

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Gloria Russo
CHAIRPERSON
CEQ

Michael P. Mulé
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS
COORDINATOR

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: March 21, 2012

TIME: 9:40 am to 12:50 pm

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

PRESENT:

James Bagg, Vice-Chair
Eva Growney
Tom Gulbransen
Hon. Kara Hahn
Michael Kaufman
Richard Machtay
Gloria Russo, Chair
MaryAnn Spencer
Larry Swanson

ABSENT:

Dan Pichney

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

Joy Squires, Town of Huntington

STAFF:

Michael Mulé, Environmental Projects Coordinator
Christine DeSalvo, Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS:

Sarah Lansdale, Director, Suffolk County Department of Planning
Katie Magee, Environmental Planner, Suffolk County Department of Planning
Greg Dawson, Commissioner, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Nick Gibbons, Principal Env'tl. Analyst, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Janet Longo, Acquisition Specialist, Suffolk County Division of Real Estate
Thomas Ryan, Legislative Aide, 5th Legislative District
Michael Pitcher, Suffolk County Legislature

LOCATION

H. LEE DENNISON BLDG. – 4TH FLOOR
100 VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. BOX 6100
HAUAPPAUGE, NY 11788-0099

(631) 853-5191
fax (631) 853-4044

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Machtay to approve the February 15th, 2012 minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Director Lansdale gave a brief overview of a letter she sent to Ms. Russo requesting that the date of the April 18, 2012 CEQ meeting be changed to April 16, 2012 in order to accommodate a proposed siting modification to the Eastern Long Island Solar Project and allow CEQ's recommendation to be presented at the April 16, 2012 meeting of the Environment, Planning and Agriculture (EPA) legislative committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Machtay to change the date of the April 18, 2012 meeting of the CEQ to April 16, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

After further discussion of the issue, the potential availability of members and the possibility of not having a quorum spurred the Council to keep the meeting scheduled for the original date of April 18, 2012. Mr. Bagg noted that the CEQ's recommendation is issued to the Legislature. The EPA committee has a procedure which incorporates a presentation by CEQ but it is not a requirement. Therefore, if EPA were to approve the project pending CEQ recommendation, CEQ could meet on April 18, 2012 and make their recommendation before it goes before the full legislature on April 24, 2012 and they still would be in compliance with the law.

Mr. Swanson requested additional information for this project including where and how the solar panels are made and Ms. Growney wanted to know what version of panels are to be installed.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to change the date of the newly scheduled April 16, 2012 meeting of the CEQ back to the original date of April 18, 2012. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PORTION:

None

HISTORIC TRUST DOCKET:

Mr. Martin updated the Council on the following:

Housing Program:

- All houses that are able to be rented are in fact rented at this time.
- Although not an historic building, there is a new housing unit advertised at the North Fork Preserve property. Mr. Gibbons informed the members that there is a proposal to add 3 additional buildings to the acquisition and will look in them further if and when the acquisition moves forward.

Custodial Agreements:

- The L.I. Maritime Museum has until April 16th, 2012 to review and negotiate any changes to the custodial agreement with the Suffolk County Department of Parks & Recreation and Conservation.

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PROJECT REVIEW:

Recommended Type II Actions:

Ratification of Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table March 13, 2012

Mr. Mulé brought the Council's attention to several items of interest on the March 13, 2012 list of laid on table resolutions.

After a brief discussion on several items, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gulbransen. Motion carried. Mr. Machtay abstained from IR 1294-2012

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

Proposed Acquisition for Open Space Preservation Purposes Known as the Hubbard County Park Addition – Hughes Property, Town of Southampton

A presentation was given by Ms. Magee concerning the acquisition of 1.1± acres of land by Suffolk County for open space preservation purposes in the vicinity of Hubbard County Park.

Mr. Machtay made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Proposed Relocation of Campground at Meschutt Beach County Park, Hampton Bays, Town of Southampton

Mr. Gibbons gave a presentation regarding the relocation of ten recreational vehicle (RV) campsites from the existing parking lot area of Meschutt Beach County Park. The lot, recently renovated and reconfigured, now has a drainage swale with pea gravel and a split rail fence installed along the center median with all drainage pitched towards the center. As a result of the new lot configuration, RVs can no longer negotiate the turns necessary to utilize the space. With the Parks Department unable to accommodate this summer's RV reservations at the site they now propose to create an RV park with an asphalt through road west of the existing lot bordering the Shinnecock Canal. There are 15 stalls proposed with a crushed stone surface separated by split rail fence. No electric service is proposed at this time.

The Council expressed concern with the configuration of the new sites, the removal of vegetation and the associated visual impact on the surrounding area. This echoed comments submitted by the Town of Southampton in which they highlighted the potential for visual impacts from the proposed project. After discussing several suggested alternative design configurations, Mr. Gibbons agreed to consult with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works to create a more acceptable design.

Ms. Growney made a motion to table the project until such time as the Parks Department can reconfigure the site plan and address the following issues:

- Site lines
- Fence location
- Tightening up the paved areas closer to the existing lot
- Limit number of RV spaces to 10
- Completion of a Long Environmental Assessment Form with the visual addendum

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The motion was seconded by Mr. Machtay. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CEQ Bylaws:

Mr. Mulé updated the CEQ Bylaws to reflect relevant changes made to the Suffolk County Code since the original adoption of the document. After a brief review and discussion, Mr. Mulé agreed to incorporate the Council's comments into a final draft.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to adopt the updated CEQ Bylaws. The motion was seconded Mr. Machtay. Motion carried.

Environmental Assessment Form Update:

Mr. Mulé informed the members that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has updated their Environmental Assessment Forms which take effect October 1, 2012. He is in the process of updating the County version and will get them out to the members for review and comment when complete. Mr. Machtay expressed concern that the new forms do not adequately address the social and economic considerations of a project and would like to see some reference to that in the County version.

CAC CONCERNS:

Ms. Squires informed the Council that NYSAM and NYSAC are holding the annual DEC update in June and asked to have the group forward her any questions they would like to have addressed by the state.

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