

# 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 20, 2002

TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

### PRESENT:

Voting Members – Theresa Elkowitz, Chair, Presiding; Larry Swanson, Vice-Chair, Tom Cramer, Jack Finkenburg, Mike Kaufman, Lance Mallamo, and Nancy Manfredonia

ABSENT: Ginny Fields

### Staff:

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

### Departmental Staff:

Suffolk County Executive's Office  
Bill Faulk, Intergovernmental Relations Liaison  
Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Office of Ecology  
Kim Shaw, Principal Environmental Analyst  
Suffolk County Legislature  
James Henry Dobrowski, Press Secretary for Presiding Officer Tonna  
Clark Gavin, Legislative Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna  
Mary Skiber, Legislative Aide to Legislator Fields  
Barbara LoMoriello, Legislative Aide to Legislator Cooper  
Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation  
Richard Martin, Director, Historic Services  
Nick Gibbons, Environmental Analyst

Suffolk County Department of Planning  
Tom Isles, Director  
George Proios, Chief Environmental Analyst  
Lauretta Fischer, Principal Planner

Suffolk County Department of Public Works  
Charles Bartha, Commissioner  
Dominick Ninivaggi, Superintendent, Vector Control  
Ben Wright, Chief Engineer, Sanitation  
Ed Davida, Associate Civil Engineer

Conservation Advisory Councils

Joy Squires, Chairperson, Huntington Conservation Board

Guests:

Matthew Atkinson, General Counsel to Peconic Baykeeper, Inc.  
Adrienne Esposito, Citizens Campaign for the Environment  
Shawn Cullinane, Administrator, Village of Lindenhurst  
Margo Myles, Sr. Environmental Analyst/Coord. Open Space, Town of Huntington  
Michael Rothfeld, Reporter with Newsday  
Chris O'Connor, Suffolk Program Director, Long Island Neighborhood Network  
Andrew Manitt, Research Director, Long Island Neighborhood Network

MINUTES:

On a motion by Michael Kaufman, seconded by Larry Swanson, the minutes of the January 16, 2002, meeting were approved by a unanimous vote with the following correction:

Page 8, line 1, should be changed to read: "returned from Flanders to Sears Bellows County Park"

PROJECT REVIEW:

1. Recommended Type II Actions:

- a. Ratification of Staff Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table January 29 and February 11, 2002.

A motion was made by Larry Swanson to ratify the staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed unanimously.

2. Proposed Improvements of Sewer District #3, Town of Babylon, CP 8170

A presentation was given by Ben Wright, P.E., in the Department of Public Works, who, in briefing the Council, stated that the project involves the replacement of equipment and systems in kind, improvements of existing treatment tanks and buildings, general infrastructure repairs and construction and installation of a second forcemain to the grit system. The installation of the forcemain is on disturbed land within 50 feet of the bay and will need a NYSDEC permit. It will not increase plant capacity.

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to classify this project as Unlisted with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed by a unanimous vote.

3. Proposed Acquisition of Hilaire Woods, CR 35/Park Avenue, Under Multifaceted Land Preservation Program, Town of Huntington

Presentations were given by Margo Myles, Sr. Environmental Analyst, Town of Huntington, and Joy Squires, Chairperson, Huntington Conservation Board, who, in briefing the Council, stated that the project involves the acquisition of 8.1 acres of undeveloped land from a willing seller. The property will remain in a natural state as a passive park. This property is linked to other open space properties in the area.

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to classify this project as Unlisted with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Larry Swanson and passed by a unanimous vote.

4. Proposed Implementation of Greenways Program in Connection with Acquisition of Active Parklands to be Known as Village Park at Boatland in the Village of Lindenhurst

A presentation was given by Shawn Cullinane, Administrator, in the Village of Lindenhurst, who stated that the project involves the acquisition of a 1.7 acre property known as Boatland in the Village of Lindenhurst which will be converted into an open space parkland for recreational use. The major functions would be a soccer field and use as a marine facility, maintaining public docking spaces. There is no Master Plan in the Village that addresses this issue. The site is currently developed and no sensitive environmental areas are involved. Demolition and removal of existing structures, as well as removal of any tanks on the site will be the responsibility of the Village of Lindenhurst. The Village of Lindenhurst will also be the responsible authority to assure compliance with all applicable State and County regulations regarding toxic or hazardous substance contamination, as well as bearing the costs for removal and/or remediation of the site if necessary.

A motion was made by Michael Kaufman to classify this project as Unlisted with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Jack Finkenberg and passed with a majority vote. Thomas Cramer voted in opposition.

5. Proposed 2002 Vector Control Work Plan, Suffolk County

A presentation was given by Charles Bartha, Commissioner of the Department of Public Works who stated that the project plan has been modified to address the water management and pesticide concerns discussed at previous CEQ meetings. He stated that the Department of Public Works would not do any ditching or any maintenance on a regular cycle. Only ditches that have deteriorated and are verified mosquito-breeding areas will be maintained. The Department will work closely with the DEC and the Office of Ecology in the Health Department in identifying those ditches which require maintenance. The portion of the plan concerning open marsh water management (OMWM) has been removed from the plan for 2002. A minimum set back of 100 feet from water will be used in applications of adult mosquito control. Wetlands will be clearly identified on GIS maps where spraying applications will take place.

The proposal has been modified for 2002 to address those issues and concerns from the public and the CEQ. DPW has committed to doing a long term plan as soon as practicable with an accompanying Generic Environmental Impact Statement. Commissioner Bartha reassured the Council that he and the Commissioner of Health, Clare Bradley, sent a joint message to the County Executive stating their intentions to proceed with a long term management plan and associated environmental review.

Guest speakers included Mathew Atkinson, Council for the Peconic Baykeeper who addressed the Council and voiced concerns regarding the plan with respect to ditching despite the fact that the plan was modified. It was his opinion that the modified plan still exceeds thresholds that require an EIS. Chairperson Elkowitz told Mr. Atkinson that the role of the CEQ is not to approve this project, but only to look at the regulations, classify the action and make a recommendation for determination of significance pursuant to 6NYCRR 6.7(c). The decision-maker is the Legislature. It was pointed out that empirical evidence is necessary to determine environmental impacts and assertions alone are not enough.

Adrienne Esposito, Citizens Campaign for the Environment; and Andrew Manitt, Research Director, Long Island Neighborhood Network also spoke concerning the modified plan stating they felt it warranted the preparation of an EIS..

A motion was made by Michael Kaufman to classify this project as a Type 1 action with a recommendation for a Negative Declaration. He also suggested that the Council recommend to the Legislature that a long term plan be developed and that the money be allocated for a DGEIS and that the program commence immediately. The motion was seconded by Thomas Cramer and passed with a majority vote. Jack Finkenberg and Larry Swanson voted in opposition.

## HISTORIC SERVICES

Richard Martin updated the Council on the following:

a. An Historic Trust meeting was held on February 13, 2002. The Committee gathered at 9:30 AM in the Big Duck and then visited the site of its earlier location. The New York Times published an article on February 10, 2002, that the Town of Southampton is reviewing the Flanders Town site for historic significance. The minutes of the Historic Trust meeting will provide details discussed by the Committee.

b. Coindre Hall Boathouse - The Historic Trust has been working with the County architect on the stabilization plan and boarding up the east wing of the building that was closed by the Fire Marshall for safety reasons. The Historic Trust is attempting to address the concerns expressed by the County architect and Fire Marshall. The west wing of the building is still being used. There is a problem with a masonry wall on the second floor that has dislodged itself and dropped to the first floor. A plan to redo the drainage system will be presented to the CEQ.

c. Deepwells: A pamphlet outlining the programs scheduled for 2002 was distributed.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to re-elect Theresa Elkowitz as Chairman of the Council. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia. and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Michael Kaufman to re-elect Larry Swanson as Vice Chairman of the Council. The motion was seconded by Thomas Cramer and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

klr/s