went into that, and I don't think
- 21 that is inappropriate for those that are looking to
- 22 catch the bus to get to work.
- THE CHAIRMAN: "The petitioner shall be
- 24 directed to construct a bus shelter for a HART bus
- 25 route if deemed appropriate by HART."

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- 2 COMMISSIONER CASEY: May I ask a question?
- 3 Who would determine whether or not there would be a bus
- 4 stop placed there? Would it then be their
- 5 responsibility? I don't know how that works. I don't
- 6 know if we can make it a condition. I understand it
- 7 would be important to have a bus shelter there. I
- 8 don't know the mechanism to require the developer to
- 9 construct one would play out.
- Maybe it would be better as a comment. I'm
- 11 sure, if it's deemed that it's appropriate, they would
- 12 want to do that. I think it's part of the plan to make
- 13 it more accessible to the bus and train.
- 14 COMMISSIONER HORTON: That is a fair point.
- 15 The way that was worded would require the applicant to
- 16 construct a bus shelter that they might not have the
- 17 right to construct. I'm quite certain that serious
- 18 consideration will be given to it and I have no
- 19 objection to it being a comment.
- 20 COMMISSIONER McADAM: I'm sure that was
- 21 something Vince Taldone put in. While we were driving
- 22 up to Huntington with Vince, he told me that the
- 23 Suffolk County Transit System and HART system kind of
- 24 overlap that area and I'm not sure if they overlap that
- 25 area. In the past I think we had more leverage with

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Suffolk County Transit than we do with HART. If HART
- 3 is in that area, I don't know how we can force them to
- 4 do it either.
- 5 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: Wasn't it the original
- 6 condition last time, was that the Town shall direct the
- 7 applicant to consult with HART about a bus, the
- 8 appropriateness of a bus shelter at that location.
- 9 THE CHAIRMAN: It says directed to construct
- 10 if HART deems it appropriate.
- 11 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: I'm sure this developer
- 12 would make darn sure that HART thought it was
- 13 appropriate before they constructed it.
- 14 THE CHAIRMAN: That may or might not be the
- 15 case. The proposal is to make it a comment. If there
- is an objection, we will have a vote as to whether it
- 17 make it a comment or condition. Is there objection to
- 18 making this a comment? No objection.
- Here is what we have. One more traffic
- 20 mitigation. I'll read you from last time. "Traffic
- 21 signal mitigation proposed by the petitioner at the
- 22 intersection of East Fifth Street and Park Avenue
- 23 should improve the level of service in the intersection
- 24 beyond the levels of service after. Signal should
- 25 operate in coordination with the Park Avenue Pulaski

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Road signal for smoother traffic flow and should be
- 3 tied to the Long Railroad Island crossing gates on Park
- 4 Avenue. Turn movement northbound on Park Avenue should
- 5 be accommodated with a reasonable level of service.".
- I would ask the staff, that we mentioned this
- 7 around the table about traffic, is that comment still
- 8 germane, given that is a different proposal?
- 9 MR. GULIZIO: It is. I believe the
- 10 applicant as part of this proposal has proposed the
- 11 same or similar traffic mitigation, including signal
- 12 retiming and a new signal at the East Fifth Street and
- 13 Park Avenue intersection.
- 14 THE CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Holmes, you are
- 15 the one that suggested this in particular. Is that
- 16 good for you?
- 17 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: I think it's marvelous,
- 18 considering it's after four o'clock.
- 19 THE CHAIRMAN: Here is what we have. We have
- 20 the condition that the Town shall direct the developer
- 21 to consult the Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 22 guidelines with respect to energy efficiency and public
- 23 safety. The Suffolk County Planning Commission has
- 24 identified energy efficiency and public safety as
- 25 critical county-wide land use priorities. By directing

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 the developer to consult these guidelines, the Town
- 3 will be ensuring that energy efficiency and public
- 4 safety principles are considered in the development
- 5 plan relating to this location.
- We then have seven comments. The Town should
- 7 conduct a town-wide housing analysis in order to
- 8 implement threshholds and standards for the location
- 9 and design of higher density housing, affordable
- 10 housing and rental housing distribution.
- 11 Comment Number 2. Land bank parking located
- 12 within the proposed ponds makes little sense and would
- 13 be impractical to implement. The location of parking
- 14 spaces within the planned on site garages also raises
- 15 concerns due to the tendency to utilize garages over
- 16 time for other purposes resulting in loss of on site
- 17 parking. The proposed parking plan should be revised
- 18 to eliminate both land banked parking within the ponds
- 19 and parking with in the proposed garages, while still
- 20 insuring that parking is provided in accordance with
- 21 code requirements and/or any relaxation is properly
- 22 addressed.
- 23 Comment 3 The applicant developer will
- 24 explore green methodologies for storm -- I'm sorry,
- 25 will consider implementing green methodologies for

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 stormwater management such as rain gardens, bioswales,
- 3 et cetera.
- 4 Comment 4, in order to prevent the spread of
- 5 high density sprawl and to supplement taxpayer funded
- 6 open space preservation efforts, Commission policy
- 7 requires that increases in density should be tied
- 8 to the purchase and/or transfer of development rights
- 9 or to one-for-one density offset through upzoning of
- 10 vacant land privately owned. Therefore, it's
- 11 recommended that the Town establish a nexus between the
- 12 proposed increased intensity and preservation of open
- 13 space for one-for-one density offset consistent with
- 14 Commission policy.
- 15 Comment 5, the traffic signal mitigation
- 16 proposed by the Petitioners at the intersection of East
- 17 Fifth Avenue and Park Avenue should improve the level
- 18 of the service of the intersection beyond the level of
- 19 service during peak periods. The signals should
- 20 operate in coordination with the Park Avenue-Pulaski
- 21 Road signal for smooth traffic flow and should be tied
- 22 to the Long Island Railroad crossing gates on Park
- 23 Avenue. Turn movements northbound on Park Avenue
- 24 should be accommodated at a reasonable level of
- 25 service.

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- 2 Comment 6. Alternate or emergency access
- 3 should be constructed in the western portion of the
- 4 subject property to the proposed parking area to the
- 5 paper street of Wicks Avenue. In paren, existing
- 6 parking area within the adjacent park.
- 7 Comment 7, last comment, the petitioner
- 8 should be directed to construct a bus shelter for a
- 9 HART bus route adjusted to serve the proposed
- 10 development if deemed appropriate by HART.
- 11 That is what we have right now. Any
- 12 suggested edits or additions to what I just read?
- 13 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: Just the parking.
- 14 I think we should exclude the part about parking
- 15 garages. This project has three spaces per apartment.
- 16 They're a half a mile or so from the train station.
- 17 They're giving no credit for people to commute. To
- 18 remove the usability of a parking garage seems a
- 19 difficult precedent to set.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Even though it's a comment, I
- 21 actually agree with you. Are there any objections to
- 22 delete? What I propose to delete, the sentence that
- 23 reads location of parking spaces within the planned on
- 24 site garages also raises concerns due to the tendency
- 25 to utilize garages over time for storage purposes

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 resulting in a loss of on site parking.
- 3 Land bank parking located within the proposed
- 4 ponds makes little sense and would be impractical. The
- 5 proposed parking plan should be revised to eliminate
- 6 land banked parking within the ponds, while still
- 7 ensuring that parking is required for code requirements
- 8 or that any relaxation is properly addressed. Any
- 9 objection to that language? I'll make this note on the
- 10 paper. Anything else anyone wants to add? Any
- 11 comments or questions? Seeing none.
- MR. GULIZIO: Mr. Chairman, can I clarify
- 13 Condition Number 2, the status of that?
- 14 THE CHAIRMAN: I thought we deleted all the
- 15 conditions. What I read is what I had. Anyone else
- 16 around the Commission have anything different than
- 17 that? Seeing none, what we have is the one condition,
- 18 and seven comments. Anything else? Okay.
- 19 I'll entertain a motion to adopt that
- 20 proposal as we have hashed it out.
- 21 COMMISSIONER CASEY: So move.
- 22 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: Second.
- THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor of adopting the
- 24 proposal as I just read it, please raise your hand.
- 25 (Show of hands) Eleven to zero.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- Next item on the agenda, the Village of
- 3 Patchoque moratorium. Who has that? Let's take a two
- 4 minute break.
- 5 (Recess taken.)
- 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Village of Patchogue
- 7 moratorium. Mr. Freleng.
- 8 MR. FRELENG: That would be Chief Planner.
- 9 The next application for the regulatory part of the
- 10 commission agenda is a referral of a moratorium of
- 11 development of the Village of Patchogue proposing a
- 12 local law to enact is six month moratorium of new
- 13 apartment houses, garden apartments, townhouses,
- 14 residential uses and buildings over three stories tall,
- and D-1, D-2 and D-3 business district and any floating
- 16 districts.
- We have up on the screen for you a copy of
- 18 the Town zoning village map. We tried to indicate
- 19 those districts that were affected and how they spread
- 20 across the village. This moratorium is applicable as
- 21 indicated to D-1, D-2 and D-3 districts and any
- 22 floating district within the confines of the proximity.
- 23 Affected lands include properties along Waverly Avenue,
- 24 West Main Street to the east. Earlier to the core
- 25 business along Main Street, East Main Street and

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Medford Avenue at the eastern village boundary. These
- 3 are state and county roads as indicated. Land uses
- 4 within the moratorium area are generally within the
- 5 compliance of the village uses in the zoning categories
- 6 include retail, personal service stores, apartment
- 7 houses, restaurants, offices, etcetera.
- 8 The proposed local law from the position of
- 9 the staff analysis prohibits any village official to
- 10 accept for filing any application for a building
- 11 permit, granting of any approvals of any site plans or
- 12 subdivisions, any variances or other permission. It
- 13 also prohibits the building inspector and code
- 14 enforcement officer from issuing any permits related to
- 15 moratorium.
- 16 The Commission has indicated that a
- 17 moratorium from one perspective is the most extreme
- 18 land use action a municipality can take because it
- 19 prohibits land use owners from using their property.
- 20 From the perspective of the Commission, a limited or
- 21 narrowly scoped moratorium generally does not involve
- 22 regional or inter-community impacts of an adverse
- 23 nature and generally are considered matters for local
- 24 determination.
- The Suffolk County Planning Commission has

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 published guidance on the structure and content of
- 3 moratoria. The moratorium should be tied to a
- 4 legitimate comprehensive planning initiative such as
- 5 the completion of zoning or master plan updates. Where
- 6 possible, the moratorium should be limited and allow
- 7 for the due process of applications and assure the
- 8 proper balance between property rights and community
- 9 planning.
- The referred local law would be strengthened
- in the opinion of staff if it indicated that the
- 12 village investigated any alternatives less burdensome
- on property owners than the proposed moratorium. It
- 14 should have indicated what recent circumstances have
- 15 occurred that justified the adoption of the moratorium.
- 16 In the opinion of staff, the circumstances warranting
- 17 the moratorium or what hard evidence there is to
- 18 support the necessity of the moratorium.
- There are more details in the staff report to
- 20 summarize. Staff is recommending approval subject to
- 21 the following conditions: The first condition goes
- 22 back to the proposed legislative intent, and staff
- 23 believes that the Commission should condition that the
- legislative intent should be beefed up and added those
- 25 issues enumerated in the Commission's addendum on

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 moratoria.
- 3 The second recommendation from the staff for
- 4 a conditional approval is that the alleviation of
- 5 hardship section in the proposed local law also be
- 6 strengthened to include a number of items that would
- 7 make the issuance of a hardship variance less
- 8 subjective and that is the staff report.
- 9 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: Thank you,
- 10 Mr. Chief Planner. Commissioner Esposito, that is your
- 11 area; I'll start with you.
- 12 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: Being that I
- 13 represent the Village, you would have thought that the
- 14 Village would have informed me of that, but that is not
- 15 the case. The numerous and large scale proposals have
- 16 been approved and have been applauded throughout the
- 17 Village, whether it's the ones on Main Street or down
- 18 by the water. With a good combination of affordable
- 19 housing and attached housing, I think the Village is
- 20 seeking a little bit of a breather now that some of the
- 21 massive plans have been approved and are moving forward
- 22 to kind of re-look at and what direction that is going
- 23 to go into.
- I want the Commission members to know this is
- 25 not out of context. It's as if you run a marathon and

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 you rest a bit to see what your next goal is. The
- 3 Village is resting a bit to see what the goal is for
- 4 the next couple of years.
- 5 MR. FRELENG: The moratorium does affect the
- 6 zones as indicated, but I should still point out is
- 7 there a potential large growth area in the Village.
- 8 The Village indicated it wants the moratorium to study
- 9 the E Business zone. As you recall from a recent
- 10 project, also allows attached residential units, as you
- 11 see up on the screen, all that potentially developed
- 12 area. When you commend the Village for looking at
- development in context, I think I should keep in mind
- 14 there is a significant developable portion of the
- 15 Village that is not being considered developable in
- 16 terms of apartments and homes.
- 17 THE CHAIRMAN: This is --
- 18 MR. FRELENG: I can quote to you the
- 19 legislative intent of the local law that states that
- 20 the purpose is "to allow the Village of Patchoque to
- 21 evaluate the LLC project and DRD district upon the
- 22 parking, health, safety and general welfare of the
- 23 community of the Village of Patchogue and effectuated a
- 24 solution and/or comprehensive plan to address the
- 25 future residential density and construction in the

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 primary business zoning districts of the village."
- 3 This moratorium is in response to a project
- 4 that we approved and in the opinion of staff might not
- 5 have analyzed the project effectively through the SEQRA
- 6 process if this project results in that moratorium.
- 7 THE CHAIRMAN: Your proposal is approval with
- 8 conditions. I take it this is the fingers and toes of
- 9 some of the Villages out in there.
- MR. FRELENG: That is correct. We compared
- 11 quidelines and proposed a conditional approval.
- 12 THE CHAIRMAN: We like to remind them through
- 13 the conditions some of the legalese to make the
- 14 moratoriums not legally challengeable, just for the new
- 15 measures. Andy calls them fingers and toes. I don't
- 16 know where that came from. The moratoriums are
- 17 analyzed consistent with our guidelines.
- You will see in the staff report, the last
- 19 page of the staff report is the Suffolk County Planning
- 20 Commission Advisory Views Volume 2 Issue 1. We have
- 21 not, as far as I know, issued Volume 2. This is the
- 22 planning guide based on the legal precedent for
- 23 guidance. It's based on legal precedent.
- When a moratorium comes and doesn't have one
- of these pieces, we say that you have to have one of

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 these pieces or otherwise it's legally challengeable.
- 3 MR. FRELENG: I could call it the sniff test
- 4 but I think fingers and toes is better.
- 5 COMMISSIONER KONTOKOSTA: With moratoria,
- 6 it's completely counter to the intent. My
- 7 understanding, to reference a single proposal, you're
- 8 supposed to look at more comprehensive area wide
- 9 impacts of the numerous developments or large scale
- 10 developments simultaneously. I have a major concern
- 11 about the kind of basis for this moratorium at all.
- 12 I'm curious why approval with conditions as opposed to
- disapproving with reasons why and having them come back
- 14 and frame it appropriately.
- 15 MR. FRELENG: We looked at the consistency of
- 16 what the staff and Commission recommended over the
- 17 years. The Commission, on some occasions, have
- 18 overridden staff, if you will, and denied the
- 19 moratorium on two occasions. I believe staff is being
- 20 consistent with strengthening the moratorium. It's up
- 21 to you.
- 22 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: I am concerned
- about putting words in the Village's mouth to make it
- 24 appropriate rather than them coming to us and proposing
- 25 a suitable and defensive moratoria from the start.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 That is my concern.
- 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Kelly, welcome
- 4 back.
- 5 COMMISSIONER KELLY: Missed being here.
- 6 Regarding the moratorium, again, never a big fan of it.
- 7 As the report indicates, a breather may be well needed.
- 8 I think that is what the Village is looking for. In
- 9 light of the fact that they approached us with this
- 10 request, I believe probably our response should be in
- 11 terms of a comment versus a condition. I think it
- 12 would be better received. That would help them shape
- 13 their moratorium a little better, more defensible, if
- 14 that's the word you want to use.
- I don't think we should be placing conditions
- on them, but more advising them in terms of a comment.
- 17 MR. FRELENG: They have no choice but to
- 18 refer it to us. They didn't send it to us under any
- 19 pretense other than they're required by law to send it.
- 20 COMMISSIONER KELLY: Understood.
- 21 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: I believe that the
- 22 condition term is warranted because they have not fully
- 23 justified the reasons for their moratorium. I think
- 24 it's a little more mandatory for them to shape up their
- 25 moratorium and make it more appropriate and defensible,

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 if you will. But that I think that the term condition
- 3 is warranted here.
- 4 COMMISSIONER WEIR: I have a question on the
- 5 D-1, D-2, D-3. There are a lot of zoning districts.
- 6 As the chief planner mentioned, not all the zoning
- 7 districts are encompassed in this. This is a kind of a
- 8 gobbledygook because it's in black and white and it's
- 9 all mushy. Tell us which district is which.
- 10 MR. FRELENG: D-1 is red. D-2 business is
- 11 blue, sort of these scattered parcels. D-3 is the
- 12 gold, which is this big concentration of area here.
- 13 THE CHAIRMAN: Moratorium is for all three of
- 14 those areas.
- 15 COMMISSIONER WEIR: But only those three.
- 16 THE CHAIRMAN: You have that whole area in
- 17 the middle is wetland.
- 18 MR. FRELENG: No, that whole area pattern is
- 19 E Business zone.
- 20 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: Up and down the river
- 21 is residential. I think down the river is residential.
- 22 There are homes on the river. I live on the river;
- 23 this is how I know this. The head of the river there
- is a manufactured gas plant site that needs to be
- 25 cleaned up, which they haven't cleaned up. There are

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 some industrial slash pretty bad commercial areas that
- 3 could and probably should be developed. It's tied into
- 4 the waterfront revitalization plan that has yet to take
- 5 shape.
- I don't know that any of that is imminent
- 7 over the next six months, anyway.
- 8 MR. FRELENG: There is also marinas and
- 9 restaurants up and down that corridor. You know from
- 10 experience from the projects that you have reviewed,
- 11 some of the marinas have converted to residential high
- 12 density condos over the last ten years. Staff's point
- is they have not put into their moratorium other high
- 14 density residential zones that could be affected. They
- only want to study the business district.
- Staff is just pointing out that having said
- 17 that, there are other areas in the Village that can
- 18 have high density housing.
- 19 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: That is true, but I
- 20 don't think that point on its own makes a moratorium in
- 21 these districts a bad idea, Chief Planner. Let me ask
- 22 you a question. Does this include -- I can't tell from
- 23 the map, the East Patchogue section which includes the
- theater that has just be taken over by eminent domain?
- 25 MR. FRELENG: No, that is outside the Village

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 boundaries.
- 3 COMMISSIONER McADAM: Under the staff
- 4 analysis at the end of the first paragraph, it could be
- 5 just the way I'm reading it, it says that -- it lists
- 6 the fact that the building inspector and code
- 7 enforcement officer can issue permits, and down at the
- 8 end it said for garden apartments, townhouses and
- 9 residential uses and buildings over three stories tall.
- 10 Does that mean they can still issue permits for two and
- 11 three stories?
- MR. FRELENG: To answer your question
- 13 correctly, yes, I think the building inspector and
- 14 chief zoning officer, it should be more clear that they
- can issue C.O.'s, other types of electrical permits,
- 16 plumbing permits, that may be part of and approved part
- 17 of a project.
- 18 THE CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Kelly.
- 19 COMMISSIONER KELLY: Moratorium is a
- 20 voluntary application from the Village, correct, on
- 21 their own motion.
- MR. FRELENG: That's correct.
- 23 THE CHAIRMAN: They have to send it to us,
- 24 they don't have to do it.
- 25 COMMISSIONER KELLY: They don't have to do

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- 2 it. My point is, I don't think we can condition them
- 3 to do anything. We can help shape their language, but
- 4 I don't think it's in our interest to condition
- 5 something because they're making the effort, not us.
- THE CHAIRMAN: I think the precedent has been
- 7 we condition them. We don't love to see them. If we
- 8 see them, we generally want to see them done the right
- 9 way and we feel strongly about that. We had the Port
- 10 Jefferson one a few years ago. Because of the nature
- 11 of moratorium, which is extinguishing basically
- 12 property rights, development rights for a period of
- 13 time. It needs to meet certain criteria and needs to
- 14 be done carefully.
- That is why I think our general tradition is
- 16 to do a condition on that anyway. We don't have to.
- 17 That is what we generally do. Other thoughts,
- 18 comments, questions?
- 19 COMMISSIONER CHARTRAND: I have to agree with
- 20 staff on this, this is a tremendous amount of work that
- 21 is going on down there now. This will be going
- 22 forward. For them to come out and recommend on their
- own that we want a moratorium, I would have to back
- 24 that.
- 25 COMMISSIONER FINN: I'll echo to Matt's

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 point. I think there has been, to Commissioner
- 3 Esposito's point, we should applaud the Village's work.
- 4 Now it's time for them to reanalyze, not to mention the
- 5 incredible success of our YMCA in the Village. But
- 6 having fourteen thousand people sign up for the Y in
- 7 the first six months I have a board meeting next week.
- 8 I'll be happy to report to the board.
- 9 If we have, in this instance, as we have in
- 10 other communities that have been as progressive as this
- 11 village has, and to stop and look and see how their
- 12 policies, now that the rubber has hit the road.
- 13 THE CHAIRMAN: We look forward to the weekly
- 14 Y enrollment. It feels like it's weekly. Comment
- 15 thoughts, questions?
- 16 COMMISSIONER SCHOOLMAN: If it's a hard
- 17 answer, you can tell me later. Something like this
- 18 comes up, why wouldn't -- it's such a short interval of
- 19 time, why wouldn't your first reaction be to say yes?
- 20 How are you harmed by saying yes? Is there a simple
- 21 answer to that?
- 22 THE CHAIRMAN: First of all, we are saying
- 23 yes; that is what approval means.
- 24 COMMISSIONER SCHOOLMAN: I know you are, but
- 25 a lot of discussion. Somebody asks for a six month

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 moratorium, why wouldn't the immediate response be
- 3 okay, you have six months, but after that you have to
- 4 get your stuff together.
- 5 MR. FRELENG: Two observations for that. The
- 6 initial observation being which I forgot. This body,
- 7 as you learned or will be reminded next month, is an
- 8 advisory body. It's your job to be provide advice.
- 9 You're an advisory body because the locality after
- 10 taking your advice can override you and give reasons
- 11 why they don't think you're accurate. That is the
- 12 first reason, we have a bulletin that advises
- 13 localities how to do bulletproof, if you will,
- 14 moratoria, and we are advising the body they should
- incorporate those things into the moratoria.
- If you make it as a comment, they're not
- obligated to deliberate and they're not obligated to
- 18 put their reasons for ignoring your comment into the
- 19 record. If you put it as a condition, they're
- 20 obligated to deliberate the condition and put reasons
- 21 why they don't agree into the record. That is the role
- 22 of the Commission is to put grist into the mill of
- 23 deliberation so approvals are made, they're made
- 24 soundly.
- 25 Secondly, a six month moratorium to analyze a

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 downtown for redevelopment, staff's opinion they're
- 3 going to ask for an extension. They don't have a
- 4 consultant on board. They don't have any staff that we
- 5 know of in the Village that can handle an analysis like
- 6 that. Staff is being presumptive in thinking they will
- 7 be back in six months.
- 8 THE CHAIRMAN: If they're back in six months,
- 9 we want to make sure it's done the right way. We don't
- 10 want to have legal challenges.
- 11 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: I'd like to make a
- 12 motion for approval with the conditions as delineated
- 13 by staff.
- 14 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: Second.
- 15 COMMISSIONER WEIR: I'd like to make a
- 16 comment on Condition Number 2. If we are kind of
- 17 against moratoria, we are saying we want to make it
- 18 harder. It's not something that you want to do just
- 19 like that. I'm saying we discourage it for whatever
- 20 reasons the alleviation of hardship.
- We are extremely specific in what we are
- 22 telling the Village, what we have to do as a condition
- 23 to give an alleviation of the hardship. I think that
- 24 should be a comment, if that is subjective, okay, let
- 25 the Village decide whether or not they should let

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 somebody out that moratoria, and not make it so onerous
- 3 with all the different non-subjective specific items.
- 4 That is my comment on Number 2
- 5 THE CHAIRMAN: Andy, any responsive thoughts
- 6 on that?
- 7 MR. FRELENG: No.
- 8 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: I would like to amend
- 9 the motion.
- 10 THE CHAIRMAN: Any comments? All in favor of
- 11 adopting the staff report as written? Please raise
- 12 your hands. (Show of hands) Nine. Opposed? (Show of
- 13 hands) Passes nine to four. Town of Southampton
- 14 amendment.
- 15 MR. FRELENG: Town of Southampton has
- 16 referred to the Commission an amendment regarding
- 17 general development standards. The referral from the
- 18 Town Board for an amendment to the Town zoning law to
- 19 address evaluation criteria. As indicated in the local
- 20 law, the purpose is to further address more aptly
- 21 articulated what makes a specific community benefit.
- The planned development district is a
- 23 floating zone district designation subject to
- 24 locational criteria is applicable throughout the Town
- of Southampton by petition or by the Town Board's own

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 motion.
- In terms of the staff analysis, one of the
- 4 Commission's critical county-wide priorities is the
- 5 effect on economic development. It's the opinion of
- 6 staff that the proposed amendment may affect the issues
- 7 of economic development as it may pertain to the
- 8 ability of project sponsors to consummate development
- 9 proposals. The public benefits often are interpreted
- 10 to include the construction of public amenities,
- 11 redemption of development rights, offerings of open
- 12 space, provision of affordable housing cash payments to
- 13 local school districts, et cetera, in order to address
- 14 local concerns related to the proposed project.
- 15 We quoted New York State Law, Article 16.
- 16 "Community benefits or amenities shall mean open space
- 17 housing for persons of low or moderate income, parks,
- 18 elder care, day care, or other specific physical,
- 19 social or cultural amenities or cash in lieu thereof of
- 20 benefit to the residents of the community authorized by
- 21 the town board."
- What staff feels is at issue is really the
- 23 definition of what is benefit is beyond what the Town
- law states. The proposed ordinance defines the
- 25 community benefit as "being above and beyond project

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 features that would otherwise be required of
- 3 development on the subject property through the site
- 4 plan subdivision, et cetera process. Said features
- 5 shall not qualify as community benefits."
- For example, if you are required to put aside
- 7 open space, that is not a public benefit, that is
- 8 requirement of development. If you are doing a site
- 9 plan and the New York State Long Island Housing or
- 10 Workforce Housing Act requires you to provide 10%
- 11 affordable housing, that is no longer a community
- 12 benefit, that is a requirement of development.
- 13 It's the belief of staff it's an important
- 14 feature to consider. Requirements of development
- 15 should not be considered public or community benefits.
- We also give you a section from the Town of
- 17 Brookhaven ordinance which also quotes what a community
- 18 development is. "It's the belief of the staff that the
- 19 proposed Town of Southampton amendment is an
- 20 appropriate articulation of what defines a community
- 21 benefit in the context of change of zone and other
- 22 discretionary approvals." Staff is recommending
- 23 approval and gives two reasons why we feel that way.
- 24 That is the staff report, Mr. Vice Chairman.
- VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: Thank you very

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 much. This is a Southampton application. Commissioner
- 3 Roberts, any thoughts?
- 4 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: I say I agree with the
- 5 staff and definitely commend Southampton leadership for
- 6 the many steps they have tried to streamline the
- 7 process and that that is part of a bigger plan to try
- 8 to do that.
- 9 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: Any other
- 10 comments? Somebody like to make a motion?
- 11 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Make a motion.
- 12 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: Second.
- 13 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: All in favor?
- 14 (Show of hands) Opposed? Abstain? It's unanimous.
- 15 Twelve-zero.
- 16 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: Let the record she
- 17 when the Chairman left the room we did the application
- 18 in three minutes.
- 19 MR. FRELENG: Mr. Vice Chairman, next on the
- 20 agenda, the next application referred to the Suffolk
- 21 County Planning Commission is the Artist Lake Plaza.
- 22 Comes to you from the Town of Brookhaven, from A-1
- 23 Residence to J-2 Neighborhood Business on approximately
- 24 thirty-three acres of a seventy-four point two acre
- 25 property in order to develop the subject property into

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 a commercial retail center. That requires a special
- 3 permit.
- 4 The proposed development of the subject
- 5 property consists of three hundred seventy-nine
- 6 thousand four hundred eleven square feet of retail
- 7 floor area and twelve thousand seven hundred twelve
- 8 square feet of restaurant space, for a total proposed
- 9 gross floor area of three hundred ninety-two thousand
- 10 one hundred twenty-three square feet.
- 11 The petition for change of zone calls for a
- 12 set aside of approximately twenty-five acres of land in
- 13 the northern portion of the subject property, and it
- 14 will be dedicated to the Town for public active
- 15 recreational use. Development of a pedestrian walkway,
- 16 including water features, rain gardens, a clock tower,
- 17 brick pathways and landscaped seating areas along the
- 18 entire property frontage adjacent to Middle Country
- 19 Road is also shown on the plan.
- There is an existing restrictive covenant
- 21 associated with a prior approval on the subject
- 22 property running with the land, limiting development on
- 23 site to a hundred forty thousand square feet for a
- 24 commercial center, with an allowable increase in the
- 25 gross floor area up to a maximum of an additional

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 eleven thousand square feet, by the purchase of Pine
- 3 Barren credits, with each Pine Barren credit equivalent
- 4 to one thousand square feet of gross floor area.
- 5 An annulment to the restrictive covenant is
- 6 requested to allow for the proposed development. Off
- 7 street parking requirement per Town of Brookhaven
- 8 zoning laws is two thousand two hundred forty-eight
- 9 parking stalls. That is a 10% shortfall, requiring a
- 10 variance. Of the total proposed parking, approximately
- 11 5%, or one hundred stalls, are proposed to be land
- 12 banked. Seven other variances will also be required if
- 13 the petition is approved as proposed.
- It should be noted that sanitary waste will
- 15 be directed towards individual septic systems on site,
- or septic system on site, if you will. Majority of the
- 17 southern portion of the property is developed with a
- 18 vacant former K-Mart store and associated parking. An
- 19 unused above ground water tank is located to the north
- 20 of the store. The existing K-Mart and water tower will
- 21 be removed.
- The subject property is located on the
- 23 northeast corner of Middle Country Road and Currans
- 24 Road in Middle Island. A review of the land use
- 25 indicates that the subject property is an island of J-2

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 zoning in an area otherwise zoned as residential. A
- 3 small area of J-5, occupied by a gas station at the
- 4 corner of Currans Road and Middle Counrty Road. A
- 5 shopping center, currently zoned J-2, anchored by a
- 6 King Kullen supermarket is to the east across Woodville
- 7 Road and far to the west are commercial properties
- 8 associated with the intersection of Middle Country Road
- 9 and Yaphank Rocky Point Road.
- 10 Land use in the area is reflective of zoning
- 11 designations. Notable are the shopping center to the
- 12 east and shopping center at the Route 25 and County
- 13 Road 21 intersection. The plan is to have two points
- 14 of access on Middle Country Road, three points along
- 15 Currans Road and primary access to the site is proposed
- off Route 25 and appears to be a signalized
- 17 ingress-egress. No point of access to Route 25 is
- 18 proposed to the east. East access will require
- 19 approval from the New York State DOT as Middle Country
- 20 Road is a state road.
- 21 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: For those of us which
- 22 would mean me, which are directionally challenged,
- 23 where are the road boundaries, just so I know.
- MR. FRELENG: From the conceptual site plan
- 25 this is Currans, Road that is the western property

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 boundary, this is New York State Route 25. This is
- 3 Artist Lake, over here is Woodville Road. The King
- 4 Kullen shopping center is here and other properties
- 5 indicated in the staff report. New York State DOT will
- 6 have to approve access to New York State 25. One point
- 7 of access is to be used exclusively for the proposed
- 8 ball field, exclusively.
- 9 In terms of environmental conditions, it's
- 10 important to note that the subject site is located in
- 11 the Special Groundwater Protection Area. Moreover, the
- 12 site is located in the Central Pine Barrens Zone of
- 13 Suffolk County. It's located in the Compatible Growth
- 14 Area as regulated by the Central Pine Barrens Joint
- 15 Planning and Policy Commission. A point nine one acre
- 16 water body is located in the existing on site recharge
- 17 basin is a town designated wetland, and the subject
- 18 property would be in the vicinity of Artist Lake and
- 19 mapped wetland.
- The Town of Brookhaven 1996 Comprehensive
- 21 Land Use Plan recommends commercial for the specific
- 22 site. Specifically recommends that the subject parcel
- 23 be designated as a hamlet center, more specifically an
- indoor-outdoor recreation center which proposes
- 25 non-competing commercial uses.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- This hamlet is supposed to include,
- 3 notwithstanding the indoor-outdoor component, an
- 4 appropriat mix of residential, commercial, office and
- 5 civic development.
- The staff analysis will go as follows: In
- 7 terms of environmental protection, the subject property
- 8 is in the Central Pine Barrens. It has clearing
- 9 restrictions. The Commission should note that the
- 10 subject property is split zone, so the clearing
- 11 restrictions would range between a minimum of 57% for
- 12 Residential A-1, to 65% for commercial property. The
- 13 petitioner proposes a minimum preservation of 37% of
- 14 the entire parcel. The Commission clearing
- 15 restrictions are 57% for residential and 65% for
- 16 commercial. Somewhere in between should be the open
- 17 space that is being offered. The petitioners are
- 18 proposing 37% of the entire parcel as open space.
- 19 It's also regulated by the Central Pine
- 20 Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission
- 21 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The applicant should be
- 22 directed to consult, and I believe they are in
- 23 consultation with the staff of the Central Pine Barrens
- 24 Joint Planning and Policy Commission to determine
- 25 conformance with CGA natural vegetative clearance and

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 other standards.
- 3 The petition includes the construction of
- 4 man-made ponds. The applicant should be directed to
- 5 the Suffolk County Planning Commission's publication on
- 6 the study of man-made ponds in Suffolk County.
- 7 Moreover, since the creation of water features often
- 8 become managed and protected wetlands by regulating
- 9 agencies, the applicant should continue discussions, if
- 10 they have not already, with the Town's environmental
- 11 division and consult with NYS DEC for potential permit
- 12 requirements.
- 13 It is noted that the proposed development
- 14 intends to discharge sanitary waste via on site
- 15 sanitary systems. It is also noted that the County of
- 16 Suffolk is engaged in the review of regionalized waste
- 17 treatment studies with regard to waste water treatment
- 18 for the proposed project in light of existing treatment
- 19 facilities in the area and the proximity of Artist Lake
- 20 and the headwaters of the Carmans River.
- 21 The applicant should continue the dialogue
- 22 with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services
- 23 with regard to waste water treatment at the proposed
- 24 site. I should just point out that the site is in
- 25 conformance with Article 6 and that is why they are

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 proposing to discharge to sanitary systems. We said
- 3 that the Health Department and Department of Public
- 4 Works will work with them to see whether there is an
- 5 appropriate way to regionalize sewage treatment in that
- 6 area and we do know there are number of sewage
- 7 treatment plants in that area that need to be upgraded
- 8 or connected to capacity existing.
- In the opinion of staff, while the proposed
- 10 project does not appear to exceed allowable wastewater
- 11 density equivalent flow pursuant to Article 6 -- I
- 12 think that is what I just said -- of the Suffolk County
- 13 Sanitary Code and does not appear to exceed density
- 14 limitations of the Brookhaven Town Zoning Law for the
- 15 requested gross square footage, shifting density via
- 16 the use of Pine Barren credits should not be dismissed.
- 17 The subject petition is a change of zone or
- 18 discretionary approval. The subject site is also
- 19 within the central Pine Barrens zone, a management area
- 20 intended to preserve a core area of fifty thousand
- 21 acres, via the use of transfer of development. The
- 22 subject site represents a potential receiving area as
- 23 defined by the Town of Brookhaven Zoning Law. The use
- of the site for development without the retirement of
- 25 Pine Barrens credits eliminates the site as a potential

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 receiving site and may upset the required sending to
- 3 receiving ratios established to implement the plan.
- 4 The ratios are required by the Comprehensive Plan and
- 5 makes the plan constitutional and not a taking.
- 6 The Town should prepare or cause to be
- 7 prepared a statement as to the impact the removal of
- 8 the seventy-four acre site will have on the required
- 9 sending to receiving area ratios of the Central Pine
- 10 Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
- 11 The staff further believes that the project
- in and of itself could further be construed as a
- 13 economic development and as with any development
- 14 proposal; however, it is not unique. However, not
- 15 withstanding the petitioner's economic reports to the
- 16 contrary, the proposal may impact the economic
- development of the future of the Middle Island Hamlet
- 18 Center. Furthermore, the proposal discounts the
- 19 availability of vacant commercial and retail space in
- 20 the area to the east and west of the proposed site.
- 21 There are several vacant commercially zoned
- 22 sites in the area and the Middle Country Road core.
- 23 Middle Island Plan specifically called for commercial
- 24 non-competing commercial uses on the site and
- 25 additional retail general uses should be discouraged to

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 prevent cannibalization of existing retail uses in the
- 3 area.
- I want to go to the photo. This is the
- 5 proposed site. This is the abandoned K-Mart. As you
- 6 can see, there is a sea of asphalt in front of the
- 7 site. That asphalt does extend way west.
- 8 THE CHAIRMAN: This is waterfront property.
- 9 MR. FRELENG: It's not waterfront. New York
- 10 State Middle Country Road separates the property from
- 11 Artist Lake. There is the unused water storage tank.
- 12 This is access to the proposed ball fields which would
- 13 come off of Currans Road. This is what it looks like
- 14 now. This is looking more north and a little bit west.
- 15 If you note on the edge, there is an existing
- 16 multi-family project to the west of this proposal.
- 17 This is looking straight into the subject property from
- 18 Currans Road with proposed access where the ball field
- 19 would be, the following slides are the adjacent King
- 20 Kullen center.
- 21 The proposed study, there would no impact.
- 22 There are a number of available spaces. This is the
- 23 eastern wing, this is the western wing, this is the
- 24 Blockbuster, which is vacant. There are a number of
- 25 vacant stores within this strip. The King Kullen is in

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 between the east and west wing. Staff counted the
- 3 number of doors and number of vacant businesses behind
- 4 those doors the vacancy in the King Kullen shopping
- 5 center directly to the east of the subject property is
- 6 forty-six percent. Yet the economic analysis indicates
- 7 there would be no impact to neighboring retail.
- 8 This is close to the county road. This is a
- 9 area designated as hamlet center. This area is to be
- 10 the commercial center of Middle Island. As you can
- 11 see, this is existing vacant space is standing vacant.
- 12 It does not appear that there is pressure to adapt this
- 13 space for commercial or retail use. This subject
- 14 property is directly adjacent to the one we just saw.
- 15 This fronts on New York State Route 21 and New York
- 16 State Route 25 in the foreground.
- 17 These are two slides together from a viable
- 18 shopping center across the street that we didn't take
- 19 any picture of. That is a shopping center which has no
- 20 vacancy. On the other side of County Road 21 there is
- 21 a huge piece of property. That is a former lumber
- 22 yard. We understand that this property may have some
- 23 constraints with regard to Hazmat on the site, it is
- 24 targeted as another component of the Coram Country Road
- 25 Middle Island Hamlet Plan. This property called for a

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 hamlet center.
- In total, we have a project that is proposing
- 4 well over three hundred thousand square feet of retail
- 5 area, which may impact plans for developing a hamlet
- 6 center along 25 and Route 21 intersection.
- 7 Housing element is not part of the change of
- 8 zone petition. It called for multi-family and small
- 9 residential uses on the parcel as part of the next
- 10 residential concept. Applicant is proposing a 10%
- 11 shortfall in parking stalls. The shortfall is park and
- 12 proposing a land bank 5% of the proposing parking may
- indicate an over intensification of the proposed
- 14 parking, further underscores the possible over
- intensification of the use of the property.
- In plain English, they are going for a change
- of zone and then proposing a project that needs a
- 18 number of variances. It does not appear to consider
- 19 the number of recommendations of the Middle Country
- 20 Road Land Use Plan for Coram Middle Island and Ridge.
- 21 Notwithstanding the high rate of abandonment, the
- 22 petitioner's economic analysis indicates no adverse
- 23 impacts to the development of the envisioned Middle
- 24 Island Hamlet Center or the existing King Kullen
- 25 shopping center to the east.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 The recommendation out of the study for
- 3 mixing indoor outdoor recreation with residential would
- 4 appear to be an appropriate approach to the development
- 5 of the property. The commercially zoned land in the
- 6 area is apparently tenuously occupied and general
- 7 commercial development on this site can potentially
- 8 exacerbate the conditions.
- 9 Staff is recommending disapproval for the
- 10 following reasons: The first reason is that the
- 11 proposed zone change designation constitutes an
- 12 unwarranted alteration of the zoning pattern in the
- 13 locale and the rationale that follows the proposal may
- impact the economic development of the center to the
- 15 west.
- The second reason for disapproval, that
- 17 includes the unwarranted over intensification of the
- 18 use of the premises. The off street parking
- 19 requirement is two thousand two hundred forty-eight
- 20 parking stalls. The applicant is proposing only two
- 21 thousand twenty-one, a 10% shortfall. There is more
- 22 detail. In the interest of time, Mr. Chairman, I tried
- 23 to go through it quickly.
- 24 THE CHAIRMAN: That is owned by the
- developer?

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 MR. FRELENG: At this time, it's all under
- 3 the control of the project sponsors. There has been
- 4 discussion on the applicant proposing some improvements
- 5 through Artist's Lake in that area. There was brief
- 6 mention but there is no proposals at this time as a
- 7 mitigation or benefit on this action.
- 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Who owns the property on the
- 9 other side; do you know?
- 10 MR. FRELENG: How about we look at the
- 11 aerial. The oblique photo shows Middle Country Road
- 12 and then there is a state or town pull off. Over here
- where they just improved and there is a small
- 14 shoreline, five or six feet maybe, between the road and
- 15 water.
- 16 THE CHAIRMAN: I thought maybe they were
- 17 proposing a marina.
- 18 MR. FRELENG: It had been discussed for
- 19 Middle Island if this hamlet center were developed,
- 20 that the applicant may do improvements to the Artist's
- 21 Lake area.
- 22 THE CHAIRMAN: The property next to it, what
- 23 is that?
- MR. FRELENG: It's in control of the project
- 25 sponsor. This is vacant parking at the moment.

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 COMMISSIONER KELLY: How much of the area is
- 3 disturbed and/or improved?
- MR. FRELENG: It's a little bit more than
- 5 twenty-five acres, just north of that line is the ball
- 6 field.
- 7 COMMISSIONER KELLY: As Andy mentioned, it's
- 8 currently a sea of asphalt, as you can see. In terms
- 9 of redevelopment, this is probably a great spot for it
- in terms of what it can do to the local county economy.
- 11 This site is probably one of the two poster children of
- 12 Supervisor Lesko's blight to light calling for
- 13 redevelopment. So it is a target for redevelopment in
- 14 the Town.
- The area itself, Middle Island is in need of
- 16 economic investment. As Andy mentioned, it does not
- 17 lie with the 1996 Comprehensive Plan. The zoning in
- 18 that the area is inconsistent. That is probably a
- 19 valid point.
- The Middle Island Hamlet Center just to the
- 21 west, I believe one or two or three parcels is
- 22 currently under litigation. That may never happen.
- 23 That Middle Island Hamlet Center to the west may never
- 24 happen. To anticipate any competition at this point is
- 25 premature due to the fact that litigation is ongoing

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 and I believe that the Carmans River is targeting the
- 3 area.
- 4 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: Note the river is not
- 5 targeting the area.
- 6 COMMISSIONER KELLY: The Carmans River
- 7 Protection Plan.
- 8 THE CHAIRMAN: It's an aggressive river.
- 9 COMMISSIONER KELLY: Thank you for pointing
- 10 that out. The plan provides for commercial space and
- 11 much needed recreational area. The ball fields is much
- 12 needed. Actually, one third of the site takes up the
- 13 recreational component.
- In terms of the variances requested, it looks
- 15 like the variance requested probably would go away if
- 16 there was not so much open space provided, or ball
- 17 fields. That is really my comments in terms of my
- 18 personal opinion. I would like to see this as approval
- 19 because I do believe that the Town, especially the Town
- 20 Supervisor wants to redevelop this area. It's
- 21 evidenced by it having it on his cover for Blight to
- 22 Light.
- 23 THE CHAIRMAN: So everyone around the table
- 24 is aware, we obviously reviewed the Blight to Light
- 25 initiative and unanimously endorsed it. On any given

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 project, we are not to consider what the Town does or
- 3 is going to do. One thing I'm torn about is this is
- 4 sort of virgin territory, to put in more commercial
- 5 wouldn't make any sense to me. But it's all blight.
- 6 It's all paved. By putting the ball fields and more
- 7 amenities, you might get more people to go there which
- 8 might help the stores in the neighborhood. I'm kind of
- 9 torn about this.
- MR. FRELENG: While this is targeted for the
- 11 Blight to Light, it should be noted that that project
- is not coming in under that program, it's coming in as
- 13 a change of zone. It is not proposing to address any
- of the criteria for approval for the Blight to Light.
- 15 THE CHAIRMAN: Wasn't it actually adopted by
- 16 the Town Board?
- 17 MR. FRELENG: I believe it was. You had an
- 18 application that came which I belive you rejected under
- 19 the Blight to Light.
- One thing to Commissioner Kelly's point,
- 21 variances could be avoided if the gross square footage
- 22 was reduced and the site plan was rearranged.
- 23 COMMISSIONER KELLY: You could decrease the
- 24 ball fields.
- MR. FRELENG: There is a requirement of open

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 space if the ball fields are proposed as amenities.
- 3 But the open space that the ball fields are in is part
- 4 of required open space pursuant to the Comprehensive
- 5 Plan.
- 6 COMMISSIONER KELLY: At a certain point
- 7 somebody has to pay for the ball fields. That is the
- 8 developer. Developer is indicating that he needs a
- 9 certain amount of space to work. Why is that taking up
- 10 the -- I don't understand why we are talking about this
- 11 anyway.
- 12 COMMISSIONER CASEY: I had a question. To
- 13 the right of the red lines, is that a shopping center
- 14 that is now, that is that the one that you said with
- 15 King Kullen?
- MR. FRELENG: That is the King Kullen
- 17 shopping center. The successful center is at the
- intersection of 21 and 25, which is proposed to be the
- 19 hamlet center. This is an existing recharge basin.
- 20 COMMISSIONER CASEY: What about the fact that
- 21 they want to put a baseball field. I think to do it is
- 22 a good thing.
- 23 COMMISSIONER WEIR: On the site plan that
- 24 shows seven little squares; are those retail uses?
- 25 MR. FRELENG: As indicated in the staff

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 report, there are a couple of little restaurants and
- 3 some retail spaces. It should be pointed out that
- 4 there is a Wal Mart to the west beyond the proposed
- 5 Middle Island Hamlet Center.
- 6 THE CHAIRMAN: One of the things in
- 7 Brookhaven is that they have such a bad reputation,
- 8 notwithstanding their former planning director being
- 9 here. There is so much vacancy. He tried to fight it.
- 10 Growing up in Brookhaven, there is quite a bit of the
- 11 strip mall aspect. This looks like a blighted
- 12 property; what is the alternative? It sits there
- 13 vacant. You have almost this historic Brookhaven
- 14 problem, these places where there is an over
- intensification of commercial and you don't want to see
- 16 it again.
- 17 COMMISSIONER WEIR: It's not open space, it's
- 18 horrible. You can drive anyway along 112 or Jericho
- 19 Turnpike, it's everywhere. You're wrong to say we
- 20 wouldn't build because there are empty stores
- 21 everywhere. There are empty stores everywhere. You
- 22 can ride all the way from the Wading River to Lake
- 23 Grove and you will see empty stores.
- I don't think we should worry about impacting
- 25 other stores when you have a big sea of asphalt that

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 somebody is willing to take care of.
- 3 THE CHAIRMAN: It's not like you're knocking
- 4 down trees to do this. That would be a very different
- 5 situation. Commissioner Esposito.
- 6 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: If you could review
- 7 the Pine Barrens credit. I know in your presentation
- 8 you talked about a potential receiving area. Could you
- 9 go through that again, slow, since it's after five?
- 10 MR. FRELENG: This property is in what is
- 11 called part of the compatible growth area for the
- 12 Central Pine Barrens. The Central Pine Barrens plan
- was to preserve fifty thousand acres of core, and fifty
- 14 thousand acres around the core is supposed to be
- 15 compatible growth area. The plan was based on the
- 16 premise that there would be receiving areas of
- 17 development right that was created, so there wouldn't
- 18 be fifty thousand acres of core in a non-development
- 19 area.
- As you know, people who own property in that
- 21 core cannot development. In order to make them whole,
- 22 a transfer of development rights program was created
- 23 where private individuals would buy the development
- 24 potential core and transfer that to the compatible
- 25 growth area. In order for the plan to be legal and not

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 a constitional taking, there is supposed to be
- 3 sufficient receiving area to absorb the development
- 4 rights that were created.
- 5 The Town of Brookhaven created a large
- 6 receiving area, all their A-1 and A-2 zones, in
- 7 addition to specific receiving areas. Their entire A-1
- 8 and A-2 zones above certain acreage is a receiving
- 9 site. The problem is, as time goes on, there hasn't
- 10 been accountability of receiving sites. There is the
- 11 whole question of whether the Pine Barren credit itself
- 12 has any value. If it doesn't have value, there is a
- 13 taking involved and the whole Pine Barrens plan and a
- 14 hundred thousand acres of preserved land could
- 15 evaporate.
- Every time you hear the commission staff talk
- 17 about transfer of development rights and density
- 18 shifting, that's part of what we are talking about.
- 19 THE CHAIRMAN: Are they retirement credits
- 20 there?
- 21 MR. FRELENG: No, there is not. There is a
- 22 covenant on the property that prohibits this
- 23 development to this scale, and they're asking that
- 24 restrictive covenant to be removed. The covenant had
- 25 language in it that said after you go above a certain

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 square footage, you are to retire Pine Barren credits
- 3 to get there.
- 4 This proposal proposes something way above
- 5 and above, so staff is saying even if you feel that
- 6 covenant is not valid any more, what is valid though,
- 7 is the contemplation of transferring development rights
- 8 from the core to the receiving sites, this site being
- 9 one of them.
- 10 THE CHAIRMAN: One possible path for us, if
- 11 we decide that the blight issue is something that
- 12 matters to us, but we have the other regional
- 13 consideration which is we have Pine Barrens credits
- 14 absorbed, would be to do approval with a condition that
- 15 the covenant not be (Inaubible).
- MR. FRELENG: That might be too specific to
- 17 the prior proposal. What staff recommended is require
- 18 the town to give the analysis that is necessary. This
- 19 site is developing on a proposed receiving site. If
- 20 there is a nexus where the town should cause to be,
- 21 and/or do it themselves, an analysis of the receiving
- 22 sites. This is the Town of Brookhaven. They should
- 23 have an accounting. They just need to provide it of
- 24 whether or not they have sufficient receiving sites or
- 25 remainder of credits in the Town pursuant to the Pine

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 Barrens Credit Plan, which by the way, the County of
- 3 Suffolk ratified. So did the Town.
- 4 One other point. As you look around the area
- 5 and see vacant land and dilapidated buildings, planners
- 6 meet with the community and propose plans. What does
- 7 the community want? Planners add their expertise to
- 8 it. Vacancy rates, other economic, analysis things
- 9 like that. With the locality and Town Board and
- 10 through specific guidance panels they come up with a
- 11 recommended plan.
- 12 The recommended plan for Coram Middle Island
- 13 Ridge along Middle Country Road, the recommended plan
- 14 was to have it as indoor-outdoor recreation center not
- 15 to compete with the proposed hamlet centers and
- 16 existing retail in the area.
- 17 THE CHAIRMAN: That was something different
- 18 to begin with. That was the K-Mart.
- 19 MR. FRELENG: When they did the planning it
- 20 was a vacant site.
- 21 THE CHAIRMAN: So they went against the plan
- 22 in improving the K-Mart.
- MR. FRELENG: No, the 1996 plan requires
- 24 commercial. Coram Middle Island Ridge Middle Country
- 25 Road plan recommends a specific type of commercial

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 indoor-outdoor recreation type of commercial so it
- 3 doesn't compete the with the downtown.
- 4 COMMISSIONER KELLY: The balance of open
- 5 space preservation and TDR's, that is longstanding
- 6 argument in terms of open space preservation and what
- 7 the county and towns have been doing in buying up a lot
- 8 of the receiving sites themselves. That analysis
- 9 shouldn't be done on the back of this application.
- MR. FRELENG: Your referral agency is the
- 11 town and your comments are going to the town the town
- 12 can decide whether they want to put the burden on the
- 13 applicant or handle it another way.
- 14 COMMISSIONER KELLY: It's probably a broader
- 15 discussion than just at the town level that is my
- 16 point. It's something that is ongoing. It's your
- 17 recognition right now is that the TDR program probably
- doesn't work because of many factors. That is
- 19 something that has to be looked at more globally than
- 20 just this one application.
- MR. FRELENG: My final comment is it was
- 22 mentioned before and it's mentioned again we shouldn't
- 23 put the burden on an applicant to implement original
- 24 policy, but you implement policy one lot at a time. If
- 25 the Commission has a policy, every application that

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 comes ,in you have the opportunity to implement your
- 3 policy one lot at a time. That is the only way policy
- 4 is implemented.
- 5 THE CHAIRMAN: We just did that by putting
- 6 comments about energy efficiency under green
- 7 methodology.
- 8 COMMISSIONER McADAM: I kind of have a
- 9 history with this project in the sense I remember from
- 10 at least forty years when it was a successful area, it
- 11 was before Rocky Point and Miller Place and all the
- 12 areas in the north were developed, before they started
- 13 building shopping centers. Once they started
- 14 developing further north, it kind of left this area and
- 15 utilized -- there were many stores there over the
- 16 years, K-Mart folded. I think K-Mart had a problem
- when they built the shopping center which was east of
- 18 it and King Kullen moved there. It was successful way
- 19 back.
- As the other areas developed, were developing
- 21 centers, it left this area pretty much the way it is
- 22 now. Even though there are condominiums and single
- 23 family homes to the south and east of it.
- My own feeling, it was never enough to
- 25 support that area. It does look terrible. I pass

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 there quite a bit. If there is a developer that is
- 3 willing to put money into that, a gamble that he or she
- 4 is going to be successful at, I guess to some extent we
- 5 can't look at the economics alone. If there is any
- 6 other reason why it should not be approved, we may have
- 7 to look at that.
- 8 MR. FRELENG: Staff appreciates the area
- 9 development in some areas impacts the development in
- 10 other areas. Development in this area will impact
- 11 commercial and retail areas in other areas of the town.
- 12 THE CHAIRMAN: That is perspective. Whether
- 13 you want to rely on the fact somebody will put money
- 14 into it or not is a perspective. It's not a planning
- 15 principal. Some people may not think it's relevant.
- 16 It's not like you have a booming commercial area that
- 17 you worry about oversaturating. You have a hurting
- 18 area.
- MR. FRELENG: Why does the applicant's
- 20 application say there is a sufficient pressure to
- 21 support the project? Staff is perplexed over that.
- THE CHAIRMAN: I don't know what the big box
- 23 vacancy is other than the K-Mart itself. I'm not
- 24 saying they're not tied; they may well be. From the
- 25 perspective of categories of commercial, they're

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 different.
- 3 COMMISSIONER CASEY: Do we know the identity
- 4 of the stores? Are those restaurants in the front?
- 5 Smaller things, is may be there is a different need out
- 6 there that they will be able to fill with these
- 7 businesses.
- 8 MR. FRELENG: We can look at the larger
- 9 plans. I can point out to you there will be
- 10 restaurants, I think four hundred seats. The remainder
- 11 will be commercial.
- 12 COMMISSIONER CASEY: The big stores they
- 13 have not identified either. We don't know what type.
- 14 MR. FRELENG: Not at this time, no.
- 15 COMMISSIONER FINN: We talk about the over
- 16 intensification of use. I think in this instance we
- 17 have an over intensification of vacancies. In order
- 18 for this there to be any sort of development or game
- 19 changer, if you would, it has to come on the heels of
- 20 the risk. We go through all these applications with
- 21 all these impediments and still people want to go ahead
- 22 and risk dollars and create and change the matrix.
- 23 What else is going to change the matrix here? How long
- 24 has that K-Mart been sitting vacant?
- 25 MR. GULIZIO: I know the hour is late. It's

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 been vacant since my tenure with the Town, between 2003
- 3 and 2005. Related to that point, the essence of zoning
- 4 is to ensure a rational allocation of land use; that
- 5 means looking at amount of individual uses to make sure
- 6 it's consistent with population needs and concerns.
- 7 One of the explanations for the reason for
- 8 the vacancy with the K-Mart is there was a surplus in
- 9 the amount of retail development that already occurred,
- 10 because the Town allowed for retail development to be
- 11 done in a strip commercial pattern along its major
- 12 corridors.
- Many towns, like Southampton, looked at
- 14 traditional zoning patterns developed in the '30's and
- 15 '40's and said that is too much retail we expect to
- 16 have for the population in the town, and they
- 17 eliminated some of the retail. Brookhaven, one of the
- 18 explanations for the amount of vacancy is not a
- 19 mystical blight problem, but because of the surplus of
- 20 retail that was built.
- 21 The solution to that that is proposed is we
- 22 have a high vacancy rate and we need to build more
- 23 retail to eliminate the vacancy rate doesn't make
- 24 intuitive sense to us from a planning standpoint. It's
- 25 not based on a concern we want to promote one retail

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 developer over another, we want to make sure that the
- 3 communities are rationally developed and when a
- 4 community says they want downtown development, we want
- 5 to make sure there is a demand to support that
- 6 development.
- 7 VICE CHAIRMAN KONTOKOSKA: I have to agree on
- 8 that. I don't want to make planning decisions based on
- 9 gambles. If the developer is good, he's making money
- 10 short-term and what is left is the what we are facing
- 11 now, 40% vacancy, the problems that these kinds of
- decisions we will be faced in five or ten years down
- 13 the road during the next economic cycle.
- Just because there is pavement doesn't mean
- 15 you have to develop. It's easy to rip it up. I don't
- 16 know if that should be a driver of our decision. There
- 17 are alternatives. Personally, I think they're asking
- 18 for too much. You have a vacant big box store. You
- 19 can take that and expand it and you have a viable
- 20 redevelopment project.
- 21 Everything else seems little too much
- 22 especially, given the existing vacancy rate in the
- 23 market. You have an out of place zoning district in
- 24 the area. It's completely out of character.
- 25 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: We keep overlooking the

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 fact that this applicant is going to have to ask for
- 3 eight variances to the zoning. I think that is an
- 4 important consideration.
- 5 COMMISSIONER KELLY: We are making a
- 6 comparison to a proposed or potential hamlet center
- 7 that doesn't exist, whose study is an extreme scrutiny
- 8 from the Pine Barrens commission, that may never
- 9 happen. This Middle Island hamlet Center, which is
- 10 just to the west. I think we have to vest ourselves in
- 11 reality and what is happening right now, not what could
- 12 possibly happen to the Middle Island Hamlet Center that
- 13 may never come to fruition.
- 14 COMMISSIONER SCHOOLMAN: Dave, is it ever
- 15 appropriate to question the assumptions that a
- 16 developer makes?
- 17 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: I made a career out
- 18 of doing that.
- 19 COMMISSIONER SCHOOLMAN: Correct me if I'm
- 20 wrong. There are only two gated communities that have
- 21 any population at all out there. My son lived in one
- 22 of them. It's a pretty barren area there for
- 23 customers. If a guy has some short-term goals that are
- 24 not consistent with what the Commission sees long-term,
- 25 do you have a right to question those assumptions? Do

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 you make it a judgment as to whether this project will
- 3 be successful in the long term?
- 4 THE CHAIRMAN: To the extent that comes into
- 5 play, I think that is a minor role. You can look at it
- 6 this both ways. You can look at it the reason no one
- 7 else has done it is because this guy is crazy. You
- 8 have to look at regional policy. One is economic
- 9 development. One is the Pine Barrens issue, which is
- 10 an important issue. You can say those ball fields will
- 11 attract people in the area. You can look at economic
- 12 development in two different ways on a lot of the
- developments.
- 14 COMMISSIONER SCHOOLMAN: There is another
- 15 ball park area where there are a ton of ball parks.
- 16 How is that doing?
- 17 COMMISSIONER KELLY: Baseball Heaven, in
- 18 Yaphank.
- 19 COMMISSIONER McADAM: I make a motion to
- 20 accept the adopt staff report.
- 21 COMMISSIONER HOLMES: Second.
- 22 THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor of adopting the
- 23 staff report as written, please raise your hand. (Show
- 24 of hands) Eight. I vote yes. Opposed. (Show of
- 25 hands)

- 1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission
- 2 COMMISSIONER WEIR: I'm going to abstain.
- 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Eight to four to one. Staff
- 4 report is adopted. Comprehensive Plan. The staff
- 5 worked hard on this. All we need to do is get a brief
- 6 update from staff and we will vote to release. If it's
- 7 acceptable to the Commission, release the draft. By
- 8 releasing the draft we will allow other folks to start
- 9 chiming in on this.
- 10 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: Is there a time line?
- 11 MR. GULIZIO: Publication of the draft Volume
- 12 I is going through the printing process right now. We
- 13 have prepared for you an executive summary report for
- 14 distribution today. We will be meeting with you in
- 15 subsequent months to discuss the ongoing effort to
- 16 complete the plan update. If anybody has any
- 17 questions, I'd be happy to address them.
- 18 THE CHAIRMAN: Staff took commissioners'
- 19 comments, those were incorporated and they boiled it
- 20 down to executive summary.
- 21 MR. FRELENG: Can we have the last no votes?
- THE CHAIRMAN: Kelly, Gabrielsen,
- 23 Chartrand, Finn and Ms. Weir abstains.
- 24 COMMISSIONER WEIR: Can I change my vote to
- 25 no?

1 6/1/11 Suffolk County Planning Commission 2 THE CHAIRMAN: There is a process. Without 3 objection she can change her vote. 4 MR. YOUNG: There are no objections. THE CHAIRMAN: Any objection to letting Ms. 5 Weir change her vote from an abstention? No. You may 6 7 cast your vote. COMMISSIONER WEIR: Thank you. No. 8 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Eight to five on the last 10 vote. 11 . Executive summary is in front of you. I 12 invite everyone to look at it and give comments back. 13 At this point, I recommend that the Commission 14 authorize staff to release it. I make a motion. 15 COMMISSIONER ESPOSITO: Second. 16 THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor, please raise your hand. Thirteen. None opposed. Thank you for 17 18 setting a record with us today. Motion to adjourn by 19 everyone. Seconded by everyone and everyone is in 20 favor. 21 (Time noted: 5:45 p.m.) 22 23

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| 2 | CERTIFICATION | | | |
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| 4 | STATE OF NEW YORK) | | | |
| 5 |) ss: | | | |
| 6 | COUNTY OF SUFFOLK) | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | I, JUDI GALLOP, a Notary Public in and for | | | |
| 9 | the State of New York, do hereby certify: | | | |
| 10 | | | | |
| 11 | THAT this is a true and accurate record of | | | |
| 12 | the meeting held on June 1, 2011 by the Suffolk | | | |
| 13 | County Planning Commission, as reported by me and | | | |
| 14 | transcribed by me. | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| 16 | IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my | | | |
| 17 | hand this 6th day of June, 2011. | | | |
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| 20 | JUDI GALLOP | | | |
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