

# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



ROBERT J. GAFFNEY  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Theresa Elkowitz  
CHAIRPERSON

James Bagg  
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, July 19, 2000

TIME: 10:05 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.

PRESENT: Voting Members - Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson, Presiding; Tom Cramer, John Finkenbergl, Vivian Fisher, Nancy Manfredonia, Barbara Van Liew

### Staff:

James Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst  
Kathleen Rigano & Gail Calfa, Secretaries

### Departmental Staff:

Suffolk County Executive's Office

George Proios, Chief Environmental Analyst

Suffolk County Legislature

Elizabeth Nostrand, Aide to Legislator Vivian Fisher (5th District)

Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Judy Gordon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner

Nick Gibbons, Environmental Analyst

Richard Martin, Director, Historic Services

Suffolk County Department of Planning

Jennifer Lowe, Summer Intern

Amanda Jedlicka, Summer Intern

Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Daniel Pendzick, P.E., Director of Bridges & Waterways

### Conservation Advisory Councils:

Joy Squires, Chairperson, Huntington CAB

Steve Brown, Chairperson, Brookhaven CAC

## MINUTES:

On a motion by Nancy Manfredonia, seconded by Barbara Van Liew, the minutes of the June 21, 2000, minutes were approved with the following corrections:

- a. Page 4, subparagraph b, "...the last burial was in 1953."
- b. Page 4, subparagraph d, "...and \$7,500 has been appropriated."
- b. Page 4, subparagraph e, "Approval 'has' been given ...."

## PROJECT REVIEW:

### 1. Recommended Type II Actions

- a. Ratification of Staff Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table on June 27, 2000

Mr. Bagg asked that members of the Council direct their attention to Resolution No. 1697 which was in the packet. The third "RESOLVED" clause does not classify the action. The action is "unlisted" and needs an EAF which should be submitted to the CEQ for review. A motion was made by Tom Cramer to ratify the staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed unanimously.

### 2. Proposed Construction of a Conference Center at Peconic Dunes County Park, Peconic, Town of Southold.

A presentation was made by Judy Gordon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. The project involves the construction of a two-story dining and interpretive conference center facility, approximately 10,000 square feet in size, to replace an existing 4,500 square foot building. Footprint of the new structure will be only several feet longer and wider than that of the existing structure. This new center will fulfill Peconic Dunes' needs for additional meeting space and kitchen facilities. Peconic Dunes is running a children's camp facility. There is also a grant from the DEC to run an environmental camp 3 out of the 7 weeks that the camp is in session which is run by a private operator through an agreement with Suffolk County. Programs, primarily environmental, could be run from this park possibly 9 months out of the year for additional revenue.

The dining facility, as exists now, is inadequate. If grants are requested for a "dining facility/conference center," there is a better chance of approval. This conference center could be used for meetings, etc. Under the Bond Act, the deadline for grant applications is August 31, 2000. Of the existing 98 acres, only .2 acres are going to be affected. The change would encompass an additional 500 square feet.

A motion was made by Tom Cramer to classify this project as Unlisted and that a Negative Declaration be issued. It was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed by a unanimous vote.

1. Recommended Type II Actions

- b. Proposed Bulkhead and Jetty Repair at Shinnecock Canal, Hampton Bays, Town of Southampton, CP #5348.

A presentation was made by Daniel Pendzick, P.E., Director of Bridges & Waterways, Department of Public Works. Mr. Pendzick reported that there are areas of erosion on the bottom of the Shinnecock Canal. The proposal is to replace an additional 3000 tons of stone on the Shinnecock Canal bottom due to scour below the 10.0 ft. design bottom elevation at the bulkheads and replace the stone on the jetties. A motion was made by Tom Cramer to classify this project as a Type II Action and the motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed unanimously.

- c. Proposed Installation of Electric & Water at Existing Campground at Sears-Bellows County Park, Flanders, Town of Southampton

A presentation was made by Nicholas Gibbons of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. This project involves the extension of utilities into an existing campground at the park. A motion was made by Nancy Manfredonia to classify this project as a Type II Action since it involves the extension of utility distribution facilities to an existing use. The motion was seconded by Tom Cramer and passed unanimously.

- d. Proposed Installation of Electric & Water at Existing Campgrounds at Cathedral Pines County Park, Middle Island, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation was made by Nicholas Gibbons of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. This project involves the extension of utilities into an existing campground at the park. A motion was made by Tom Cramer to classify this project as a Type II Action since it involves the extension of utility distribution facilities to an existing use. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed unanimously.

- e. Proposed Construction of Campgrounds Check-In Building at Blydenburgh County Park, Hauppauge, Town of Smithtown.

A presentation was made by Nicholas Gibbons of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. This project involves relocation and replacement of the existing check-in cabin at the park with a prefab 390 sq. ft. building. This will be a check-in office with a front desk and some office space. A motion was made by Tom Cramer to classify this project as a Type II Action since it involves construction or expansion of a primary or accessory/ appurtenant, non-residential structure or facility involving less than 1,000 square feet of gross

floor area and not involving a change in zoning or a use variance and consistent with local land use controls, but not radio communication or microwave transmission facilities. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed unanimously.

f. Proposed Construction of Sanitary Facility at West Hills County Park, Town of Huntington.

A presentation was made by Nicholas Gibbons of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. This project involves the replacement and relocation of the existing sanitary facility at the park with a 690 sq. ft. sanitary building. A motion was made by Tom Cramer to classify this project as a Type II Action since it involves construction or expansion of a primary or accessory/appurtenant, non-residential structure or facility involving less than 1,000 square feet of gross floor area and not involving a change in zoning or a use variance and consistent with local land use controls, but not radio communication or microwave transmission facilities. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed unanimously.

g.. Proposed Construction of Two Check-in Cabins at Southaven County Park, Yaphank, Town of Brookhaven.

A presentation was made by Nicholas Gibbons of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. This project involves relocation and replacement of the existing check-in cabins at two locations within the park with prefab 390 sq. ft. buildings. A motion was made by Tom Cramer to classify this project as a Type II Action since it involves construction or expansion of a primary or accessory/appurtenant, non-residential structure or facility involving less than 1,000 square feet of gross floor area and not involving a change in zoning or a use variance and consistent with local land use controls, but not radio communication or microwave transmission facilities. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed unanimously.

3. Proposed Replacement of Park Avenue Culvert, Town of Babylon, CP #5371.

A presentation was given by Mr. Daniel Pendzick, P.E., Director of Bridges & Waterways, in the Department of Public Works. This project involves the replacement of the culvert on C.R. 50, Park Avenue, in the Village of Babylon. The entire culvert will be removed and a new prestressed, precast concrete bridge will be built. A motion was made by Tom Cramer to classify this project as Unlisted and that a Negative Declaration be issued. It was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed by a unanimous vote.

HISTORIC SERVICES - DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, addressed the Council and updated the status of the County's historic properties as follows:

a. Blydenburgh - The north wall of the foundation is being rebuilt on the main house. The existing stones are being used. Painting of the interior has been started by Alan Drost who currently lives there. On August 5, 2000, the Greenbelt Trail Conference will have a kick-off to promote the tours of the property. Greenbelt Conference has been keeping this property open to the public every Saturday afternoon. Nancy Manfredonia told the Council that Senator Lack has come up with a \$15,000 grant to help keep the main house open and do some interior displays. The parlor and the dining room will be restored and the kitchen will be prepared for the video presentation.

b. Millers House on the Lake - Mr. Martin met with Walter Hollien, Millwright and Architect from New Jersey, who is recommended by the New England Society of Millwrights. Mr. Hollien toured the mill and will submit a proposal to restore the structure. He is recommending that the mill be restored to the way it was prior to when it was modernized in 1880. The roller mill equipment, which was purchased from an old mill, will be available for display. Mr. Hollien requested that his foreman stay on the site in the second floor apartment when it is completed.

c. Booth House - The low bidder from last has agree to stick to his price and digging of the foundation will begin in August. The house will be set on the foundation in September.

d. Meadow Croft - The Carriage House has been completely painted. The next building to be painted will be the main house which will be done by a combination of park staff and an outside contractor.

e. Old Field - The Nassau/Suffolk Horseman's Association show will be on August 20, 2000, from 8 to 6 PM. The fencing has been replaced. The grandstand and the u-shaped barn have been restored.

f. Helen Keller House - This building was purchased in the 1960's as part of Cedar Beach Park and was turned over to Suffolk Community College and used as a storage facility for their laboratory. In 1987, when the condition of the building deteriorated, they approached the Parks Department to put it into the Friends Long Island Heritage Landmark Program. The Committee did recommend it to go to the Historic Trust. It never came to CEQ, because part of the recommendation was that it go into the Landmark Program. The Friends reviewed the site in 1987 and thought it was beyond their capabilities. No restoration was done and the rear of the building has since collapsed. The neighbors are now complaining Barbara Van Liew brought out the point that this deterioration could have been avoided if the house had been maintained and occupied. The Parks Department has asked that the site be cleared. A lot to the south of this property on Sunrise Way came with the purchase. The tenant in that house maintains the gate.

It was never considered for the Landmark program. It is being reviewed from a SEQRA prospective. It was the Chairperson's opinion that demolition of this property would fall under

Official Acts of a Ministerial Nature Involving no Exercise of Discretion and would be classified as a Type II Action. Nick Gibbons was asked to do a quick walk-through before it is demolished to see if any owls or bats occupy the structure. A motion was made by Tom Cramer to classify this as a Type II Action. The motion was seconded by Legislator Vivian Fischer and passed by a majority vote. Abstention by Jack Finkenberg.

CAC CONCERNS - There were no CAC concerns.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Jack Finkenberg gave all Council members a copy of a list of topic he wished to discuss. While the members of the Council were in agreement that all the topics should be of concern, the Chairperson of the Council stated that the CEQ does not make policy. The members are not elected officials, and the purpose of the Council is to review projects from a SEQRA prospective and make recommendations to the Legislature and County Executive about the impacts and appropriate SEQRA classifications on projects that the County is undertaking.

George Proios announced that:

1. Radioactive waste is being shipped to Tennessee
2. The Peconic River is in the process of being cleaned up around the BNL sewage treatment plants where there is no vegetation., Other alternatives for pristine areas will be reviewed in 6 months. There will be a tour of the river to evaluate it.
3. The Resource Conservation Development District (RCD), developed by the Federal Government, through the Department of Agriculture, is involved with farming pesticides. There are 300 throughout the Country.
4. The brown tide in the Great South Bay is constantly being monitored and research is still being done.

The Chairperson announced that it is her understanding that the Council will not have a quorum for the scheduled date during the month of August due to vacations. As a result, the meeting was cancelled. However, if something comes up that must be addressed in August, an emergency meeting will be called.

The next meeting of the Historic Trust will be on September 12, 2000, at 10:00 AM, at the Classroom Building next to the Historic Hay Barn at the Yaphank Cornell Cooperative Extension Farm (Suffolk County Farm). Notices and maps will be mailed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Cramer to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.