

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVE LEVY
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Theresa Elkowitz
CHAIRPERSON

James Bagg
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING CONFERENCE ROOM
MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, August 17th, 2005

TIME: 9:40 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

PRESENT: Voting Members - Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson, Presiding; Larry Swanson, Vice Chairman; Tom Cramer, J. Lee Snead, John Matthew Wagner, Lance Mallamo, Michael Kaufman and John E. Potente

ABSENT: Jay Schneiderman

Staff:

James Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst
Penny Kohler, Secretary

Departmental Staff:

Suffolk County Department of Planning
Lauretta Fischer, Principal Planner

Suffolk County Legislator's Office
Charles Bender, Legislator Aide
Maria Ammirati, Leg. O'Leary Aide

Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services
Nick Gibbons, Sr. Env. Analyst
Kelly Roper, Env. Analyst
Michelle Moravec, Env. Assistant

Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Ralph Borkowski, Landscape Architect
Ben Wright, Chief Engineer
Paul M. McMahon, Sr. Civil Engineer
Tedd Godek, County Architect

Conservation Advisory Councils:

Joy Squires, Town of Huntington

Guests:

Anthony Ceglio, Airport Manager, SC Gabreski Airport

Bill McShane, President, LI Jet Center

Ray DiBiase, Principal L.K. McLean Associate

Roy Fulkerson, Vice President, L.K. McLean Assoc.

Alpa Pandya, Conservation & Finance Advisor, The Nature Conservancy

Alex Chmielewski, Wildlife Biologist, USFWS

William Laverty, R.A., Wiedersum Associates

James Antonelli, Director of Planning & Env. Services, Sidney B. Bowne & Son

Chairperson Elkowitz opened the meeting at approximately 9:40 a.m. with the introduction of three new members: John Matthew Wagner, J. Lee Snead and John E. Potente.

MINUTES:

Minutes of April 20, 2005 were discussed and Mr. Swanson made a correction on page 24 that "groundwater" be used in place of "stormwater". The May 18, 2005 minutes were tabled until the next meeting. Motion for approval of April 20, 2005 minutes was made by Mr. Kaufman, seconded by Mr. Cramer. The motion passed unanimously.

Because it is a Legislative Committee week, the Legislature's court stenographer was not available to take a verbatim transcript of the CEQ meeting. The stenographic service is only available in the legislative auditorium when there is no legislative business scheduled. It was noted that Suffolk County Planning Department would be taking the CEQ minutes pursuant to Roberts Rules of Order as set forth in the Council's by-laws. The meeting was tape-recorded which will be kept in the Council's files for future reference, if necessary. Ms. Elkowitz asked that all members and attendees identify themselves before speaking.

PROJECT REVIEW:

1. *Ratification of Staff Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions laid on the Table – August 9, 2005.*

The members reviewed the recommendations of the CEQ staff regarding the August 9, 2005 Legislative introductory resolutions. Ms. Elkowitz abstained on IR#1926 and Mr. Kaufman abstained on IR#1812.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to accept staff recommendations, seconded by Mr. Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

2. *Proposed Development of a Collections Plan for Sagtikos Manor County Park, West Bay Shore, Town of Islip.*

A presentation on this project was given by Mr. Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services with the Suffolk County Department of Parks. This project plans to develop a Collections Plan. It will include a complete Historic Furnishings Report for the main house at Sagtikos Manor. The Council considered the project to be a Type II action under SEQRA in accordance with the provision of Title 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c) (18) as this action

involves information collection including basic data collection and research, water quality and pollution studies, traffic counts, engineering studies, surveys, subsurface investigations and soils studies that do not commit the agency to undertake, fund or approve any Type I or Unlisted action.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to recommend that the project is a Type II action, seconded by Mr. Swanson. Unanimously approved.

3. *Proposed Sewer District #20 - William Floyd Sewer Replacement, Town of Brookhaven.* Overview of this project was given by Mr. Ben Wright, P.E., with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. The project involves replacement of a 200 foot length of sewer, which is causing backups to the system. All work will be done within the existing easement. Dr. Potente noted that the site is adjacent to a tiger salamander breeding pond. The N.Y.S. DEC has jurisdiction within 1,000 feet.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer, seconded by Mr. Kaufman to Table this project pending review and signoff by the DEC. It was unanimously approved to table the project.

4. *Proposed Sewer District #22 - Hauppauge Municipal, CP #8171, Town of Smithtown.* Overview of the project was presented by Mr. Ben Wright, P.E., with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. There will be a 15' x 15' building within the site. The project is to improve the process reliability of the sewage treatment plant, reduce sludge and power consumption and save operating expenses. The improvements involve purchasing and installing advanced technology systems, construction of piping leading to the system enclosed in a building of approximately 250 square feet along with an associated electric feed. The Council considered the project to be a Type II action under SEQRA in accordance with the provision of Title 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c) (7), (18) and (25) since it includes maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes to the existing structure or facility, construction of an ancillary building less than 4,000 sq. ft. and the purchase of equipment.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer that this project be a Type II, seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Unanimously approved.

5. *Proposed Sewer District #3 - Southwest - Power Supply - Electric Service Replacement, Town of Babylon.*

An overview regarding this proposal was given by Ben Wright, P.E., with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. The underground powerlines going to the sewage plant failed due to groundwater intrusion. LIPA had to install emergency above-ground wiring to supply the plant. At Ms. Elkowitz request, Mr. Wright submitted the project, since the pole line is permanent. Mr. Mallamo does not like above-ground power lines in a park. He wanted to know if the lines can be put underground. Mr. Wright said there would be a problem of water intrusion with underground wiring. Babylon Town has problems with the overall aesthetic impacts of the plant site and screening it, so the

Department of Public Works is working on a plant expansion and aesthetic plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer, seconded by Mr. Kaufman for a Type II action with the understanding that it is temporary until the overall plant expansion is reviewed. It will be temporary until August 17, 2007. Department of Public Works will come back by that date. Unanimously approved.

6. *Proposed Sewer District #3 - Southwest - Sludge Projects/Ash Lagoons, Town of Babylon.*

A letter from Town of Babylon read into the record by Ms. Elkowitz. The town is concerned with the visual impact of the plant and want the area screened with indigenous species including cypress and red cedar. An overview regarding this project was given by Mr. Ben Wright, P.E. with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. Before, ash dewatering was mechanical, now DPW wants to install ash dewatering lagoons to dry the ash partially. The lagoons will be covered; with a translucent roof 42' above grade and a final drying building will be constructed over a portion of the drying area to complete the drying process. Berms and native shrubs will be placed to shield the lagoons and building. The members recommended that if they add other species, they should also be native.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer and seconded by Mr. Kaufman to recommend that the project is an Unlisted action with a Negative Declaration, with the understanding that plantings of cypress and red cedar will be used along with other indigenous species. Unanimously approved.

7. *Adopting a Local Law to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Non-Native Aquatic Plants in Suffolk County.*

Ms. Elkowitz gave an overview the legislation. Ms. Alpa Panda, Conservation & Finance Advisor with the Nature Conservancy and Mr. Alex Chmielewski, Wildlife Biologist with USFWS gave testimony in favor of the law which will prevent the spread of lobelia, purple loosestrife, water chestnut, snake heads and other invasive species. These can cause eutrophication of surface waters. Ms. Maria Ammirati, Legislator Aide with the office of Legislator O'Leary of the Suffolk County Legislature also gave a presentation on this proposal. Mr. Swanson noted that he would like to see animal as well as marine species included in the legislation.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer and seconded by Mr. Mallamo to recommend that the project is an Unlisted action with a Negative Declaration. Unanimously approved. The CEQ also recommended that the proposed legislation be modified to include non-native animals in addition to plants as well as marine species.

8. *Proposed Construction of Sidewalks on Various County Roads at CR 58, Old Country Rd., from I-495 LIE to CR 73 Roanoke Avenue, CP #5497, Town of Riverhead.*

A presentation of this project was given by Mr. Paul McMahan, P.E., Sr. Civil Engineer,

with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. DPW wants to connect existing sidewalks along the road corridor. The project is federally funded. CR 58 built in 1940s, recently experienced a lot of commercial development. The developers were required to put in sidewalks leaving a disjointed sidewalk system. The project will fill in the gaps of existing sidewalks and install curb and handicap ramps at the intersections. It is ADH complaint and will follow NYS uniform procedures to alleviate traffic requiring only one side of the road be done at a time. 4,000 to 5,000 linear feet of sidewalk will be installed over a couple of months.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer, seconded by Mr. Kaufman to recommend that the project is an Unlisted action with a Negative Declaration. Unanimously approved.

9. *Proposed Francis S. Gabreski Airport Redevelopment of LI Jet Center East, Inc., Town of Southampton.*

An overview of this project was given by Mr. Anthony Ceglie, Airport Manager of the Francis S. Gabreski Airport and Mr. Ray DiBiase, Principal L.K. McLean Associate with L.K. McLean Associates. The project involves the redevelopment of the LI Jet Center facility including converting an existing hangar into a terminal building, removal of an underground fuel storage tank, removal of some asphalt surfaces, site grading, installation of new hangars, new asphalt surfaces and added fuel capacity for servicing aircraft. The purpose of the project is to upgrade the outdated facility with improved structures and provide adequate service needs for expanding aircraft usage. This project will not add air traffic and is in an already developed portion of the airport.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer for an Unlisted action with a Negative Declaration, seconded by Mr. Swanson. Seven ayes with Mr. Potente abstaining.

10. *Proposed Acquisition of Land for Open Space Preservation Purposes known as Corey Creek - Edson property in the Town of Southold.*

An overview was given by Laurretta Fischer, Principal Environmental Analyst with the Suffolk County Department of Planning. The project involves the acquisition of 1.2 acres of property which is part of a 91 acre area the County wants to acquire. The County wants to acquire this property because there are significant wetlands in the area. This property is also on the County's Master List of properties to be acquired.

Motion was made by Mr. Cramer, seconded by Mr. Kaufman for an Unlisted action with a Negative Declaration. Unanimously approved.

11. *Proposed Acquisition of Land for Open Space Preservation Purposes known as the Overton Preserve - Kane Property in the Town of Brookhaven.*

An overview was given by Laurretta Fischer, Principal Environmental Analyst with the Suffolk County Department of Planning. The project involves the acquisition of the small parcel of property that is part of the Overton Preserve which is wooded barrier area being proposed for preservation.

Motion was made by Mr. Cramer and seconded by Mr. Snead for an Unlisted action with a Negative Declaration. Seven ayes with Ms. Elkowitz abstaining.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CEQ Approval of DEIS for Proposed New Suffolk County Correctional Facility Expansion, CP #3008, Yaphank, Town of Brookhaven.

An overview of this project was presented by Ms. Elkowitz, Chairperson of Council on Environmental Quality, Mr. Tedd Godek, R.A. County Architect with the Department of Public Works, Mr. William Laverty, R.A. with Wiedersum Associates and Mr. James Antonelli, Director of Planning & Environmental Services with Sidney B. Bowne & Son. The project proposes to expand the existing correctional facility in Yaphank in two phases. The Department of Public Works prepared a preliminary DEIS on the proposed project which was previously submitted to the CEQ for review. Based on the CEQ input, the document was modified. Twenty-five acres of the total 70 acre site will require clearing.

Motion was made by Mr. Swanson, seconded by Mr. Cramer for a recommendation of Type I action with a Positive Declaration because it has potential impacts on geology, ecological resources, hydrology and community services. A public hearing should be held on the DEIS. CEQ approved the DEIS and directed that once the Legislature adopts a Positive Declaration on the project a Notice of Completion of DEIS and public hearing should be sent out with the DEIS. The public hearing date will have to be determined after the Legislature acts.

HISTORIC SERVICES – Director’s Report

Mr. Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation discussed the next Historic Trust meeting. The September 20, 2005 meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for Tuesday October 4, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at the West Hills County Park Headquarters on High Hold Road. The members will be looking a three residences within the Park and also will go on a walking tour of Jane Hill.

CAC Concerns

There were no CAC concerns.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.