

# 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, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005

TIME: 9:35 a.m. – 11:00 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 Legislator's Office

Charles Bender, Legislator Aide

Kevin LaValle, Legislator Aide

Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services

Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Ralph Borkowski, Landscape Architect

Paul M. McMahon, Sr. Civil Engineer

Ron Warren, Assistant Director of O & M

James J. Ingenito, Architect

Suffolk County Department of Health

Kim Shaw, Princ. Environmental Analyst

**Conservation Advisory Councils:**

Joy Squires, Town of Huntington

**Guests:**

David McLuckie, Exec. Assist. Supt. Highways, Town of Huntington

Chairperson Elkowitz opened the meeting at approximately 9:35 a.m.

MINUTES:

Minutes of May 18, 2005 were tabled since the members needed more time to review them. The minutes of August 17, 2005 were discussed and Mr. Swanson made a correction on page 4. A period after "plants". The action should be expanded to include "the marine environment as well as aquatic environment". Motion for approval of August 17, 2005 minutes was made by Mr. Swanson, seconded by Mr. Kaufman. 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 23, 2005.*

The members reviewed the recommendations of the CEQ staff regarding the August 23, 2005 Legislative introductory resolutions. Mr. Bagg pointed out that resolutions IR#1940-1943 call for new CEQ members. IR#1966 concerning a proposed Montauk Observatory is a Type I action requiring a long EAF and IR#1987 concerning a proposed Rabies Immunization Corridor Program is an Unlisted action also requiring an EAF.

Mr. Kaufman mentioned he has problems with modifying the CEQ membership to include activists. Ms. Elkowitz stated the CEQ could send a letter to the Legislature regarding the matter. Mr. Potente noted that a clarification should be made concerning the term "environmentalist". Mr. Snead considers that all CEQ members are environmentalists, but the legislature sets policy. Motion by Mr. Wagner and Mr. Potente that a letter be sent to legislature stating the functions of CEQ and that all members are environmentalists. Mr. Snead and Mr. Cramer pointed out that the letter could be perceived by the legislature as a political statement. The motion was withdrawn. A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to accept staff recommendations, seconded by Mr. Wagner. Mr. Kaufman abstained on IRs# 1940-1943. The motion passed unanimously.

2. *Proposed Sewer District #5, CP #8115, Town of Huntington.*

The memorandum from Mr. Wright, P.E. with the Department of Public Works concerning the project was read into the record by Ms. Elkowitz. Ron Warren Assistant Director of O & M, with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works gave an overview of the project.

The project is to provide a replacement pumping station wet well and construct a valve vault at the District's Pump Station No. 4. The wet well is an 8 foot deep by 8 foot diameter structure and the valve vault is a 4 foot by 6 foot by 6 foot deep precast concrete unit. There is no dewatering required on the site and no traffic maintenance is necessary.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to recommend that the project is a Type II action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c) (2) and (7), seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Unanimously approved including Ms. Squires, CAC representative from Town of Huntington.

3. *Proposed Sewer District #22, Hauppauge Municipal, Town of Smithtown.*

The memorandum from Mr. Wright, P.E. with the Department of Public Works concerning the project was read into the record by Ms. Elkowitz. An overview of the project was given by Mr. Ron Warren, Assistant Director of O & M, with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. The project is to provide replacement valves on the distribution system of treated effluent to the open recharge beds. The valves (4 locations) are approximately 8 feet deep and will require a narrow excavation that will be 16 feet wide. The valves are slightly below water and the method of dewatering is to utilize a small pump in the excavation and pump the water to the open recharge beds.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to recommend that the project is a Type II action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c) (2) and (7), seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Unanimously approved.

4. *Proposed Sewer District #10, CP #8175, Stony Brook, Town of Brookhaven.*

The memorandum from Mr. Wright, P.E. with the Department of Public Works concerning the project was read into the record by Ms. Elkowitz. An overview of this project was presented by Mr. Ron Warren, Assistant Director of O & M, with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. The project is to provide replacement pumps in Pump Station No. 4. The existing station has a dry well with pumps and a wet well. The conversion being to place submersible pumps in the wet well. A small building (8 feet by 8 feet and 3 feet below grade) will house the controls which is an accessory/appurtenant, non residential structure or facility involving less than 4,000 square feet of gross floor area. Mr. Swanson asked about discharges to the harbor. Mr. Warren replied that it is under study.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer that this project be a Type II pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c) (2) and (7), seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Unanimously approved.

5. *Proposed Improvements on CR 67, Motor Parkway at Vandercrest Court, CF #5072, Town of Huntington..*

An overview regarding this proposal was given by Mr. Paul McMahon, Sr. Civil Engineer in the Highway Department, with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. They currently have a stormwater flood problem at the low point in the road, due to new

development. DPW wants to modify the existing drainage system to correct the problem. They propose to construct a positive drainage system, enlarge an existing town recharge basin, and install a diffusion well. The existing positive system in Vandercrest Court will be used. No takings are involved. The recharge basin will be landscaped. Ms Squires, CAC representative for the Town of Huntington, stated support for this project and mentioned the town is also in favor.

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 including Ms. Squires.

6. *Proposed Revitalization of William and Mollie Rogers Waterfront at Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum, CP #7427, Town of Huntington.*

Mr. Mallamo recused himself from this project. An overview of this project was given by Mr. Ralph Borkowski, Landscape Architect and Mr. James J. Ingenito, Architect, with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. The Department is proceeding with the construction of an elevated 300 feet boardwalk, with two sitting areas, through the bluff area connecting the Boathouse with the Seaplane Hanger. Mr. Mallamo mentioned they have school programs with over 300 students a day that come to visit. Because of the safety, they need a link between the two buildings. Mainly ground cover and a few small trees will be involved. The walkway is to be placed on piles to be put in manually with an auger. Composite lumber will be used if the budget allows.

Mr. Swanson asked the question concerning removal of vegetation and erosion. The boardwalk will be on piles and elevated so the vegetation will remain except where piles are put in. If necessary, DPW will replant. The boardwalk will be on top of an existing dirt pathway which is unsafe due to the slope. If put at grade, it will require a retaining wall and too much disturbance. Mr. Swanson asked what will the pilings be made of. He suggested that they be pressure-treated or better still that they be steel or concrete pilings so that it is durable.

Mr. Snead suggested that the project is a Type I action, because the site is a National Register Property, and it needs an EIS.

Mr. Wagner asked what will happen to the vegetation under the walk. Will it die? Could jute mesh be installed to limit erosion and is the walk raised up high enough so water will flow under? Others noted the boardwalk should be closer to the ground and narrower to mitigate the aesthetic impacts. Mr. Cramer will work with DPW on this project to explore the various construction options and how to decrease the environmental impacts below SEQRA thresholds..

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Mr. Cramer to table this project pending review by Mr. Cramer and submittal of a revised project. Unanimously approved including Ms. Squires CAC representative with the Town of Huntington.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Swanson had comments on the Vector Control Long Term Plan document and gave them to Kim Shaw of the Suffolk County Department of Health. It was noted that Mr. Walter Dawydiak, P.E., Acting Chief of the Suffolk County Department of Health indicated that he wanted to rush the process and Mr. Swanson said it should not be rushed in order to avoid litigation. Mr. Swanson said the process, as required by SEQRA, will probably run well into 2006.

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 next meeting is 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 at three residences within the Park and also will go on a walking tour of Jane Hill.

The Deep Wells Fall Festival will be on October 8 and 9, 2005 from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. The rain date will be October 10, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

The Sagtikos Manor Fall festival will be October 22, 2005 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

CAC Concerns

Joy Squires handed out information for the 2005 Conference on the Environment in Hamilton, NY.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

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