

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on Wednesday, May 18, 2005.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson
Thomas Cramer
Michael Kaufman
Adrienne Esposito
Nancy Manfredonia
Jay H. Schneiderman, Second District

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

James Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst/Department of Planning
Penny Kohler, Department of Planning
Richard Martin, Historic Services
Joy Squires, CAC of Huntington
Charles Bender, PO's Office
Nick Gibbons, Parks Department
Ralph Borkowski, SC Public Works
Admiral Hoss Miller, Chairman of the Long Island Maritime Museum
Stephen Jones, Vice-Chair of the Long Island Maritime Museum
Betty Arink, Director of LIMM

MINUTES TAKEN AND TRANSCRIBED BY:

Diana Kraus - Court Stenographer

(THE MEETING CONVENED AT 9:32 AM)

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Good morning. I'm going to call the meeting to order and ask if the members have reviewed -- I believe it was the minutes of the February 16th Council meeting that was sent to us separately. Does anybody have any comments? If not, I'll entertain a motion.

MR. KAUFMAN:

I'll make a motion to accept the minutes.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I have a motion to accept. Do I have a second?

MS. MANFREDONIA:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I have a second by Ms. Manfredonia. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Carried. I have no correspondence.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Lucky you.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

So, we'll go right to the ratification of staff recommendations for legislative resolutions laid on the table May 17, 2005. Jim, is there anything you would like to call to the Council's attention?

MR. BAGG:

Yes, there is three things in the packet that I would like to note. The first one is Introductory Resolution 1481. This is regarding transfer of funds from the Water Quality Protection Program in connection with storm water remediation improvements for various County parks in the Town of Smithtown. At the very least it's an unlisted action and requiring an EAF to be submitted.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Okay.

MR. BAGG:

And possibly one per project because I have no idea where these projects are.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Or what they are.

MR. BAGG:

Or what they are.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Okay.

MR. BAGG:

The next resolution is Introductory Resolution number 1626 of 2005. It's authorizing the acquisition of land under County Drinking Water Protection Program in the Town of Islip.

Because it's acquisition of property an EAF is required. It is stated as an unlisted action but an EAF should be prepared.

And the last thing I'd like to note to the CEQ is Introductory Resolution number 1629, which appoints a member to the Council on Environmental Quality, Mary Ann Spencer.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Okay.

MR. CRAMER:

Is that Mary Ann from Setauket, do you know?

MR. KAUFMAN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I believe so.

MR. CRAMER:

Yeah, okay. I know her. She's good.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Okay. Good.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Just for the record, I'm going to be abstaining on one of them, which is 1449. Other than that, I will make a motion to accept staff recommendations.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I have a motion to accept staff recommendations. Do I have a second?

MR. CRAMER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I have a second. All those in favor? Opposed? I have one abstention on 1449. Carried.

Okay. Proposed Firearms Training Section Drainage Project, CP 3161, Town of Southampton. Hello, Mr. Borkowski. How are you?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Good morning. Ralph Borkowski, Suffolk County Department of Public Works. I have provided a copy of an aerial photograph. I don't know -- if someone doesn't have it, maybe Lance's, you could --

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Yeah, we can take Lance's. You guys all have one? I got one. Okay. Go ahead.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

And if you look on the aerial, the areas that are hatched with cross hatching is the area that we're paving.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Okay.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

It's a concrete pavement. And basically we need to drain that area and we're proposing some dry wells to handle the runoff.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Okay. So, you're paving -- it looks like 74,000 square feet and adding drainage.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Okay. Anybody have any questions?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Where's it located?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

This is in Westhampton.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Right near Gabreski.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Right.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Just west of Gabreski or at Gabreski.

MR. KAUFMAN:

South of Gabreski.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

It's a police firing facility.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

It's at -- my understanding is it's at Gabreski. There was a firing facility just adjoining Gabreski, but my understanding is this one's at Gabreski; right?

MR. KAUFMAN:

Yes.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

The police facility --

MR. KAUFMAN:

There's two facilities.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

If I had a Hagstrom I could show you.

MR. BAGG:

This is at the bull mark center, which is off, I believe, South Country. It's north. The sheriff is in there. It's not --

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

It's where the record storage buildings are.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I have been back there.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Oh, I know where the record storage building is.

MR. BAGG:

Where the missile silos are.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Right behind the missile silos, correct.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Just for the record. There is another firing range, a second firing range, in the area where the SWAT teams practice.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Right. He's right. That's the one that I thought you were talking about.

MR. KAUFMAN:

That's the one that is causing the confusion.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

There is something at Gabreski, too.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Yeah, that's the one we're talking about.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

That's what we're talking about.

MR. KAUFMAN:

I've shot there.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

That's not the one.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Okay.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Don't worry, I didn't aim at you, Adrienne.

MS. ESPOSITO:

Not yet anyway.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

But, you know something. Given that we're confused, I would suggest that, Jim, you modify the short EAF to say where this project is. Because it doesn't say it on the short EAF and doesn't

show a road on the aerial. So if anybody ever looked at this, how would we ever know what we looked at, how would anybody ever know what we looked at.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Terry, just to let you know. On the EAF it says the precise location is the Riverhead County Center.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I know.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Which may be appropriate. I don't know.

MS. ESPOSITO:

Which is why it was confusing.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

You're putting in storm water drainage, is that --

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

That's all, yeah.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Fine.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

That is a mistake.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

It's 74,000 square feet of pavement and dry well to drain it. But we should get the location correct.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I will send the modified form in with the correction.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Good idea. All right. Now that we're done torturing poor Mr. Borkowski I will entertain a motion.

MR. CRAMER:

Motion unlisted neg dec.

MR. KAUFMAN:

I'll second this.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I have a motion. I have a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Carried.

Thanks, Ralph. It was hardly worth the abuse, was it.

MR. KAUFMAN:

You're very lucky, Ralph, today.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Proposed Long Island Maritime Museum Marine Railway Restoration.

Good morning.

MR. GIBBONS:

Betty, why don't you introduce yourself?

MS. ARINK:

Good morning, everyone. I am Betty Ann Arink, the Director of the Long Island Maritime Museum.

MR. JONES:

I'm Steve Jones, appearing on my own time as Vice Chairman of Long Island Maritime Museum.

MR. MILLER:

I'm Admiral Hoss Miller, Chairman of the Long Island Maritime Museum.

MR. GIBBONS:

We're here today for the proposed Marine Railway at the West Sayville Long Island Maritime Museum. It's in concert with the conceptual master plan that the CEQ has seen before. The most significant modification, though, and which is not part of the master plan, is the addition of a winch house, a 40 by 60 structure, 33 feet tall, and that's really the most significant change and the subject of this EAF that you have this morning.

This project is the result of several months of meetings with the Maritime Museum, with park staff. Both Richard and I endorse this project and have worked with them to bring this to you this morning. I guess I will open it up to questions at this point that could be directed to either Richard or I or the staff here from the museum.

MR. MARTIN:

Just to clarify. The winch house is part of the project right now but then there is also a proposed boathouse to be added over the railway that is to be put up in the future? So there is a two part construction.

MR. GIBBONS:

Neither of which were part of the original.

MR. MARTIN:

Right. Yes.

MS. ESPOSITO:

But both of which we're considering today, right?

MR. GIBBONS:

That's right. There's also an additional proposal to move a building to the site and not necessarily new construction.

MR. MARTIN:

Right. And maybe the Maritime Museum staff could explain the project, a little more detail on how it's an addition to the master plan that was approved.

MR. JONES:

Yes, if I may do that. What I'm passing around to you is a site plan that was part of a series of site plans that CEQ approved a number of years back, I believe in '02, a long range plan that kind of indicated a context for all the buildings in the site and the activities there.

What you see is the dedicated Historic Trust buildings, three of which were on the estate going

back many years, and three of which are actually buildings that were moved to the site and re-erected at the site, for all together three of which are part of the County Historic Trust. I show you that principally to show that this site is not a site that's entirely made up of historical buildings which originated here, but that some have come from off the site and have been re-erected on the site.

I show you a picture also of Costello Boathouse in Sterling Harbor in Greenport only to give you a sense of what one of the these things looks like so you can see how the rails go into the building and how -- that these things are not necessarily postcard pretty picture structures, but they are very rudimentary working structures in the tradition of -- especially along the south shore of Long Island here.

And the third document, as Richard and Nick indicated, is a small and large portion of the site plan approved by the CEQ in '02. At that time there was a building which we called a ropewalk multipurpose building. We're proposing to eliminate that entirely from the approved master plan and we're asking you in the same fashion to approve a footprint of a boathouse building which would go over the end of the railway instead of this ropewalk building.

What we found with the restoration of the oyster boat Priscilla, which started a number of years back, was that we could transform ourselves and reinvigorate ourselves not just as a static display museum, but as a place with real activity. We found that we had invigorated volunteers, more volunteers. They were coming to go work on this boat, the restoration of this boat, looking at it. We had school groups coming, it was great. We had more grant support because people wanted to get on board, no pun intended, with an active project. And we had additional educational opportunities not only to show people how these boats were built originally, but how they could be restored and put back into service.

It just has been an absolute great reinvigoration for us and we want to keep going in this direction as a museum, not as a static display museum, but an active working museum. This boathouse is very important to our mission and our operation for that reason. And also, for those of us who all don't particularly like the look of the temporary tent building that has been down there for many years, it is starting to show its age, it is falling apart, we do want to get rid of it ASAP and the sooner we can get a boathouse going, the better off we'll be.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I have a question. This boathouse in and of itself is a Type II Action because it's less than 4,000 square feet, it's accessory, it is a pertinent. So are we here to modify the approved master plan and approve the --

MR. JONES:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Okay. Fine.

MR. JONES:

Yes. We'd like to modify the master plan with respect to giving us approval to have a footprint of a building in this location as opposed to --

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Fine.

MR. JONES:

-- what you approved with the ropewalk and further authorize the actual construction and erection of the winch house --

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Right.

MR. JONES:

-- on the back which enables us now then to pull boats in and out of the water as we indicated a number of years ago through the testimony of Doug Shore at that time. These old boats don't take well to being put into a sling. They'll crack and be damaged. It's important to pull them out on a railway so they can be chocked up properly underneath. We have the carriages, we have the rails, we have everything there on the site and we're pretty much ready to go.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I just wanted to make sure that we defined the action properly because it wasn't really clear on the EAF. Because if you look at the EAF, it looks like a Type II Action. So, I want to make sure we define it properly and classify it properly.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Would this be a Type I Action because it's historic?

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

If we're amending the master plan, it probably is.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Also, I think we may need to take a second vote as Historic Trust. Is that possible?

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

That's fine. That's fine. We can approve it as -- let's do SEQRA first, though.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Okay.

MR. GIBBONS:

I was going to ask the same question, though. As a historic trust site --

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

It doesn't make any difference. Something that's on the Type II list is on the Type II list no matter what. But if we're amending the master -- I just want to make sure we do it correctly. So, if we are amending the master plan and authorizing this, then we'll make it a Type I Action, not a big deal. I'm assuming somebody is going to recommend a neg dec and then we'll take a separate vote as the Historic Trust approving it. Okay? All right. So I'll entertain a SEQRA.

MR. KAUFMAN:

All right. Just wait before we go into that. As I remember, about two or three years ago we were concerned regarding the railway house itself regarding some wetlands or marshlands right in the area. Does anyone have that memory?

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Well, I do remember discussing it, but I remember it being resolved in some manner because we approved it.

MR. KAUFMAN:

In which case withdrawn.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

And if they need a wetlands permit, which they may, they are going to have to go to the DEC but that's not -- you know, they are going to have to comply with all the DEC's permitting

requirements.

MR. GIBBONS:

I was going to point that out, actually, as a point of correction in the EAF that the DEC is not checked off, it should be.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Right.

MR. GIBBONS:

We are going to need a permit from them for the construction.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Right. Because you're within 300 feet of the tidal wetlands. Jim, you had something you wanted to say?

MR. BAGG:

Yes. When the CEQ originally reviewed this, the replacement of railway where they were also going to dredge the basin and impact some wetlands and the Council wanted to know the extent of that so that it was tabled at that point in time. So this proposal now replaces that proposal, they are back in here in terms of the railway. They are not going to remove wetlands, they are going to replace in-kind on the same site as well as put in the boathouse.

MR. JONES:

And we're not dredging.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Okay.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Okay. That answers that question, then.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

So, I have a motion by Mr. Cramer for Type I neg deg. I have second by Ms. Manfredonia. Any other questions? All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Carried. And then we can take an historic trust vote. I have a motion to approve by Mr. Cramer.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I have a second by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Carried.

MR. KAUFMAN:

You got it.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Thank you.

MR. JONES:

Thank you.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Are you guys going to do any real commercial work down there besides just working on the

historic boats that you have? Is this going to be a working station by any chance in the future?

MS. ARINK:

No. You mean for outside people? No, sir, not at this time. We have no plans for that.

MR. KAUFMAN:

I was just curious.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I don't have any other business. Historic Services.

MR. MARTIN:

Just to report on the Historic Trust Committee meeting that we had May 11th at the Scully Estate. We did review the entire property and buildings to be dedicated to the Suffolk County Historic Trust and they voted to approve that, with the number one category being architecture. The architect there is Groven R. Adaberry, who is quite well known on Long Island.

A note to make is that the Southampton Museum is doing a three year research project to put an exhibit on the architect and we're going to be working with them and possibly have joint activities between the two sites.

We did have a presentation by the architect for the job, Mr. Peter -- I forget the name -- Caradona, and he reviewed the proposed plans for the environmental center that's to be installed in the main building there. And he will, when the plans are closer, we're still making modifications, will come before the CEQ for your review of those plans. We're getting close, and of course we're under a short time frame and then the project has to be done by the end next year, of 2006.

Otherwise, I just wanted to announce that Legislator Jon Cooper is sponsoring a public forum at Coindre Hall next Wednesday, May 25th at seven o'clock to get public input from the community on the future of the park and the use of the park. There's a lot going on there right now, if you haven't heard, with dog run issues. The dog run has not been installed yet; we need to get that done. And also concerns, you know, with the boathouse and the use of the boathouse.

So the main house right now is continuing with the activities that we had formerly -- that were formerly run by the Friends for Long Island Heritage. Parks has continued the catering, the auctioning and the use of the gym by the Huntington Recreation Department. So those uses are continuing, but of course we are looking for additional use for the main house.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Rich, two questions. First regarding Coindre Hall and the boathouse down there. What is the condition of the boathouse as of now? I assume it is probably more deteriorated than ever or --

MR. MARTIN:

Well, the building, we have to stabilize the building in order to start the restoration. That hasn't been done yet. So we're just -- we're precluded from using the south side of the building at all. That's all blocked off. And the Sagamore Rowing Club is just using the north side. And that has been approved by the County Architect.

MR. KAUFMAN:

They're able to store their shells and things like that.

MR. MARTIN:

Yes. So, the majority of the building they do have the use of. The south side is the smaller rooms where the bathrooms were and that's been blocked off completely and we can't access that until we stabilize the building.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Okay. Second off, I have been hearing rumors in Smithtown regarding Deepwells and some sort of a group that is trying to get together, Friends of Deepwells or something like that.

MR. MARTIN:

Yes.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Are they -- how far along are they?

MR. MARTIN:

They're negotiating with the Parks Department now the terms of their contract and the Commissioner and Gordon Hall, who is heading up the paperwork, let's say, to register the group with New York State as a non-profit. We're discussing the terms of their contract right now.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Okay. Thank you.

MS. MANFREDONIA:

Rich, can I just ask is there an update on the whole issue of enough maintenance people for the historic buildings?

MR. MARTIN:

Well, it's ongoing review and concern. We're discussing it with the Commissioner on a regular basis. The Historic Trust Committee is very concerned about this. And I have been meeting with him to identify the work program that needs to be done for the Historic Trust buildings and I can get back to you on that. We're just -- we're trying to formalize the routine of it right now so we make sure the time is spent on the historic buildings.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Jim.

MR. BAGG:

Yeah, Richard, I believe that the committee was supposed to draft guidelines for management of those buildings to be presented at the Parks Commission. What is the status of those? That was done at the Historic Trust Committee meeting as well as mentioned in CEQ?

MR. MARTIN:

Yes. There was a request to do that and Lance and I were supposed to meet on that and I'm sorry to say we haven't. So we will get together and come up with the those guidelines.

MS. MANFREDONIA:

Specifically, though, have the number of maintenance people been hired? I mean, are they on board for just the historic buildings or not?

MR. MARTIN:

I'd have to check to be honest. There has been hiring, but I would need to check with personnel at this point to see the status. While the Parks Department has been hiring and maintenance over the past year, we've also lost employees, so I need to see the status of that.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Nancy, just to let you know, they are not dedicated to the --

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Right, they're not dedicated to Historic Trust.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Which is one of the, perhaps, the problems out there.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Especially during this kind of a season.

MS. MANFREDONIA:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Where we're going into the very busy season for parks.

MS. MANFREDONIA:

All right. I just -- I'm completely still very concerned.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I think we all are.

MS. MANFREDONIA:

I'm sure we all are.

MR. MARTIN:

And the concern was stated again at the last Historic Trust meeting and we do have another one planned this time at Coindre Hall and that is to be on Wednesday, June 22nd, 9:30 in the main building there. And we are having quite frequent meetings now with these concerns that the Historic Trust Committee has and the Commissioner came to our last meeting that we had in Yaphank and I continue to keep him informed of the concerns.

MR. KAUFMAN:

I'm sorry. Could you repeat the date and the location?

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

June 22nd at Coindre Hall at 9:30.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Okay. Treat me nice. That's my birthday. And I'm going to try and be there.

MR. MARTIN:

Okay.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Just as long as they don't throw the cake at me.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Go ahead, Nancy, you bake the cake.

MR. MARTIN:

Any other questions?

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

CAC concerns?

MS. SQUIRE:

The conference on the environment has been set for this year. It will be October 8th through the 10th at White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton, New York. And the theme is wind and water ways of the future. And this is just to remind everyone it's a conference sponsored by NYSAC, which is the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions. And NYSAEM, which is the New York State Association of Environmental Management Councils of which CEQ is a member. So, there wasn't one last year. There will be one and on June 27th NYSAEM is sponsoring a DEC update in Albany.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

Anything else? I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. CRAMER:

Motion to adjourn.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

I have a motion. I have a second I assume.

MR. KAUFMAN:

Yeah, I'll second that.

CHAIRPERSON ELKOWITZ:

We're adjourned.

**(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:02 AM)
_ DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY_**