

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: August 15, 2018

TIME: 9:30 am – 11:10 am

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
Thomas Gulbransen
Hon. Kara Hahn
Constance Kepert
Mary Ann Spencer
Andrea Spilka

ABSENT:

Michael Doall
Eva Grownay

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
Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment
Lauretta Fischer, Chief Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment
Christine DeLisi, Legislative Aide, Suffolk County Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory
Diego De La Rocha, Intern, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment
Elizabeth Torres, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Bob Steele, P.E., L.K. McLean Associates
Brendan Clinch, L.K. McLean Associates
Steve Eisenberg, P.E., L.K. McLean Associates
Gary Gentile, L.K. McLean Associates

Minutes:

June 20, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to approve the June 20, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kepert. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Larry Swanson, Chair of the CEQ, noted that there is a letter in the CEQ members' folders regarding the Suffolk County drainage project at the North Fork Preserve property. The letter was received on August 14, 2018 from the "Coalition Seeking the Best Plan for Suffolk County's North Fork County Park" and requests that the CEQ revisit the environmental review for the North Fork Preserve Property. Mr. Swanson noted that he would give the CEQ members time to read the letter and then the CEQ would hear from some of the people who signed the letter in the Public Portion.

At the request of the CEQ members, John Corral, staff to the CEQ, also provided the CEQ with a summary of the North Fork Preserve Drainage project which was reviewed by the CEQ in the summer of 2017.

- Mr. Corral also noted that the CEQ received a letter of correspondence on August 14, 2018 from PSEG Long Island regarding the Suffolk County Proposed Reconstruction of CR-19 in Patchogue. Mr. Corral noted that this letter was in response to the Suffolk County SEQRA coordinated review letter that was sent out and requested that the project sponsor coordinate with PSEG on any proposed utility relocation work.

Public Portion:

- Dr. Eric Lamont, President of the Long Island Botanical Society, spoke in regards the drainage project that Suffolk County is currently undertaking at the North Fork Preserve Property. In summary, Dr. Lamont expressed his concern that his group was not aware

of the nature of the drainage project and that the project is having a negative impact on sensitive environmental areas on the property. He also noted that his group has been working with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to map the wetlands on the property and provided the CEQ with maps of wetlands areas on the property and mapped areas of environmental sensitivity. As part of his public comments, Dr. Lamont also noted that the County has been receptive to his group's concerns and has worked to minimize the project impacts. Dr. Lamont also stated that he believed at this point that the project should be allowed to proceed to completion but wanted to request that his group and other interested environmental groups be able to work with the County to share their expertise and be involved in future projects at the North Fork Preserve Property.

In response, the CEQ noted that its meeting agendas are posted online and the public has an opportunity at each meeting to comment on the projects before the Council. The CEQ members also requested to hear the viewpoints from representatives from the Suffolk County Department of Public Works and Suffolk County Parks on the drainage project at the North Fork Preserve Property at the next CEQ meeting.

Historic Trust Docket:

None. Mr. Martin, Suffolk County Director of Historic Services, was unable to attend the meeting.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Reconstruction of CR-19 (Holbrook Road) from Waverly Avenue to CR-80 (Montauk Hwy), Village of Patchogue, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Elizabeth Torres, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer, with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works and Bob Steele, P.E. with L.K. McLean and Associates. The proposed project involves the reconstruction and realignment of CR-19 (Holbrook Road) from Waverly Avenue to CR-80 (Montauk Highway) and the construction of a one lane roundabout at CR-19/Lake Street Intersection. The improvements will result in CR-19 being reduced from two lanes in either direction to one lane throughout the project limits and will result in CR-19 being shifted south away from Patchogue Lake. The improvements will also result in the construction of a park in the newly created space between the roadway and the lake. This park will include an asphalt shared use path for bicyclists and pedestrians as well as bioretention swales to collect stormwater runoff and shoreline improvements which will include the removal of invasive species and wetland re-establishment by means of planting native wetland species. The project also includes traffic signal upgrades at the two signalized intersections within the project limits.

As part of the project SEQRA review the CEQ discussed the following:

- The invasive species removal and the method for revegetating the rehabilitated wetlands areas.
- A potential future fish latter which is shown on the project construction plans. It was noted that the location for a potential fish latter is indicated on the project plans but that a fish latter is not part of the current project.
- The traffic circle safety considerations and design of the traffic circle. It was noted that the design does include a deflection angle for the roadways entering the traffic circle.
- The capability of the rehabilitated roadway to handle trucks. It was noted that the rehabilitated roadway is designed to handle trucks.
- The potential need for utility work and relocation of utilities. It was noted that it is not anticipated that there will be a great amount of utility replacement work due to the existing nature of the utilities. It was also discussed that the project sponsor will work with the utility providers to coordinate utility work and to insure location appropriate utility infrastructure along the CR-19 reconstruction project corridor
- Long term traffic considerations for the reconstructed roadways and intersections as well as impacts to the road network during construction. It was noted that the long term traffic projections indicate that the proposed rehabilitated roadway will maintain high levels of service at the project intersections. It was also noted that due to the available space for construction activities it is not anticipated that the project construction will have a significant impact on traffic circulation.

After the project discussion a motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion included that the project sponsor work with the utility providers to coordinate utility work and to insure location appropriate utility infrastructure along the CR-19 reconstruction project corridor. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis. Legislator Hahn recused. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

- A. Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 19, 2018 and July 17, 2018

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table – June 19, 2018 and July 17, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gulbransen. Motion carried.

Other Business:

None

CAC Concerns:

None

Meeting Adjourned