

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, February 21, 2001

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Voting Members - Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson, Presiding; Larry Swanson, Vice Chair, Tom Cramer, Michael Kaufman, Nancy Manfredonia, Jack Finkenberg, Hon. Joseph Caracappa

Staff:

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

Departmental Staff:

Suffolk County Executive's Office
Todd Johnson, County Executive Assistant
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 Public Works
Edward Davida, Assoc. Civil Engineer
Mitchell J. Crowley, Jr. Civil Engineer

Conservation Advisory Councils:

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

Guests:

Bob Matherson
Scott De Simone, Town of Riverhead
Ron Kluesener, Commissioner DEC, Town of Babylon
Brian Zitani, Bay Manager, Town of Babylon
Fred Marsilio, Food Concessionaire, Meshutt Beach County Park

The CEQ meeting was called to order by Chairperson Elkowitz at 9:35 AM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairperson Elkowitz announced the resignation of Barbara Van Liew from the Council on Environmental Quality. As a result, she must resign from her position as Chairperson of the Historic Trust since the Chairperson must be a member of CEQ. At Mrs. Van Liew's request, Nancy Manfredonia will serve as Acting Chairperson since she presently holds the title of Deputy Chairperson. Mrs. Van Liew, however, will remain as a member of the Committee.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Mr. Kaufman, seconded by Mr. Swanson, the minutes of the January 17, 2001, meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

PROJECT REVIEW:

1. Recommended Type II Actions

- a. Ratification of Staff Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table January 30, 2001.

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

- b. Proposed Construction of a Lifeguard Building at Meshutt Beach County Park, Hampton Bays, Town of Southampton

A presentation was made by Nick Gibbons, Environmental Analyst in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, who, in addressing the Council, said that the existing building was taken over last year by the concessionaire for expansion purposes. As a result, this project is for the construction of a new building across the street, which is approximately 950 sq. ft. in size, for use by Parks personnel, EMTs and for storage purposes.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to classify the project as a Type II Action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cramer and passed unanimously.

- c. Proposed Sewer District #15 - Nob Hill, Hauppauge

A presentation was made by Ed Davida, P.E., in the Department of Public Works, who, in addressing the Council, stated that the project involves the improvement and repair of the process tank walls and restoration of the railings and gratings, as well as other general and safety improvements to the building and site.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to classify the project as a Type II Action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cramer and passed unanimously.

2. Proposed Demolition of Concrete Arch Bridge over C.R. 4, Commack, Town of Huntington

A presentation was made by Mitch Crowley, Jr. Civil Engineer in the Bridge and Construction Division of the Department of Public Works, who, in addressing the Council, stated that the project involves the demolition of a concrete arch bridge over C.R. 4, Commack Road, in the Town of Huntington. The bridge is structurally deteriorating and poses safety concerns. There is no visible purpose for the bridge. It was built in the mid-1940s when Commack Road went to the Edgewood property. Commack Road was moved west when the State bought the property and this bridge was built to link it to the western half of the property. There was a question as to the historic value of the bridge and a review has been requested of the State Office of Historic Preservation.

Chairperson Elkowitz stated she had some reservations about making a recommendation to the Legislature to demolish the bridge before the State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the project and cleared with regard to its historic value.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to consider this project as an Unlisted Action and table it until such time as SHPO responds to inquiries relative its historic value. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and the Council unanimously agreed.

3. Proposed Oak Beach Park, Town of Babylon

Chairperson Elkowitz recused herself from discussion and vote on this issue citing a potential conflict of interest. The meeting was conducted by Vice Chairman, Larry Swanson.

Presentations were made by Mr. Ron Kluesener, Commissioner, DEC, Town of Babylon, and Brian Zitani, Bay Manager, Town of Babylon, who, in addressing the Council, gave a history of the Oak Beach Inn site and what has taken place since the stipulation of settlement of 1981 in which the Town of Babylon was to give the property to Mr. Matherson. Recently, the courts have again required that the Town turn the property over to Mr. Matherson. An attempt was made by the Cassada Group to purchase the property from Mr. Matherson, but not without knowing what could/could not be built on the site.

Mr. Kluesener stated the present desire of the Town of Babylon is to acquire the property from Mr. Matherson in order to develop a park which would include a bathing area, playground, nature walk, bulkhead, dock, picnic area and comfort station for the general public. The present boat ramp will be removed and not be rebuilt. The proposed jetties were not approved by the Council.

Since the Town of Babylon is unable to pay for this land, monies are requested from the 1/4% Groundwater Protection money, Land Partnership Funds and Active Recreation. The Town will construct the facilities. It was suggested that the Town of Babylon get approval from the Department of State. There was objection to the intended installation of jetties which will be removed from the project. Safety netting was agreed to in an effort to stop boat traffic and, in the event there is erosion, the jetties can be addressed at a later time.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to classify the project as an Unlisted Action and recommend a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and passed unanimously with the exception of one abstention by Chairperson Elkowitz..

4. Proposed Stotzky Park Expansion (Active Recreation/Greenways, Town of Riverhead

Judy Gordon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, said the site plan, as presented, was accurate. The Town of Riverhead wants to acquire the parcels across the street from Stotzky Park to add additional active recreation facilities which would include lighting. A representative from the Town of Riverhead was not available at the time to address specific concerns of the Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to table this matter until a representative from the Town of Riverhead is present at the meeting to answer questions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cramer and passed unanimously.

HISTORIC SERVICES: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

a. Parks Headquarters Building (Old Hard Estate), West Sayville: In 1989 approval was given to add a curved deck to this building for any catering project. Now, more enclosed space is necessary. A design was presented that would enclose the deck with windows and tubular frame construction and new awnings on the south side of the main house. As part of this project, shingles will be added to the extension which was put up in the 1960s. The shingles will be in conformance with the style of the building. This restoration will be done with private funding from Lessing Company.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to classify this project as a Type II action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and passed by unanimous vote.

b. Old Field Farm: A contract is in effect with Old Field Farm, Inc., to restore the Old Field Farm. The large building and grandstand have already been restored. The County tore down one out building at that point. Efforts will be made to try to restore the other out buildings. There is an existing stable building on site that dates back to the 1930s.. This building has an apartment in it that has not been used. Within the contract they are allowed to have a caretaker

on site. The apartment will be renovated and kept within the style of the building. People using the property during horse events would like more upgraded space to keep the horses. The size and condition of the other stables is being addressed.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to classify this project as a Type II action. The motion was seconded by Ms Manfredonia and passed by unanimous vote.

c. Other announcements:

1. Heat will be installed in the Farmingville Schoolhouse in March. The equipment has already been delivered.

2. Mr. Martin met with R. J. Williams, the County contractor, to come up with a proposed plan to install heat at Blydenburgh.

3. A kitchen has been installed in the rear wing on the second floor at Meadowcroft. It is a commercial kitchen for which Bayport Heritage got NYS grant monies. That facility can now be used for large community events that include food service.

4. March 15 will be the opening for the Juliette Lowe Show at Deepwells. Historic Services will work directly with the Girl Scouts in preparation for this show.

5. Deepwells' tours will begin again on Sundays starting March 18 from 12-3 PM. There will be an exhibit on Isaac Green on the second floor. The Long Island Convention of Visitors Bureau will be visiting Deepwells on March 22. Fifty to sixty promoters will be seeing the show.

6. In May, the Long Island Museums at Stony Brook will be opening an exhibit on the colonial revival style. They will be borrowing a mantle and large doorway which was salvaged from a house in Lloyd Harbor.

Chairperson Elkowitz requested that in the future, information regarding restoration of historic sites, be presented to the Council for review "before" the meetings are held .

OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Scott DiSimone, Town of Riverhead, arrived at 10:50 AM and Chairperson Elkowitz explained that the Stotzky Park Expansion was tabled because members of the Council had questions. Chairperson Elkowitz asked if a Phase I Environmental Assessment has been done on the property because, from a 1996 aerial photograph, it appears that an industrial building is on it and that the property is fairly disturbed. The Council would like to know the environmental condition of the property. He responded that it is his understanding that two parcels are being acquired and both are unimproved. Why the wetlands were excluded in the acquisition was also questioned. Mr. DiSimone was unsure if this project will be lighted. His response was "certain parts to the east." Basically, it will be in additional baseball fields and

eventually a YMCA. Nancy Manfredonia questioned the type of lighting so as not to disturb the residents in the area. Mr. DiSimone stated that a representative from the Town of Riverhead will be present at the next CEQ meeting on March 21, 2001, to answer any questions the members have concerning the project.

b. Joy Squires requested that members of the CEQ do a SEQRA workshop because people need the updates and she formally recommended that CEQ sponsor it. Chairperson Elkowitz said she would like to check that the Legislature does not have a problem with such a workshop.

There being no other business, the Chairperson asked for a motion to adjourn at 11 AM. The motion was made by Nancy Manfredonia and seconded by Michael Kaufman.

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