

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: July 13, 2022
TIME: 9:34 AM – 10:47AM
LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Thomas Gulbransen, Chair
Anthony Graves
Constance Kepert
Herbert Strobel

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning
Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner
John Corral, Environmental Projects Coordinator
Christine DeSalvo, Principal Office Assistant
Jennifer Kohn, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law

GUESTS:

Hon. Al Krupski, Suffolk County Legislator, District 1

Gwynn Schroeder, Legislative Aide, Suffolk County Legislator Hon. Krupski, District 1

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

Kyle Swaringen, Principal Civil Engineer Director Bridges & Structures Engineering, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Kevin Mathers, Senior Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Bill Nyman, Hardesty & Hanover Engineering

Stephen Holley, Senior Vice President Environmental and Transportation Planning, AKRF Environmental Engineering

Silvio Garcia, AKRF

Hon. Nick Caracappa, Suffolk County Legislator, District 4

Michael Maraviglia, Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Kathy Eiseman AICP, Partner Nelson Pope Voorhis

Kevin Lee

Chair Tom Gulbransen was unable to attend CEQ meeting. CEQ Vice-Chair Michael Kaufman read the following opening Meeting statement and conducted the meeting:

“This is the regularly scheduled CEQ meeting for July 13, 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:

June 8, 2022 Meeting Summary

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. De Rubeis to approve the June 8, 2022 CEQ minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carpenter. Legislator Piccirillo abstained. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

John Corral, staff to the CEQ, noted that there was no correspondence this month.

Public Portion:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services with Suffolk County Parks, noted that the Parks Housing Committee recently reviewed four vacant parks housing units and agreed on rents for these units. These properties were then advertised to the Parks Department employees and an employee expressed interest in renting the Cottage at the Indian Island Golf Course. The other three vacant properties (two houses at Blydenburgh County Park and a cottage at Meadow Croft in West Sayville) did not receive interest from Parks employees and will now be advertised to all County employees.

Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Richard Martin, noted that IR 1455-2022 (which is on the June 7, 2022 LADS Report) is a custodial agreement with the W.S. Commerdinger Jr. County Park Preservation Society that is moving forward. This would be a new contract for a period of 20 years for the management and stewardship of the W.S. Commerdinger Jr. County Park.

Also, IR 1466-2022 (which is on the June 7, 2022 LADS Report) is a custodial agreement with the Long Island Maritime Museum Inc. operating within the Charles R. Dominy County Park in West Sayville that is also moving forward. This would be a new 20 years agreement for the management and maintenance of the operated Museum buildings.

Mr. Martin also reported that the new Navy Seal Museum in the Charles R. Dominy County Park West Sayville had its grand opening celebration on June 28, 2022.

Project Review:

Recommended Type I Actions:

- A. Proposed Revised Replacement of the Smith Point Bridge and Associated Approach Roadways Project, Town of Brookhaven

Kyle Swaringen, Director of Bridges & Structures Engineering with Suffolk County Department of Public Works and Bill Nyman, Hardesty & Hanover Engineering gave a presentation regarding the revised replacement of the Smith Point Bridge project.

The proposed was initiated in 2016 as a bridge replacement to address major structural and operational deficiencies and other nonstandard features. In 2016, Suffolk County conducted a SEQRA review for the original Smith Point Bridge replacement project and as SEQRA Lead Agency issued a SEQRA Negative Declaration for the original project via Suffolk County Resolution 660-2016.

The proposed revisions to the original project include: the bridge piers will be “T” shaped instead of “U” shaped, the bridge will be one foot wider and the two originally proposed sidewalks will be replaced with one 12 foot wide protected Shared Use Path. The project revisions also include the addition of a fishing pier to be located on the north “mainland” side of the bridge to the west of the new bridge piers as well as some new identified staging areas within the Suffolk County Marina.

Consistent with the original project, the proposed replacement bridge will be a fixed level bridge constructed on a new alignment located west of the existing bridge. Also consistent with the original project, after construction of the new bridge is completed the existing bridge will be removed thereby maintaining continuous access to Smith Point County Park.

After the project presentation the CEQ discussed:

- the wetland restoration mitigations in connection with the project.
- the construction blasting that will be used. It was clarified that the construction blasting will take place at the end of the project during the demolition phase and will be limited to the deep water portion of the old bridge (most likely the bascule piers). It was also discussed that the applicable regulatory agencies will determine the proper seasonal windows when this blasting can take place in order to protect the marine habitat.
- It was also discussed that during the initial planning of this bridge process the use of solar panels was mentioned. The project sponsors noted that the use of solar panels for this project was determined not to be feasible due to potential complications due to the marine environment where the bridge is located.

After the above discussion, Mr. De Rubeis made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed revised replacement of the Smith Point Bridge County Park Project as a Type I Action with a Negative Declaration. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 7, 2022 and June 22, 2022

After a brief discussion on the June 7, 2022 resolutions, Mr. De Rubeis made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 7, 2022. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carried.

After a brief discussion on the June 22, 2022 resolutions, Mr. Carpenter made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 22, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Haubner. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan

This CEQ review included a presentation on the Blueway Trail Plan by Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning and Kathy Eiseman with Nelson, Pope & Voorhis. The Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan was developed by the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning under a New York State Department of State (NYS DOS) grant provided under the State's Environmental Protection Fund (EDF).

This Blueway Trail Plan seeks to create a route for nonmotorized boats along a waterway that combines recreation and environmental awareness while linking communities and land-based attractions. The Blue Trail Plan included an inventory and analysis of approximately 250 possible nonmotorized boat launch sites in Suffolk County and through a public process that is outlined in the Plan, selected 20 priority sites. Individual "Project Profiles" were then created for each site which include launch site information as well as recommended physical improvements. While the Plan makes launch site improvement recommendations, no site improvements are authorized and any physical site improvements work will require future County and/or local municipality review and authorization.

After the presentation and CEQ discussion, Mr. De Rubeis made a motion to advise the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning that the Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan is a Type II Action. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CAC Concerns:

None

The CEQ adjourned the Meeting