

# 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, December 12, 2001

TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

### PRESENT:

Voting Members - Theresa Elkowitz, Chair, Presiding, Larry Swanson, Vice-Chair,  
Legislator Joseph Caracappa, Nancy Manfredonia, Michael Kaufman, Lance Mallamo,  
and John Finkenberg

ABSENT: Thomas Cramer

### Staff:

James Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst  
Kathleen Rigano, Penny Kohler, Secretaries

### Departmental Staff:

Suffolk County Executive's Office  
George Proios, Chief Environmental Analyst  
Nicole DeAngelo, Assistant County Executive  
Suffolk County Legislature  
Clark Gavin, Presiding Officer's Office  
Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation  
Judy Gordon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner  
Richard Martin, Director, Historic Services  
Suffolk County Department of Public Works  
Paul McMahan, Sr. Civil Engineer  
Michael Lamberti, Jr. Civil Engineer

### Conservation Advisory Councils

Steve Brown, Chair, Huntington CAC

Guests: Vincent Pizzulli of Forchelli, Curto, Schwartz, Mineo, Carlino  
& Cohn, LLP, Counselors at Law, Attorney for Alcatel  
Ken Cortil, Sr. Environmental Scientist, Baker Engr.  
Wil Snyder, Sr. Designer, Baker Engr.  
Julian Clark, Manager-Land Based Ops., Alcatel  
Emi Endo, Newsday

MINUTES:

Prior to a request for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2001, meeting, Legislator Caracappa stated for the record that he would not have voted in support of the CEQ recommendation to issue a SEQRA negative declaration concerning the proposed construction of Portion Road (CR 16), Ronkonkoma Avenue to Nicolls Road, CP 5511, Phase I, Town of Brookhaven, which was passed by a unanimous vote of those present at the meeting of November 21, 2001. Legislator Caracappa stated that he and Legislator Foley feel that more input from the community is essential before moving ahead with this project.

Chairperson Elkowitz suggested that James Bagg prepare a letter to the Legislature stating that Legislator Caracappa would have opposed the recommended negative declaration for the project. This letter is to be prepared for the signature of Chairperson Elkowitz.

On a motion by Larry Swanson, seconded by Nancy Manfredonia, the minutes of the November 21, 2001, meeting were approved by a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairperson Elkowitz stated she is in receipt of correspondence from the Peconic Baykeeper, signed by Kevin McAlister, expressing his appreciation to the Council for allowing him to make his presentation in opposition to the proposed 2002 Annual Plan of Work by Vector Control for mosquito control operations. He requested copies of documents that were submitted by Vector Control in support of this project so they may be reviewed in a timely manner.

After learning that this project was discussed at length at the meeting, Chairperson Elkowitz wanted to remind the Council that its responsibility is to advise the County Executive and the Legislature with respect to the requirements under SEQRA. Vector Control is putting together supplemental information to address the questions raised at the last CEQ meeting and this information will, hopefully, be submitted in time for the January 16, 2002, meeting. If, in fact, the material is provided in time for the next meeting, the Chairperson requested that Council members devote time before the meeting to review the information submitted with the packet and make note of their concerns. She also requested that James Bagg transmit the criteria for determining significance under SEQRA to the Council members in order to determine if the

action being considered requires the preparation of an EIS.

Vice Chairman Swanson requested that James Bagg make available a copy of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Peconic Estuary Program so it will be available for the record. Mr. Bagg noted that the Office of Ecology sent in the appropriate sections of the PEP Comprehensive Plan dealing with mosquito control. This material was forwarded to the Department of Public Works for inclusion in the revised EAF.

The second piece of correspondence read by Mrs. Elkowitz was a letter from Dennis Byrne who expressed an interest in preservation of the old bridge crossing over CR4, Commack Road, owned by Suffolk County. The bridge connects hiking trails between two parts of the NYS DEC preserve. Mr. Bagg noted that the letter had been forwarded to the Department of Public Works for response since the Council had previously reviewed the matter and sent their recommendation to the Legislature which was acted upon.

PROJECT REVIEW:

1. Recommended Type II Actions:

None.

2. Proposed Construction of Right Turn Lanes on CR 3, Wellwood Avenue in the Vicinity of Central Avenue and Smith Street, Towns of Babylon and Huntington - CP 5521

A presentation was given by Paul McMahon, Senior Civil Engineer in the Department of Public Works who stated that the project involves the construction of right turn lanes on CR 3 at Central Avenue and Smith Street (Southbound to Westbound).

A motion was made by Michael Kaufman to classify this project as an Unlisted action with a negative declaration. The motion was seconded by Jack Finkenberg and passed by a unanimous vote.

3. Proposed Apollo North Fiber Optic Cable Project, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation regarding the proposal was given at the meeting by Vincent Pizzulli of Forchelli, Curto, Swartz, Mineo, Carlino & Cohn, LLP, attorneys for Alcatel Submarine Networks, who stated that the project involves the (Marine Route) installation of a trans-Atlantic telecommunications system at Smith Point County Park and under Narrow Bay, including conduit and manholes, ocean grounding beds, MAC System Interconnect & cable; (Land Route) installation of a Trans-Atlantic Telecommunication system on Long Island, including conduits and manholes, a Terminal Station and cable along roads in the Town of Brookhaven. Most of the work will be accomplished using lateral drilling and very little surface disruption (3.67 acres) will be required, mostly at the terminal building site and along roads.

A motion was made by Michael Kaufman to classify this project as an Unlisted action with a negative declaration. The motion was seconded by Lance Mallamo and passed by a majority vote with one abstention (Nancy Manfredonia).

## HISTORIC SERVICES

Richard Martin updated the Council on the following:

1. Long Island Duck - Richard Martin drew attention to Resolution No. 1383-87 which accepts the gift of "The Big Duck" from Mr. and Mrs. Kia Eshgi to the Division of Cultural and Historic Services of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation for preservation as an historic landmark and dedication to the Suffolk County Historic Trust.
2. Coindre Hall - the balustrade project has been completed. The next project scheduled is for reconstruction of the leaded windows.
3. Deepwells - Has had a successful program. There was good attendance by County employees.
4. Meadowcroft - The reconstruction of the Autohaus is out to bid.
5. Booth House - Complete reconstruction plans are expected within a week.
6. Black Duck Lodge - County contractor is busy at the World Trade Center site.
7. Third House - The first phase is to put a cedar roof on the building.
8. West Meadow Riding Property - Work is being done on the drainage design for the riding ring.
9. Yaphank Haybarn - A meeting in DPW indicated that the project should go out to bid.
10. Greenbelt Trail Party is Sunday, December 16, 2001.

## CAC CONCERNS:

Joy Squires stated she wants to do an outreach program to get more CAC participation on CEQ. The Town of Huntington has acquired a number of historic properties. Joy indicated that the Town of Huntington is proposing a Historic Trust similar to that of Suffolk County.

Steve Brown stated that the County made a good buy on the Chandler property since nowhere in Suffolk County can you buy 40 acres on the water for \$5 million.

OTHER BUSINESS:

George Proios made announcements regarding the following:

1. He has been elected President of NYS Environmental Management Councils.
2. He distributed material on stormwater programs. Letters of support were requested in order to release funds.
3. Work being done to keep the LEAP program on track.
4. There is a shortage of employees to administer various environmental programs.
5. Changes to the SPEDES permit process are being proposed and the State is holding public hearings to get input.
6. WRAP Program

The schedule for the meetings in 2002 was distributed to all Council members. A motion was made by Jack Finkenberg to adopt the 2002 CEQ meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed unanimously.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Jack Finkenberg to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman.