

**RESOLUTION NO. 379 -2015, ESTABLISHING A SOUTHERN
PINE BEETLE JOINT COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the southern pine beetle is a small bark beetle native to the southern United State that infests pine trees; and

WHEREAS, the southern pine beetle's presence has been expanding along the eastern seaboard in recent years and the beetle was recently found in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, southern pine beetles create tunnels in the pine trees they infest, preventing the flow of nutrients and killing trees in the process; and

WHEREAS, many areas of Suffolk County, including the Pine Barrens region, are vulnerable to infestations of southern pine beetles; and

WHEREAS, the County should establish a commission which includes State and local officials to manage the southern pine beetle population and minimize the damage they cause throughout Suffolk County; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County Southern Pine Beetle Joint Commission is hereby established to study the problems associated with southern pine beetle infestations and develop beetle management techniques to minimize their impact on the environment in Suffolk County; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Commission shall be comprised of the following twelve (12) members:

1. A representative of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 1;
2. The County Executive, or his or her designee;
3. The Commissioner of the County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, or his or her designee;
4. The Director of the County Division of Environment and Planning in the Department of Economic Development and Planning, or his or her designee;
5. Representatives from the Towns of Southampton, Islip, Brookhaven and Riverhead, to be appointed by each Town Supervisor;
6. A representative of the Pine Barrens Commission;
7. A representative of the Suffolk County Water Authority;
8. The Presiding Officer of the County Legislature, or his or her designee; and
9. A representative of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County;

and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the chairperson of the Commission shall be selected by a majority of the membership of said Commission; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that the Commission shall hold its first meeting no later than thirty (30) days after the oaths of office of all members have been filed, which meeting shall be

convened by the chairman of the Commission, for the purpose of organization and the appointment of a vice chairperson and a secretary; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that the members of said Commission shall serve without compensation and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities; and be it further

6th **RESOLVED**, that the Commission shall hold regular meetings, keep a record of all its proceedings, and determine the rules of its own proceedings with special meetings to be called by the chairperson upon his or her own initiative or upon receipt of a written request therefor signed by at least three (3) members of the Commission. Written notice of the time and place of such special meetings shall be given by the secretary to each member at least four (4) days before the date fixed by the notice for such special meeting; and be it further

7th **RESOLVED**, that seven (7) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the Commission at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

8th **RESOLVED**, that clerical services involving the month-to-month operation of this Commission, as well as supplies and postage as necessary, will be provided by the staff of the County Division of Environment and Planning in the Department of Economic Development and Planning; and be it further

9th **RESOLVED**, that the Commission may conduct such informal hearings and meetings at any place or places within the County of Suffolk for the purpose of obtaining necessary information or other data to assist it in the proper performance of its duties and functions as it deems necessary; and be it further

10th **RESOLVED**, that the Commission may delegate to any member of the Commission the power and authority to conduct such hearings and meetings; and be it further

11th **RESOLVED**, that the Commission shall cooperate with the Legislative Committees of the County Legislature and make available to each Committee's use, upon request, any records and other data it may accumulate or obtain; and be it further

12th **RESOLVED**, that the Commission is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to hold at least two (2) public hearings, one in the five West End towns and one in the five East End towns, to allow the County of Suffolk to assemble the data and information necessary to complete the valuation, study, and report required with all reasonable efforts to be made to ascertain the views, wishes, and opinions of the residents of Suffolk County; and be it further

13th **RESOLVED**, that said Commission shall issue a written report, after a comprehensive study and analysis of the current and future impact of the southern pine beetle on pine trees in Suffolk County, with a focus on locations with either a high number of vulnerable trees or known infestations, and shall provide recommendations for action to manage the southern pine beetle population, prevent the spreading of the current beetle infestation, and reduce the impact on pine trees throughout the County; and be it further

14th **RESOLVED**, that this written report of its findings and determinations, together with its recommendations for action, shall be distributed to each member of the County

Legislature and the County Executive no later than one hundred eighty (180) days subsequent to the effective date of this Resolution for consideration, review, and appropriate action, if necessary, by the entire County Legislature; and be it further

15th **RESOLVED**, that the Commission shall develop an interagency and inter-municipal action plan for the management of southern pine beetles, which details the responsibilities each municipality should be assigned to maximize the effectiveness of each municipality's resources; and be it further

16th **RESOLVED**, that the action plan shall be developed and submitted to each participating municipality for approval within 1 year of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

17th **RESOLVED**, that the Commission shall continue to meet and provide recommendations on an annual basis for a minimum of 5 years; and be it further

18th **RESOLVED**, that the study and work assigned to the Commission shall not be performed by any outside consultant or consulting firm unless explicit approval and authorization for such consultant or consulting firm is granted pursuant to a duly enacted resolution of the County Legislature; and be it further

19th **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: May 12, 2015

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: May 28, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 604 -2015, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 379-2015, ESTABLISHING A SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE JOINT COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 379-2015 established a Southern Pine Beetle Joint Commission to develop policies throughout the County to manage and reduce southern pine beetle infestations; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Babylon is addressing issues associated with the southern pine beetle and a town representative should be added to the Joint Commission; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the 2nd RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 379-2015 is hereby amended as follows:

2nd RESOLVED, that the Commission shall be comprised of the following [twelve (12)] thirteen (13) members:

10. A representative of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 1;
11. The County Executive, or his or her designee;
12. The Commissioner of the County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, or his or her designee;
13. The Director of the County Division of Environment and Planning in the Department of Economic Development and Planning, or his or her designee;
14. Representatives from the Towns of Southampton, Islip, Brookhaven, Babylon and Riverhead, to be appointed by each Town Supervisor;
15. A representative of the Pine Barrens Commission;
16. A representative of the Suffolk County Water Authority;
17. The Presiding Officer of the County Legislature, or his or her designee; and
18. A representative of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County;

and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

[] Brackets denote deletion of language.

___ Underlining denotes addition of new language.

DATED: June 16, 2015

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: June 29, 2015