

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 MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: August 21, 2019

TIME: 9:30 am – 10:30 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.

Constance Kepert

Mary Ann Spencer

Andrea Spilka

ABSENT:

Frank De Rubeis

Michael Doall

Eva Growney

Thomas Gulbransen

Hon. Kara Hahn

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

John Corral, Senior Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Principal Office Assistant

GUESTS:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Maria Nida, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law

Christina DeLisi, Suffolk County Legislative Aide, Presiding Officer Gregory

Dorian Dale, Director of Sustainability, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Jeffrey Dawson, Associate Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Highways

James Ray, Junior Civil Engineer Trainee, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Highways

Erik Bergey, Senior Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Highways

Minutes:

- July 17, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to approve the July 17, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spilka. Motion carried.

Correspondence

No correspondence this month

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

- Updates on Housing Program for Historic Trust Sites

Mr. Martin noted that Suffolk County Legislative Resolution Number 1680-2019 on the LADS report is a license agreement for a new tenant to reside at Inlet County Park in the building known as the "Red House". Mr. Martin noted that the North Shore Audubon Society occupies the first floor of this property.

Mr. Martin also noted that Suffolk County Parks only has one other housing vacancy. This vacancy is at Robert Cushman County Park on River Road. Mr. Martin stated that Suffolk County Parks is working on this property with the goal of renting it out by September or October.

- Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin noted that Suffolk County had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly established walking trail at Old Field Farm. Mr. Martin noted that the trail is installed and the County is completing the fencing and gates for parking. With this work done the County will be able to finalize its custodial agreement with the concessionaire at the property who will have some responsibility to maintain the trail if it gets disturbed during

the horse shows.

The CEQ asked if there was an update on the New York State Department of Conservation violation that occurred on the property. Mr. Martin noted that the violation had been resolved by the concessionaire moving the pile of material away from the wetland area and placing the material back onto the main portion of the property.

The CEQ also asked about an update regarding the riding ring that had been installed without prior permission. Mr. Martin noted that the Parks Commissioner is aware of this situation but he does not have additional information to share with the Council at this time regarding this issue.

Mr. Swanson also recommended to Mr. Martin that the CEQ hold an upcoming meeting at one of the County's historic properties.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Improvements to CR 2, Straight Path, from Long Island Railroad to Nicolls Road, CP 5527, Town of Babylon

At the July 17, 2019 meeting, the CEQ tabled its SEQRA review for the proposed improvements to CR 2 project and requested that the Suffolk County Department of Public Works provide the CEQ with information relating to the feasibility of incorporating Complete Streets design features into this proposed project. Prior to its August 21, 2019 meeting, the Suffolk County Department of Public Works submitted additional project information to the CEQ regarding the feasibility of incorporating Complete Street design features in the proposed project.

At today's meeting, a presentation regarding the proposed improvements to CR 2, Straight Path, from Long Island Railroad to Nicolls Road, CP 5527, was given at the meeting by Erik Bergey, Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Work. This presentation included information on the incorporation of Complete Street design features in the proposed project. This information was requested at the July 17, 2019 meeting when the CEQ tabled its SEQRA review for the proposed improvements to CR 2 project.

Mr. Bergey also provided an overview of the overall proposed project. He noted that the project involves various roadway and safety improvements including installation of center medians, pavement rehabilitation/resurfacing, construction of ADA compliant sidewalks and curb ramps, and upgrades to traffic signal equipment, signage and pavement markings. This project will also include minor improvements to existing storm sewer infrastructure.

After discussion about the complete street design features and the project design in general 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 Mr. Carpenter. Ms. Keperst abstained. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table July 16, 2019.

Mr. Swanson noted some concerns he had on Suffolk County Introductory Resolution 1720-2019 which regards a proposed stormwater mitigation project on Stony Brook Creek. Mr. Swanson noted that it is implied that the impacts to the brook have been caused by roadway runoff but he is not sure that is the cause of the problem and has concern that this project may not accomplished its intended effect. Mr. Swanson noted that there may be additional information that he is not aware of but that he wanted to raise this as a red flag. Mr. Kaufman noted that he would follow up with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning's Water Quality Improvement Unit to obtain some addition information on the project.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table July 16, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kepert. Motion carried.

CAC Concerns:

No CAC concerns or comments were raised.

Other Business:

Mr. Swanson reminded the Council that the Public Hearings regarding the Suffolk County Subwatershed Management Plan's Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement will be held on September 5, 2019 in Riverhead and September 6, 2019 at Suffolk County Community College in Brentwood. Chairman Swanson informed the Council there is not a requirement for CEQ members to attend but that he would like to have as many CEQ members as possible present at these meeting. Mr. Swanson also noted that he would like to have the Department of Health present at the meeting.

Ms. Spencer noted that she would like to request that the CEQ send a follow up letter to the Suffolk County Parks Commission on the CEQ's original letter to the Parks Commissioner that recommended to the Commissioner that the riding ring that had been installed without prior permission at the Old Field Farm be removed. The CEQ decided that the CEQ staff would draft a letter for the Chair to send asking the Commissioner about the status of this issue.

The CEQ also asked about the status of the letter that they sent to Suffolk County Parks Commissioner regarding that the electrical system and the St. James Store be checked. Mr. Martin noted that Parks staff has asked maintenance to check on this issue but has not yet received a response. Mr. Martin also noted that it was not completely clear what electrical issues were observed during the CEQ Tour of the St. James General Store. It was noted that Parks should feel free to follow up with the CEQ member that observed the potential electric

issues at the St. James General Store.

The regular CEQ Meeting Adjourned