

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Lawrence Swanson
Chairperson
CEQ

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: December 13, 2017

TIME: 9:32 am – 10:35 pm

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 2nd Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Larry Swanson, Chair

Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair

Robert Carpenter Jr.

Frank De Rubeis

Michael Doall

Eva Growney

Constance Kepert

ABSENT:

Hon. Kara Hahn

Thomas Gulbransen

Mary Ann Spencer

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner

John Corral, Senior Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Principal Clerk

GUESTS:

Maria Nida, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law
Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Department of Parks,
Recreation and Conservation
Nick Gibbons, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Parks,
Recreation and Conservation
Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning, Suffolk County Department of Economic
Development and Planning
Tony Ceglio, Gabreski Airport Manager, Suffolk County Department of Economic
Development and Planning, Division of Aviation
Regina Zara, Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator, Suffolk County Department of
Economic Development and Planning
Alyssa Turano, Legislative Aide, Suffolk County Legislator Hahn, District 5
Jessica McKay, Intern, Suffolk County Legislator Hahn

Minutes:

October 18, 2017 and November 15, 2017

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to approve the October 18, 2017 and the November 15, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carpenter. Mr. Doall and Ms. Growney abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Kaufman noted that he thought the description of the CEQ's SEQRA review for the Article 6 Phase I amendments in the October 18, 2017 minutes was well done and important in documenting the CEQ's deliberation. Mr. Kaufman also wanted to bring to the Council's attention that after the CEQ made its SEQRA recommendation for the Article 6 Phase I Amendments some minor changes took place to the proposed amendments. Mr. Kaufman noted that it is not uncommon for there to be some changes to projects which occur after the CEQ reviews the action and before the Legislature adopts the SEQRA determination. Mr. Kaufman noted that the Legislature ultimately makes the final SEQRA determination and you do not want to have a situation where projects have to be referred back and forth between the CEQ and the Legislature when minor changes are made. Mr. Kaufman also noted that the CEQ staff reviewed the changes and determined that these changes were minor in nature and did not warrant having the action be referred back to the CEQ for a new SEQRA determination.

Correspondence:

CEQ staff noted that correspondence was received by David Wilcox, Jr., Director of Planning at the Town of Southampton in response to the Suffolk County CEQ SEQRA Coordination Letter for the Proposed Parking at Suffolk County Gabreski Airport for the 2018 USGA Golf Open. It was noted that the Town reviewed the documents and made the recommendation that if the designated interior parking area is used that tree clearing be avoided. The correspondence also stated that the Town of Southampton has no objection to the County assuming Lead Agency status for the project and recommends that a determination of non-significance (Negative Declaration) be issued.

Public Comment:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

- Updates on Housing Program for Historic Trust Sites

Richard Martin, Director of Suffolk County Historic Services, informed the Council that the County is currently looking for a tenant at the recently renovated Robinson Duck Farm house.

- Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin informed the Council that Parks is working to update the custodial agreement with the Bayport Heritage Historical Society for the Meadow Croft Estate in Sayville. The County is looking to have the agreement cover the collection that is present in the estate.

Mr. Swanson asked Mr. Martin to provide an update on Deepwells. Mr. Martin noted that a successful holiday event was just held at Deepwells and that he also just met with the Deepwells custodial group and they are planning to do some exterior repairs and landscaping improvements.

Ms. Growney asked for a follow up on the previous CEQ meeting discussion regarding the Hubbard County Park Management Plan and referencing the AIA study that was done at the Park. Mr. Corral noted that CEQ staff reached out to Suffolk County Parks and received the official name of the study which was then added to the CEQ SEQRA recommendation that the AIA study be referenced in the Management Plan. Mr. Corral also noted that Suffolk County Parks has information on the AIA study but has not been able to locate a final copy of the study and asked Ms. Growney if she could provide a final copy of the study. Ms. Growney noted that she will look through her files and if necessary contact AIA to obtain a copy of the final report.

Project Review:

Recommend Type I Actions:

- A. Proposed Parking at Suffolk County Gabreski Airport for the USGA Golf Open, June 11-17, 2018, Town of Southampton

Anthony Ceglio, Gabreski Airport Manager, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Aviation gave a presentation regarding this project.

The proposed project involves the use of the Gabreski Airport for the proposed 2018 USGA Golf Open Parking from June 11th to June 18th, 2018. This use would be authorized by a lease agreement between Suffolk County and the USGA. It was noted that based on discussions with the USGA and past experience it is anticipated that only the designated northeast parking areas (which are indicated in the August 28, 2017 EAF) are anticipated to be used. This designated northeast parking location is approximately 50 acres in size and is the same location that was used for parking at the 2004 USGA Golf Open. The vegetation in this 50 acre area is limited to grass which is mowed and maintained in accordance with FAA requirements. It is anticipated that approximately 4,500 cars per day will park on the site and the parking will be limited to daily parking (cars will not remain overnight) for attendees of the US Open on a complimentary basis during the week of the championship.

As part of the CEQ project discussion, the CEQ asked about the potential issue of impact to groundwater and brought up the controversy that occurred when storm damaged cars were parked at the Calverton airport after Superstorm Sandy. Mr. Ceglio noted that unlike the damaged cars that were parked after Superstorm Sandy the cars parking at Gabreski airport for the US Open are likely to be in good condition and will only be parked for a very short period of time. In addition, Mr. Ceglio noted that there will be on-site monitoring both during the event and after the event to help insure that there is not vehicle oil/gas stained soil that could result in negative impacts to area's environment. It was noted that this monitoring was included in the Gabreski Airport Conservation Assessment Committee Meeting approval recommendation. Mr. Ceglio also provided information regarding logistical questions regarding parking, security and access. Mr. Ceglio noted that there will be security fencing erected and that the Northeast parking area is the best logistical area for parking. It was noted that the other parking areas indicated in the EAF are more problematic logistically due coordination issues with air traffic at the airport.

After an extended discussion, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the project as a Type I Action with a Negative Declaration. Mr. DeRubeis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

- A. Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table October 3, 2017, November 8, 2017, November 21, 2017 and December 5, 2017

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations on all four Legislative Resolutions as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Other Business:

CEQ Meeting Schedule for 2018

CEQ staff noted that the CEQ meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month with the exception of in December when the meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr. Swanson noted that the 2018 December meeting date was incorrectly stated as December 19, 2018 and should be corrected to December 12, 2018. Ms. Growney made a motion to accept the CEQ Meeting Schedule of 2018 as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kepert. Motion carried.

Mr. Kaufman noted that he had asked Mr. Doall to provide the Council with information on his oyster reef project. Mr. Kaufman noted that he thought that information from this project may be helpful in regards to providing information for the Indian Island Project stabilization project that has recently been before the CEQ. Mr. Doall discussed the work he has been doing on an oyster reef project. Mr. Doall described the project and noted that they have been receiving some very encouraging preliminary project data on the impacts this oyster reef project is having on the surrounding environment. At the end of this discussion it was noted that Cornell Cooperative Extension was involved with a shoreline stabilization project that was recently completed at the Shinnecock Nation property and may be able to provide information that would be helpful for the Indian Island project. It was agreed to that CEQ staff will work Suffolk County Park's staff to see if Cornell Cooperative Extension can provide the CEQ with an informational session regarding the Shinnecock Nation shoreline stabilization project.

CAC Concerns:

None

Meeting Adjourned