

# 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, October 18, 2000

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

### PRESENT:

Voting Members - Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson, Presiding; Larry Swanson, Vice-Chair, Tom Cramer, Jack Finkenberg, Legislator Vivian Fisher, Michael Kaufman, Nancy Manfredonia, Barbara Van Liew

### Staff:

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

### Departmental Staff:

Suffolk County Executive's Office

Todd Johnson, County Executive Assistant

Suffolk County Department of Health Services

Walter Dawydiak, Chief, Office of Ecology

Suffolk County Legislature

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

Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Peter Scully, Commissioner

Judy Gordon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner

Nick Gibbons, Environmental Analyst

Richard Martin, Director, Historic Services

Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Victor Keneiby, Sr. Civil Engineer  
William J. Colavito, Associate Civil Engineer  
Ralph Borkowski, Landscape Architect  
Mark Michaels, County Architect  
Pauline Mize, Manager, Gabreski Airport

Conservation Advisory Councils:

Joy Squires, Chairperson, Huntington CAB  
Steve Brown, Chairperson, Brookhaven CAC

Guests:

Craig Kessler, Biological Supervisor, No. Atlantic Coastal Program, Ducks Unlimited  
John Turner, Director of Conservation Programs, The Nature Conservancy  
Bruce Harwith, Dir. Of Stewardship, South Fork/Shelter Island Chapter, TNC  
Eugene Murphy, Deputy Commissioner, Town of Islip Planning Department  
Shawn Kiernan, Trustee Research Technician, Town of Southampton

The CEQ meeting was called to order by Chairperson Elkowitz at 9:30 a.m. In attendance were 8 voting members and the Chairpersons of the Brookhaven and Huntington Conservation Boards.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Mrs. Van Liew, seconded by Mr. Kaufman, the minutes of the September 20, 2000, meeting were approved by a **majority** of those who were in attendance (**Mr. Swanson abstained as he was absent at the September meeting**) with the following corrections:

- a. Page 7, paragraph 6, should be changed to read: "Brookside - "The Isaac Green Estate."
- b. Page 8, paragraph 2, should be changed to read: "Mr. Cramer made a motion to recommend that it be dedicated to the Historic Trust."
- c. Senator Black should be changed to Senator "Lack."
- d. Page 8, paragraph 4, should be changed to read: "The Friends" from Hampton Inn Corporation."

PROJECT REVIEW:1. Recommended Type II Actionsa. Ratification of Staff Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table on October 3, 2000

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to ratify the staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swanson and passed unanimously.

b. Proposed Improvements to the Hauppauge Youth Organization (HYO) Sports Field Complex (Project #2054)

A presentation was made by Mr. Borkowski, Landscape Architect, of the Department of Public Works, who stated that the Hauppauge Youth Organization would like to construct a 2,500 square foot storage building to store baseball and football equipment and add practice field lighting. An HYO office would also be included in the building. Ms. Manfredonia questioned the type of lighting and the position of the lamps because the lighting on some ball fields is not always focused totally on the fields and can be seen in the sky for many miles. Mr. Borkowski assured the Council that refractors would be used and said he would make a note to be sure the position of the lamps was correct. A motion was made by Mr. Swanson to classify the project as a Type II action. The motion was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and passed unanimously.

c. Proposed Renovation and/or Replacement of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Francis S. Gabreski Airport. (CP #5709)

A presentation was made by Mr. Borkowski, Landscape Architect, of the Department of Public Works, who stated that the project will consist of evaluating the cost effectiveness of doing a major upgrade to the existing tower vs. building a new tower. A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to classify this project as a Type II action since it involves the "planning" phase only for this project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swanson and passed unanimously.

d. Proposed Repairs and Restoration of Existing Exterior Plaza at the H. Lee Dennison Building CP #1659

A presentation was made by Mr. Borkowski, Landscape Architect, of the Department of Public Works, who stated that the project will consist of repairing and resetting concrete blocks, patching existing concrete and caulking in areas at the east and south entrances to the plaza of the H. Lee Dennison building. A motion was made by Mr. Swanson to classify this project as a Type II action since it involves the repair of existing facilities with no substantial changes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and passed unanimously.

e. Proposed Construction of an Enclosure Over the Existing Loading Docks at the John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility in Yaphank (CP 4057)

A presentation was made by Mr. Borkowski, Landscape Architect, of the Department of Public Works, who stated that the project will consist of constructing an enclosure over the existing loading docks at the John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility in Yaphank. A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to classify this project as a Type II action as it involves no substantial changes to existing facilities. The motion was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and passed unanimously.

f. Proposed Replacement of County DWI Alternative Facility (Planning) (CP 3044)

A presentation was made by Mr. Borkowski, Landscape Architect, of the Department of Public Works, who stated that the project will consist of the planning for the design of a new 15,000 sq. ft., two-story masonry building to replace the existing modular DWI Alternative Facility. The new building would include three male dorms, two female dorms, toilets, showers and laundry facilities, therapy rooms an office and storage space, an activity room, a complete HVAC system and a 12 foot high fence surrounding the building. A motion was made by Mr. Swanson to classify this project as a Type II action in that it is for a preliminary planning process. The motion was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and passed unanimously.

2. Proposed Construction of Additional Parking Facilities Adjacent to the LIRR Station at Deer Park, Towns of Babylon and Islip (CP 5549)

A presentation was made by Mr. Colavito, Associate Civil Engineer, of the Department of Public Works, who stated that the project consists of a joint venture between the MTA and Suffolk County to provide for the construction of approximately 300 additional parking spaces, drainage, lighting and other related highway and traffic appurtenances at the Deer Park Railroad Station. The purpose of this project is to alleviate severe parking congestion within the existing parking facilities. Informal parking is now taking place on the site. A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to classify this project as an Unlisted action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and passed by a **majority** vote. **Vote: 7 Ayes, 1 Nay (Jack Finkenberg) , 0 abstentions.**

3. Proposed Drainage Improvements on C.R. 80, Montauk Highway at Auburn Avenue, Hamlet of Shirley, Town of Brookhaven (CP 5549)

A presentation was made by Mr. Colavito, Associate Civil Engineer, of the Department of Public Works, who stated that the project will consist of installing leaching basins connected by drainage pipe in the shoulder area of Montauk Highway to alleviate localized flooding on adjacent Town roads and private property. Existing asphalt pavement, concrete curb and concrete sidewalk will be removed and replaced to facilitate this installation all within the existing right-of-way. A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to classify the project as a Type II action. The motion was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and passed by a unanimous vote **with a specification that the drainage does not flow into the Carmens River.**

4&5. Proposed Wetland Restoration Projects at Hubbard and Shinnecock West County Parks, Town of Southampton

A presentation was made by Mr. Gibbons, Environmental Analyst, of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, who stated that these projects consist of restoration of the natural hydrology of tidal wetlands on Flanders and Shinnecock Bays. Ditch plugging will be utilized to mitigate the effect of historical grid ditching. An overview and slide show of similar projects was given by Craig Kessler of Ducks Unlimited, who noted the potential results of ditch plugging include increased diversity of native flora, improved waterfowl and shorebird habitat, natural mosquito control and the discouragement of Phragmites. The projects will be monitored for beneficial impacts, if any. A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to classify these projects as a Type I actions with Negative Declarations. The motion was seconded by Mike Kaufman and passed by unanimous vote.

Chairperson Elkowitz questioned and clarified that the Wetland Restoration Projects at Suffolk County Parklands in Flanders and Shinnecock West County Park, both of which are located in the Town of Southampton, are pilot projects for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to be used as test cases. The data from these projects will be compiled and presented to CEQ and the Legislature at a later date.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

1. Presentation of Phragmites Control in the Long Pond Greenbelt Area - Town of Southampton, by John Turner, Director Conservation Programs of the Nature Conservancy.

John Turner, Director of Conservation Programs, Long Island Chapters of The Nature Conservancy, and Bruce Horwith, Director of Stewardship, South Fork/Shelter Island Nature Conservancy Chapter, addressed the Council on a proposal for a phragmites control pilot program in the Long Pond Greenbelt system where both the Nature Conservancy and Suffolk County own property. The plant, which was non-existent in this area 10 years ago, has expanded into fresh water habitats and is an invasive species and a threat to natural landscapes. The Long Pond Greenbelt is situated in the eastern section of Southampton Town extending from the Village of Sag Harbor to the Atlantic Ocean and includes several Ponds. John Turner said it was their intention is to submit a proposal to chemically control the plant with the use of "Rodeo" which would be applied directly on the plants. Most of the phragmites plants are on Nature Conservancy property and some may be on Suffolk County property. The Chairperson expressed concern that this may be contrary to County policy with respect to chemical pesticide use and asked that the decision be tabled until the Department of Parks requests a review by the County Attorney's Office.

2. Overview of Pump-out Vessels Program by Walter Dawydiak, Chief of the Office of Ecology of the Health Department.

Chairperson Elkowitz briefed the Council that Mr. Dawydiak's presentation was the result of a letter from Clare Bradley, Commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of

Health Services, requesting that the Council be involved in the Suffolk County Pump-out Vessel program that provides funding to the towns and villages. Mr. Dawydiak addressed the Council requesting its assistance. He distributed a copy of a resolution No. 381-2000 which appropriates \$200,000, provided there is a 50% match from the Town as well as a 75% match from the State. These funds would be used for pump-out boats. Members of the Council voiced their concern since this was done in Brookhaven Town and now two of the three boats sit idle because of staffing. Chairperson Elkowitz asked if the Council could review and perhaps contribute to the RFP that will be prepared and submitted.

#### HISTORIC SERVICES - DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Martin, Director of Historic Services, advised the Council that the Booth house foundation is scheduled to go in during the first week in November 2000. He is working with Trish Foley, an editor for Hurst magazines and a member of the Yaphank Historic Society, on fund raising for the restoration. Five thousand dollars has been procured for interior woodwork and an account has been set up by the Friends for Long Island Heritage to accept these donations.

The Deepwells Fall Fair was successful. Over 5,000 people attended in a two day period. The Holiday Showhouse at Deepwells opens on November 4 and will run through December from Tuesdays to Sundays. Admission charges are \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. November 9 is the opening party.

House Magazine ran an article on Oldfield Farm highlighting this Historic Trust site. This has been a series running for two years.

There will be no calendar for the year 2001 because it did not generate the expected funds.

An Exhibit on Deepwells and Isaac Green will be placed on the second floor at Deepwells.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Joy Squires announced that the Council received a brochure on the Environmental 2000 workshop on Friday, November 3, 2000. The speaker will be Anton Nelessen of Nelessen Associates based in Princeton, new Jersey. CEQ is a member of one of the two sponsoring organizations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

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