

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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

Gloria Russo
Chairperson
CEQ

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: October 21, 2015

TIME: 9:35 am to 12:15 pm

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 4th Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Gloria Russo, Chair

Eva Growney

Thomas Gulbransen

Hon. Kara Hahn

Michael Kaufman

Dan Pichney

Mary Ann Spencer

ABSENT:

Larry Swanson

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

Joy Squires

STAFF:

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner

John Corral, Senior Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Senior Clerk Typist

Jennifer Kohn, Assistant County Attorney

GUESTS:

Richard Martin, Director Historic Services, Suffolk County Department of Parks,
Recreation and Conservation

Nick Gibbons, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conversation

Jeff Dawson, Sr. Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

John Berchtold, P.E., Associate Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Dominick Ninivaggi, Vector Control Superintendent, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Frank Castelli, Environmental Project Coordinator, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Dorian Dale, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Eric McFerran, Nelson & Pope

Osman Barrie, Nelson & Pope

Carrie O'Farrell, Nelson & Pope

Tyler J. Kamm, Nelson & Pope

Russell Scott, Nelson & Pope

Bob James, Nelson & Pope

Kevin McAllister, Founder/President Defend H2O

Frank Zappone, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Southamptton

Jefferson Murphree, Building and Planning Administrator, Town of Riverhead Planning Department

Chris Kempner, CDA Director, Town of Riverhead

Alyssa Turano, Legislative Aide 5th District

Minutes:

Minutes for the August 19, 2015 CEQ meeting were reviewed and discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Pichney to approve the August 19, 2015 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gulbransen. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Mr. Corral noted that there was no incoming correspondence but as requested by CEQ, staff drafted a letter to Suffolk County Parks Commissioner Greg Dawson in regards to the issues of young people loitering and the ongoing vandalism at the Meadow Croft Estate. Chairwoman Russo noted that she reviewed and signed the letter.

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services for Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, provided the Council with follow up information regarding the Meadow Croft Estate. Mr. Martin noted that since the last CEQ meeting the Parks Department had met with a company to discuss video surveillance of the Meadow Croft Estate. Mr. Pichney also added that he recently discussed the issue with the area's Suffolk County Police Precinct Captain.

Public Portion:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Mr. Martin updated the Council on the following:

- Housing Program:
Mr. Martin stated that there is nothing new to report on the housing program and that all of the housing units are occupied.
- Custodial Agreements:
Mr. Martin stated that the Parks Department and the Suffolk County Attorney's office have now completed a draft template for the Historic Trust Custodial Agreements.

Mr. Martin noted that the first custodial agreement that the Parks Department is working to finalize is for Sagtikos Manor. Mr. Martin submitted information and made a presentation to the Council regarding Sagtikos Manor County Park and the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society and requested that the CEQ, as the Suffolk County Historic Trust, pass a resolution approving the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society to act as the Custodians of Sagtikos Manor.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Ms. Growney to approve the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society to act as Custodians of Sagtikos Manor County Park and recommend that Suffolk County enter into a custodial licensing contract with the Society. Motion Carried.

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

Proposed Improvements to County Road 94 Roundabout, Capital Project 5557.110 and 301.124/127, Town Southampton and Town of Riverhead

Jeff Dawson, Senior Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works and Russell Scott, Project Manager, Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, LLC, gave a presentation regarding the project. The proposed project involves the reconstruction of the existing single-lane traffic circle where Nugent Drive (CR 94), Lake Avenue (CR 63), Riverleigh Avenue (CR 104), Flanders Road (NYS 24), and Peconic Avenue converge into a two lane modern roundabout. The project also involves pedestrian safety improvements and water quality improvements provided via a new stormwater system comprised of raingardens, underground retention structures, catch basins and a stormwater treatment unit.

Public comment was received regarding this project from Frank Zappone, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Southampton. Mr. Zappone noted that he chairs the Riverside/Flanders Economic Development Task Force which includes all of the civic organizations in Riverside and Flanders. Mr. Zappone stated that the Suffolk County Department of Public Works has worked closely with this task force over the last two years responding to many of their requests and comments and that the committee strongly supports this proposal. Mr. Zappone also noted that the Town of Southampton wholeheartedly supports this design proposal. Public comment was also received from Jefferson Murphree, Building and Planning Administrator, Town of Riverhead Planning Department, who noted that the Town of Riverhead supports the proposed improvements but also wanted to note that the County should continue to work with the Town of Riverhead on the traffic and drainage issues north of the roundabout on Peconic Avenue and in connecting downtown Riverhead.

A motion was made by Ms. Growney to recommend that the Improvements to County Road 94 Roundabout, Capital Project 5557.110 and 301.124/127, Town of Southampton and Town of Riverhead project be classified as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion included as reasons for the Negative Declaration that the proposed action will include: pedestrian crosswalk signage and appropriate, dark skies compliant, crosswalk lighting, that Suffolk County Department of Public Works will insure that the project's stormwater infrastructure receives routine maintenance and that the Suffolk County Department of Public Works will continue to coordinate with the Town of Riverhead on stormwater and traffic issues north of the proposed roundabout on Peconic Ave and in connecting downtown Riverhead. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gulbransen. Motion carried.

Proposed Suffolk County Sewer District #11, Coram Pump Station #6, Land Acquisition for the Construction of a Replacement Pump Station, Town of Brookhaven

John Berchtold, P.E., Associate Civil Engineer with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works, gave a presentation regarding the proposed project. The proposed project involves the acquisition of a 4,612 square foot parcel from the Town of Brookhaven for the construction of a new pump station to replace the aging existing Pump Station #6 in Coram.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to recommend that the proposed Suffolk County Sewer District #11, Coram Pump Station #6, Land Acquisition for the Construction of a Replacement Pump Station, Town of Brookhaven project be classified as Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Recommended Type II Actions:

Vector Control 2016 Annual Plan of Work

Dominick Ninivaggi, Superintendent, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Division of Vector Control made a presentation regarding the 2016 Annual Plan of Work for the County's Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long Term Plan.

Kevin McAllister, President of Defend H2O, noted that it was discussed in the Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long Term Plan that the more invasive best management wetlands management projects require further review and that the CEQ should insure that this review takes place. Mr. McAllister also wanted to discuss the use of Methoprene and requested that the Annual Plan of Work be modified to preclude or restrict the use of Methoprene. Mr. McAllister stated that he wanted to share new information with the CEQ. This information included that in 2012 the State of Connecticut had studies that identified Methoprene in lobsters and in 2013 Connecticut banned the use of Methoprene except in emergency situations. Chairwoman Russo told Mr. McAllister that he should provide the CEQ with new scientific data so that the information can be evaluated. Ms. Russo noted that CEQ decisions must be based on scientific data and cannot be based on hearsay information.

Mr. Ninivaggi also responded to Mr. McAllister comments and pointed out that there is a Vector Control Pesticide Management Committee that reviews new scientific literature on the chemicals used in the Vector Control Program. Mr. Ninivaggi and Mr. Kaufman noted that this Committee, which was created after the completion of the Long Term Plan, provides an established, formal process to evaluate new scientific literature on the chemicals used in the Vector Control Program. Mr. Ninivaggi also stated that this Committee has looked at the scientific literature regarding Methoprene and has not found any new information that would change the findings of the Vector Control Long Term Plan. Mr. Ninivaggi noted that this Committee is open to the public and new information can always be brought before the Committee.

After discussion of the 2016 Annual Plan of Work Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed action as a Type II Action. Ms. Growney seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table September 9, 2015 and October 6, 2015

Mr. Corral noted that the Staff's SEQRA recommendations are listed on the September 9, 2015 and the October 6, 2015 LADS report. Mr. Corral noted that CEQ staff has been in contact with the Council of the Legislature's office and the legislative sponsor's office regarding IR 1817-2015 which involves increased vehicle beach access at Suffolk County Parks and that the legislative sponsor's office has requested that IR 1817-2015 be tabled to allow for legislative revisions. Mr. Corral also noted that IR 1802-2015 is related to the sale of John J. Foley Nursing Home. Mr. Corral stated that there was a similar resolution on the LADS report at the last CEQ meeting and as was discussed the sale of the Nursing Home had previously been reviewed by CEQ in 2010 and 2012 and the CEQ had recommended that the sale be classified as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. Mr. Corral noted that it is staff's recommendation that IR 1802-2015 be classified as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration and that the EAF be updated to reflect the current sale.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations for the September 9, 2015 and October 6, 2015 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gulbransen. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Nick Gibbons, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conversation, noted that he wanted to provide the Council with a concept overview of a proposed ADA compliant walking trail project located in Suffolk County Parkland in the hamlet of Riverside and to receive the Council's input on the type of SEQRA information that would be needed so that a formal SEQRA review could be conducted for the project. Mr. Gibbons also introduced Frank Zappone, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Southampton to provide the Council with some additional information regarding the proposed walking trail. After the discussion of the concept plan the CEQ recommended that Mr. Gibbons work with the Town of Southampton to submit a complete Short Form EAF for the November 18, 2015 CEQ meeting so that the project can receive a formal SEQRA recommendation.

Nomination and Election of a CEQ Vice Chairperson

Ms. Russo noted that due to the resignation of Mr. Bagg at the August CEQ meeting the Council needs to nominate and vote for a new CEQ Vice Chair. Ms. Russo made a motion to nominate Mr. Gulbransen as CEQ Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carried.

CAC Concerns:

Ms. Squires provided the Council with copies of the agenda from the Conference on the Environment that was held in Tompkins County on October 16, 2015. Ms. Squires noted that it was a very informative conference and that she will post information from the conference on the NYSACC website.

Meeting Adjourned