

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: October 17, 2018

TIME: 9:32 am – 12:05 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

Thomas Gulbransen

Hon. Kara Hahn

Constance Kepert

Mary Ann Spencer

Andrea Spilka

ABSENT:

Michael Doall

Eva Growney

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

John Corral, Senior Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Principal Office Assistant

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

Lauretta Fischer, Chief Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

Nick Gibbons, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Tom Iwanejko, Director Vector Control, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Division of Vector Control

Frank Castelli, Chief Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Water Quality

Catherine Stark, Legislative Aide, Legislator Krupski

Christine DeLisi, Legislative Aide, Suffolk County Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory

Kevin McAllister, President, Defend H2O

Audrey Kessler, Yaphank Historical Society

Robert Kessler, Yaphank Historical Society

Diego De La Rocha, Intern, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning Division of Planning and Environment

Minutes:

- September 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Gulbransen noted that at the September 17, 2018 CEQ meeting there were maps and informational materials handed out during the public comment period on the North Fork Preserve Property that weren't mentioned in the minutes. Mr. Gulbransen thought that it may make sense to reference these handout materials in the minutes. Mr. Kaufman agreed stating that it was pertinent information and should be noted in the minutes. Mr. Kaufman also noted that he would like additional time to review the minutes so that he could provide possible input.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to table the September 17, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Legislator Krupski, Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Keper all abstained from the vote. Motion carried to table the September 17, 2018 minutes.

Correspondence:

- John Corral, staff to the CEQ, noted that the Suffolk County Parks Department requested that a September 28, 2018 letter from NYSDEC be distributed to the CEQ members. Mr. Corral noted that the correspondence, which was placed in the CEQ members folders, is a Warning Letter from NYSDEC in regards to a potential violation in regards to the construction of a riding area and the placement of fill in areas adjacent to a regulated tidal wetland at the Suffolk County Old Field Farm property.

Mr. Martin, Director of Suffolk County Historic Services, provided some background information to the CEQ regarding this issue. The tenant on the Old Field Farm property

put a footing base for horse use onto the property without the review of the Suffolk County Parks Department. The material that was removed to make this footing was then placed in a pile adjacent to the wetlands. The NYSDEC letter states that this pile needs to either be removed from the site or the construction debris within this pile, if deemed suitable, can be sifted out and the remaining material may be permitted to be reused on site. It was noted that the tenant on the property will be responsible for this work. Ms. Spencer also stated that this site is unique because in addition to being adjacent to tidal wetlands it is also listed on the State and National Historic Register. Mr. Martin also noted that Suffolk County Parks Department is meeting with the tenant, the Historic Trust Committee and the Commissioner of Parks to see how this issue can be resolved.

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

- Updates on Housing Program for Historic Trust Sites

Mr. Martin noted that the Stemmler House in Robert Cushman Murphy Park has recently been vacated and the Parks Department is currently doing renovations to the unit before it is rented again.

- Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin also noted that Suffolk County Parks is currently working on a new contract with the tenant at Old Field Farm. The contracts are for a 20 year period but that the agreement can be cancelled with a 30 day notice by either party.

- Mr. Martin also introduced Mr. and Mrs. Kessler from the Yaphank Historical Society who were attending the CEQ meeting. He noted that the Yaphank Historical Society had received a \$300,000 grant for work on the Historic Homan-Gerard House. Mr. Kessler noted that they have finished the painting and landscaping and are hopeful to have a grand opening in the spring. Ms. Spencer thanked the Yaphank Historic Society for all the work that they have done at the Homan House.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Acquisition of Land Under the Old Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program 12-5 E (1)(a) - For the Orowoc Creek County Wetlands Addition – Giella Property, Town of Islip

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Laretta Fischer, Chief Environmental Analyst, with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning. The proposed action of acquisition of land by Suffolk County under the Old Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program 12-5 E (1)(a) and its transfer to the County Parks Department in order to assure it remain as open space for passive recreational use. The subject property is located north of Moffitt

Boulevard and east of Saxon Avenue in the Hamlet of Islip, Town of Islip (SCTM# 0500-343.00-02.00-035.000)

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

Project Review:

Recommended Type II Actions:

A. Proposed 2019 Vector Control Annual Plan of Work

A presentation regarding the proposal was given at the meeting by Tom Iwanejko, Director with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Division of Vector Control. The proposed action involves the implementation of the 2019 Vector Control Annual Plan of Work for the County's ongoing mosquito management program.

Mr. Kaufman noted that on Page 2 of the 2019 Vector Control Annual Plan of Work it notes that the Annual Plan of Work is governed by State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Regulation 617.10(d)(1) which provides the following: "When a final generic EIS has been filed under this part (1) no further SEQRA compliance is required if a subsequent proposed action will be carried out in conformance with the conditions and thresholds established for such actions in the generic EIS or its findings statement." Therefore Mr. Kaufman noted the SEQRA review that is before the CEQ is whether the 2019 Annual Plan of Work is consistent with the Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long Term Plan. Mr. Kaufman also noted that if the Annual Plan of Work is determined to be consistent with the Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long Term Plan then no additional SEQRA review is required.

Kevin McAllister, President of Defend H2O, stated that it is his belief that the CEQ should recommend the elimination of the use of Methoprene from the 2019 Vector Control Plan of Work. Mr. McAllister discussed studies that indicate the negative effects of Methoprene on non-target species such as Lobsters. Mr. McAllister also noted that the State of Connecticut banned the use of Methoprene in coastal areas. Mr. McAllister also noted that there are restrictions to the use of Methoprene in Rhode Island and Coos Bay, Oregon.

In response, Mr. Iwanejko provided some context and clarifications related to the studies cited by Mr. McAllister. Mr. Iwanejko also noted that the Connecticut Methoprene ban that was referenced was not based on validated scientific evidence.

In addition to the discussion on Methoprene the CEQ also discussed the issue of tick control, the Accebonic Harbor cooperative project (a Vector Control project that involved partnering with the Town of East Hampton and local groups to conduct detailed mosquito surveying that can be used to reduce pesticide application via a

more targeted approach to mosquito larvicide treatments) and the importance of continually reviewing updated scientific literature on mosquito pesticide use.

The CEQ made a motion by Mr. Kaufman recommending that the 2019 Annual Plan of work was in conformance with the GEIS for the Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long Term Plan and therefore no further SEQR compliance is required. The CEQ also included the following additional recommendations to the Suffolk County Legislature:

- The Council encourages Suffolk County to continue to pursue and implement projects like the Accabonac Harbor – East Hampton Mosquito Sampling Cooperative Project which involves partnering with local groups to conduct detailed mosquito surveying that can be used to reduce pesticide application via a more targeted approach to mosquito larvicide treatments.
- The Council encourages Suffolk County to continue to work to reduce the use of Methoprene as well as the other pesticides used in its Vector Control Program.
- The Council encourages Suffolk County to continue to review the applicable scientific literature on pesticides to insure that Suffolk County has access to the most updated information for its Vector Control Management Program.
- In reviewing the 2019 Vector Control Plan, the Council recognizes the need for an increase in the research on ticks and potential tick control activities. The CEQ recommends this increased research on ticks (including gathering data from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services on the health impacts of ticks) to help inform the County regarding the development of a County-wide tick control plan.

The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Mr. Swanson abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

A. Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table October 2, 2018

Mr. Gulbransen made a motion to accept staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table October 2, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Mr. Kaufman recused on Introductory Resolution 2018- . Motion carried.

Other Business:

Mr. Corral noted that at the previous CEQ meeting the CEQ discussed the idea of having a CEQ subcommittee research possible ideas of what an advisory committee for the North Fork Preserve Property may look like (i.e. who would be involved with this committee, what would be the time frames, etc). Mr. Corral updated the CEQ that staff has been working on this but that staff still needs to do a little more research before the subcommittee can meet.

CAC Concerns:

None

Meeting Adjourned