

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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

GLORIA RUSSO
CHAIRPERSON
CEQ

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: March 20, 2013

TIME: 9:45 pm to 11:30

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library
H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 4th Floor
Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

James Bagg, Vice-Chair
Hon. Kara Hahn (11:15)
Eva Growney
Thomas Gulbransen
Michael Kaufman
Mary Ann Spencer
Larry Swanson

ABSENT:

Richard Machtay
Dan Pichney
Gloria Russo, Chair

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

Joy Squires, Town of Huntington

STAFF:

Peter Scully Jr., Assistant County Attorney
Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner
John Corral, Planner
Christine DeSalvo, Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS:

Sarah Lansdale, Director, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Nick Gibbons, Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Steven Jones, Executive Director, Long Island Maritime Museum
Chris Lubicih, Public Health Engineer, Suffolk County Department Health Services, Office of Ecology
Debbie Tinnirello, Legislative Aide, 5th Legislative District

Minutes:

Minutes were reviewed and discussed. Ms. Growney noted that she was marked as absent in the February 20, 2013 minutes when she was actually present. Mr. Kaufman also noted that with regards to the Coastal Steward Shellfish Restoration Program it appears that SEQRA was not completed at the town level and that the Council's SEQRA review was proper. A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to approve the February 20, 2013 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Suffolk County Water Authority Annual Report 2012

Mr. Bagg stated the Council received a copy of the Suffolk County Water Authority Annual Report for 2012 and that copies of this report have been provided to the Council Members for their reference.

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Mr. Martin updated the Council on the following:

- **Housing Program:**
Mr. Martin noted that the only update to the housing program is that there is a vacancy at the Isaac Mills House located in St. James. This is a concern because the building is isolated. The Parks Department will be surveying County Park employees and then if necessary will send a letter to all County employees to find a new tenant. The Isaac Mills House is a historic building which dates back to 1719.
- **Custodial Agreements:**
Mr. Martin noted that there are no new updates. Contracts are still in progress and there have been no contracts finalized since the Council's last meeting
- **Proposed Timber Point Club House Renovations for Office/Public Assembly Use**
Mr. Martin presented to the Council the revised renovations to the Timber Point Club House stair tower. Mr. Martin reminded the Council that they had reviewed the overall project at the previous meeting and only asked for a redesign and reconfiguration of the windows in the stair tower. After the last CEQ meeting the architect revised the window design in the stair tower from single pane windows to multi-pane windows. The updated architectural plans were referenced and described to the Council.

Ms. Spencer and Mr. Kaufman stated that they thought this was a big improvement in the design of the stair tower windows and were satisfied with the new design.

Ms. Spencer made a motion for approval of the new window design for the stair tower. Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Proposed Long Island Maritime Museum “Senad” Boat Exhibit Shelter

Mr. Martin presented the Council with the proposed plan to place the “Senad” Boat Exhibit Shelter at the Long Island Maritime Museum. .

Mr. Martin noted that the East Hampton Marine Museum has donated a Great South Bay Cat Boat by Gil Smith and its shelter to the Long Island Maritime Museum. This donated boat shelter will take the place of a previously planned new boat exhibit building, which was part of the Long Island Maritime Museum’s approved 2002 Conceptual Plan.

Mr. Steve Jones, Director of the Long Island Maritime Museum, gave more details on the size, placement, and details of the boat shelter. It was noted that the boat shelter will be secured in place to prepare against the risk of wind and flood damage from future storms. Mr. Jones also discussed future plans for the Maritime Museum.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to accept the application and placement of the boat shelter. The motion was amended to note that the project is classified as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration and that the all necessary NYSDEC permits and approvals for the project shall be obtained. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Mr. Swanson wanted to know if this boat shelter would automatically become part of the Master Plan or does the Master Plan have to be reviewed as a separate process. Mr. Gibbons commented that there is not a Master Plan but instead a Conceptual Plan for the Maritime Museum. Mr. Gibbons also noted that Parks is now working with the Museum to get an update to the Conceptual Plan and will bring this update back to the CEQ.

Project Review:

Recommended Type II Actions:

- A. Ratification of Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table for March 5, 2013.

Mr. Bagg had a question on Intro Reso 1153 and 1154 which authorized acquisition of land under the Old/New Suffolk County Drinking Program. Mr. Bagg wanted to check and see if the Council had reviewed these resolutions. Mr. Gibbons stated that IR 1153 was the Rollstone property which was the reuse of a former greenhouse facility for active park recreation and that CEQ had reviewed this property.

On Intro Reso 1154 Mr. Gibbons noted he had not been to the last few CEQ meetings and did not know if this property had been reviewed by CEQ. Mr. Gibbons noted that this site is in the Pine Barren’s Core and is a relatively straightforward acquisition. Mr. Gibbons noted that Ms. Fischer may have brought this to the Council.

Mr. Bagg noted that he didn’t have any problems with the packet as is and he just wanted to have these checked to make sure that the appropriate SEQRA findings are in the resolutions so that its complete and whatever the Council recommended or passes is part of the review process.

Mr. Gulbransen had a question on Intro Reso 1156 and 1157 regarding the capital budget program and whether the Council will have a chance to take a look at the overall priorities of these plans. Mr. Bagg stated that the prioritization is up to the County Legislature and the County Executive and that the Council makes recommendations in terms of the potential environmental impacts and the environmental review under SEQRA of a particular choice. Mr. Kaufman noted that the Council looks at the environmental impacts; the County Executive and Legislature do prioritization.

Mr. Gulbransen had a question about Intro Reso 1205 which is a grant application for a local wastewater efficiency study. Mr. Gulbransen wanted to know if the Council would have any ability to affect the wastewater study from a scoping point of view. Mr. Bagg noted that the Council would have to look at the end product of that study.

Mr. Swanson noted that there have been some unexplained closures of shellfish grounds in the Great South Bay and that he has heard an allegation that it is due to leakage from the outflow pipe from the Southwest Sewer District. Mr. Swanson asked if the Council could get a report from SCDPW on the outflow pipe. Mr. Bagg noted we should have SCDPW come to the next meeting to give an overview of the status of the outfall pipe based on what was presented to the Council in the past and if there was any damage due to Superstorm Sandy. Mr. Lubicuh from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Office of Ecology, noted that there were some closures immediately after the storm but he wasn't aware of anything since Sandy.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations as presented for the February 5, 2013 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Update on Status of the Sewer Infrastructure Mapping Project – Division of Planning and Environment.

Mr. Davies, from the Suffolk County Division of Planning and Environment, gave an update on the Comprehensive Sewer Infrastructure Mapping Project. It was noted that CEQ played an important role in encouraging this project. In 2011, Mr. Swanson as Chairperson of CEQ, sent a letter to the Department of Public Works requesting baseline information on the status of sewer systems in Suffolk County. This information was requested so that CEQ could make formative judgments with respect to the cumulative impact on projects that they have to consider.

Mr. Davies discussed that over the last year the Division of Planning and Environment has been able to contact the relevant agencies at the various Towns and Villages in Suffolk County and obtain the information needed to provide this inventory. The goal of the project was to prepare an inventory of all sewer districts and areas connected to sewer districts in Suffolk County. Mr. Davies noted that this had been accomplished and that the maps have been placed on the Suffolk County Portal for public use. It was also discussed that further analysis of the collected data is still ongoing. Mr. Davies then referenced and discussed the newly created maps.

Mr. Gulbransen discussed the importance of continually updating the database and keeping the information in the database relevant. Mr. Gulbransen asked if there is something CEQ can do to help insure that this database continues to be updated. The Committee then discussed ways that may be used to continue to update this database.

CEQ discussed forming a Subcommittee to further study issues related to sewage treatment plants and then make further recommendations to the County. It was discussed that Mr. Swanson, Mr. Gulbransen, Mr. Kaufman, and Mr. Bagg would make up this Subcommittee.

Director Lansdale thanked Mr. Davies for all of his work on this project. Ms. Lansdale informed the Council that even before this information was completed discussions were had with the Health Department and the Department of Public Works to insure that the database will continue to be updated. Ms. Lansdale also introduced Andrew Freleng and John Corral as the new staff members to CEQ and thanked all of the members of CEQ who helped make this possible.

Director Lansdale also informed the Council that the County received a grant of \$490,000 through NYMTC for the Comprehensive Plan and will be issuing a Request for Proposals to complete the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Lansdale noted that this Sewer District study will be one part of the Comprehensive Plan and stated that CEQ should let her know if the Council has additional study area recommendations.

West Sayville Golf Course Vector Control Ditch to Be Cleaned

Mr. Gibbons noted that there is an arrangement whereby Suffolk County DPW, Vector Control, will notify CEQ if and when they go out to do routine maintenance of existing mosquito ditching on County meadows and wetlands. Mr. Gibbs stated that Parks requested that Vector Control do routine maintenance to a ditch at the West Sayville Golf Course. Mr. Gibbons noted that the ditch cleaning was inconsequential and vector control was able to do the cleaning by hand. Mr. Bagg noted that this was within the confines of the finding statement of the Vector Control DGEIS so SEQRA has been completed.

Public Portion:

No comments were presented at this time.

CAC CONCERS:

None

Mr. Swanson asked about a letter that CEQ had sent to the County Executive inviting him to attend a CEQ meeting. Mr. Swanson thought it would be a good idea to again reach out to the County Executive and to see if the CEQ could meet and develop a relationship with the County Executive.

Meeting Adjourned.