

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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

Tom Gulbransen
Chairperson
CEQ

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: March 9, 2022
TIME: 9:32 AM – 11:24 AM
LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference

PRESENT:

Thomas Gulbransen, Chair
Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair
Rob Carpenter Jr
Frank De Rubeis
Mark Haubner
Kaetlyn Jackson
Hon. Anthony Piccirillo
Mary Ann Spencer
Herbert Strobel

ABSENT:

Anthony Graves
Constance Kepert

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning
Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner
John Corral, Environmental Projects Coordinator
Christine DeSalvo, Principal Office Assistant

GUESTS:

Hon. Leslie Kennedy, Suffolk County Legislator, District 12

Hon. Al Krupski, Suffolk County Legislator, District 1

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

Camilo Salazar, Senior Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Water Quality

Michael Iorio, Environmental Technician, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Water Quality

William O'Brien, Research Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

Geoff Mascaro Esq., Property Management Administrator, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

August Ruckdeschel, Farmlands Administrator, Suffolk County Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

Michael Brown, Land Management Specialist VI, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

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

Catherine Stark, Legislative Aide, Suffolk County Legislator Hon. Krupski, District 1

Carolyn Sukowski, Water Quality Program Coordinator, Cornell Cooperative Extension Suffolk County

John Di Leonardo, President, Long Island Orchestrating for Nature

Robert S. Derico, Director, Office of Environmental Affairs DASNY

Sara Stein, Sr. Environmental Manager, Office of Environmental Affairs DASNY

Desiree Benn, Coindre Hall Park Community

CEQ Chair Tom Gulbransen read the following opening Meeting statement:

“This is the regularly scheduled CEQ meeting for March 9, 2022 meeting of the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality and for the record we do have a quorum present.

Instead of a public meeting open for the public to attend in person, members of the public may listen to or log into the video conference. This meeting and its notice follow the Open Meetings Law as amended by Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021, signed into law by Governor Hochul on 9/2/2021, which law, in part, authorizes County committees and bodies to hold meetings remotely via videoconferencing or teleconferencing, provided the public has the ability to view or listen to the meeting and the meetings are recorded and later transcribed. In this instance, we will be using ZOOM and will be recording the entirety of the meeting.

Additionally, we will be following the voting protocol used by the Suffolk County Legislature at its March 17, 2020 meeting. All voting on Board Actions and Resolutions will be done via a roll call and we ask that all Board Members clearly state their name when making a motion and clearly state their vote when their name is called.”

Minutes:

February 9, 2022 Meeting Summary

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to approve the February 9, 2022 CEQ minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis. Motion carried. Mr. Gulbransen Abstained.

Correspondence:

John Corral, staff to the CEQ, noted that last night (March 8, 2022) CEQ staff received correspondence from the Dormitory Authority of New York State (DASNY) regarding the proposed Acquisition of Parcels of Land for the Construction of a Community Hub in the Hamlet of Brentwood, Town of Islip. The letter stated that the DASNY did not have any objection to the CEQ being SEQRA lead agency for this project. DASNY did request that the CEQ include the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Services as an Interested Party in the SEQRA review Process. Mr. Corral said that CEQ staff would clarify with SHPO that the Suffolk County Legislature is the SEQRA Lead Agency for this project and not the CEQ. Mr. Corral also noted that CEQ staff would notify SHPO, as an Interested Party, of the project.

Mr. Corral also noted that after the March CEQ Meeting, correspondence was received from the New York State Central Pine Barrens Commission regarding the True North Hanger Development Project and the Sunrise Jets Development Project at Gabreski Airport. This correspondence stated that the Central Pine Barrens Commission found that these projects are located in the area identified the “Future Aviation Development” area of the Gabreski Airport Land Use Plan and that no future review of these proposals are required by the Central Pine Barrens Commission. Mr. Corral noted that the letter for the Sunrise Jets development project suggested that proposed physical activity and ground disturbance be carefully surveyed and staked prior to disturbance due the projects proximity to the Central Barrens Critical Resource Area. Mr. Corral noted that CEQ staff provided these letters to the Gabreski Airport Director and also that CEQ staff believes the Pine Barrens suggestion is consistent with the CEQ SEQRA recommendation for the project.

Public Portion:

Ms. Desiree Benn, founder of the Coindre Hall Park Community, spoke regarding West Neck Farm aka Coindre Hall. Ms. Benn noted that she was at the CEQ to request that that West Neck Farm aka Coindre Hall have the Historic Preservation Category of “Historic Agricultural Lands” added to the property’s Historic Trust designation. Ms. Benn described how the Suffolk County Historic Trust Manual describes the “Historic Agricultural Lands” preservation category. Ms. Benn, also described the agricultural history of the West Neck Farm aka Coindre Hall. Ms. Benn noted that based on this history it is not appropriate to have a manicured lawn north of Coindre Hall.

Mr. Gulbransen, noted to Ms. Benn that if she would like, she can submit the material that she was referencing to the CEQ. Ms. Benn said that she would submit the information to CEQ staff.

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services with Suffolk County Parks, noted that there are two housing vacancies. One is a stand-alone cottage at Meadow Croft in Sayville. Suffolk County Parks is fixing up the interior of the cottage. The cottage will then be reappraised and then offered for rental. The second vacancy is a stand-alone house at Blydenburgh Historic District. This property will be reappraised and then offered for rent as soon as possible.

Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin, informed the CEQ that the Parks Department is currently working on an agreement with Third House Nature Center at Third House at Montauk County Park. Suffolk County Parks is in the process of a full restoration of the first floor of the interior of the Third House building. This restoration should be done this summer and then the Third House Nature Center Group should be able to move back into the House.

After the updates on the Custodial Agreements, in response to a CEQ member question, Mr. Marin gave a brief description of Suffolk County Park's understanding of the historic agricultural use at Coindre Hall aka West Neck Farm. In response to a CEQ member follow up question, Mr. Martin noted that the all of the historic information on the property and Historic Trust information for the property will be shared with the advisory group and considered if any future plans move forward at Coindre Hall.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Acquisition of Parcels of Land for the Construction of a Community Hub in the Hamlet of Brentwood, Town of Islip

Mr. Geoff Mascaro, Esq., Property Management Administrator Suffolk County Department of Public Works gave a presentation on proposed acquisition of real property to allow for a planned Community Hub development project in the Hamlet of Brentwood. The proposed acquisition property is located on Crooked Hill Road in the Hamlet of Brentwood and is identified by the following Suffolk County Tax Map Numbers: 0500-071.00-01.00-013.010, -013.011 and -013.014. As proposed, Suffolk County will acquire the subject property from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY). Any development on the property, including the construction of a Community Hub development project, will be required to obtain all applicable regulator permits and approvals. Any future development on the subject property will require supplemental SEQRA review to insure that the project details are property considered under SEQRA.

After the presentation the CEQ discussed the property to be acquired, the surrounding land uses and that the property is located in a designated Potential Environmental Justice Area. In discussing that the property is located in a designated Potential Environmental Justice Area it was noted that the proposed project appears to be a benefit to the community and not a detriment.

After the above noted CEQ discussion, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend that the proposed project be classified as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The Motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis. Motion Carried.

B. Proposed Lake Ronkonkoma Resident Canada Goose Egg Oiling Management Program, Village of Lake Grove, Town of Brookhaven, Town of Islip and Town of Smithtown

Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Carolyn Sukowski, Water Quality Program Coordinator with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Suffolk County and John Di Leonardo, President of Long Island Orchestrating for Nature (LION) gave a presentation on the proposed action.

It was noted that as part of Suffolk County's Stormwater Management Program (MS4 Program) which is administered by Cornell Cooperative Extension, Suffolk County currently has a Resident Canada Goose Management Program that involves goose egg oiling. This Management Program currently oils immature eggs around Lake Ronkonkoma on Suffolk County owned properties. This proposed action involves extending the egg oiling program to non-county properties including the town properties of Brookhaven, Islip and Smithtown as well as privately owned properties. Egg oiling is done to prevent the immature eggs from hatching and therefore to control the geese population around the Lake and to mitigate the damage to water quality imposed by resident geese.

After the project presentation the CEQ discussed the permissions needed to implement this project, data on past goose oiling efforts in the area, and the precautions that will be taken to prevent potential disease transmittal.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion made a motion to recommend that the proposed project be classified as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration with a Negative Declaration. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Carpenter. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

None

Other Business:

2022 CEQ Agricultural District Review Preparation

The CEQ discussed this year's upcoming New York State Agricultural and Markets Agricultural District Open Enrollment Period for the inclusion of parcels into an existing certified agricultural district and the CEQ's role in making SEQRA recommendations for the Ag District inclusion applications. It was noted by the Mr. Gulbransen that this discussion is meant as an open discussion for the CEQ to share their perspectives on the CEQ's role in the SEQRA review of the Ag District inclusion applications. Some of the topics discussed included:

- the Ag District program and its potential implications on local municipalities zoning and regulatory powers.
- the details and the implications of the Ag District Program
- the upcoming April 21, 2022 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Meeting and the possibility that a limited number of CEQ members may wish to attend this meeting.
- Suffolk County Planning's request for information from other Counties in New York State regarding their SEQRA review process for Ag District inclusion applications. It was discussed that in response to Suffolk County Planning's request, numerous Counties provided information regarding their SEQRA review process. It was also noted that the SC Planning Staff and the CEQ Chair and Vice Chair had a discussion with a representative from Westchester County Planning Department regarding Westchester County's SEQRA review process for Ag District inclusion applications.
- that legal guidance for the CEQ has been requested from the Suffolk County Department of Law. It was noted that this legal guidance was requested to be provided to the CEQ prior to March 31, 2022.
- At the end of the discussion the Chair thanked the CEQ members for the discussion and noted that we will put this discussion item on the CEQ Agenda again next month.

CAC Concerns:

None

The CEQ adjourned the Meeting