

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: November 9, 2022
TIME: 9:31 AM – 10:56 AM
LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference

PRESENT:

Frank De Rubeis
Anthony Graves
Thomas Gulbransen, Chair
Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair
Rob Carpenter Jr
Mary Ann Spencer
Herbert Strobel

ABSENT:

Mark Haubner
Kaetlyn Jackson
Hon. Anthony Piccirillo

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Sarah Lansdale, Commissioner, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco Dev and Planning
Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco Dev and Planning
John Corral, Environmental Projects Coordinator, SC Dept of Eco Dev and Planning
Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Departments of Parks,
Recreation and Conservation
Jennifer Kohn, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law

GUESTS:

Christopher Gonzalez, Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County Economic Development & Planning

Tom Iwanejko, Director Vector Control Suffolk County Department of Health

Josh Smith, Airport Manager, Suffolk County Gabreski Airport

James DeKoning, Professional Engineer with L.K. McLean Associates

Kim Lamiroult

Daniel Segel, Suffolk County Economic Development and Planning

Daniel Moses

Gwynn Schroeder, Legislative Aide, Hon. Al Krupski, District 1

Moses Cucura, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Seryor Sow, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Hon. Stephanie Bontempi, Suffolk County Legislator, District 10

CEQ Chair, Tom Gulbransen, read the following opening Meeting statement:

“This is the regularly scheduled CEQ meeting for November 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:

Mr. Corral noted that CEQ Staff was unable to complete the August 10, 2022 Meeting Summary, August 24, 2022 Special Meeting Summary and September 28, 2022 and asked that the minutes be tabled until the December 14, 2022 CEQ meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to table the meeting summaries for August 10, 2022, August 24, 2022 and September 28, 2022 until the December 14, 2022 CEQ meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strobel. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

The CEQ acknowledged receipt of the November 9, 2022 New York State Department of Conservation (NYSDEC) correspondence on the Proposed Gabreski Airport Tower

Replacement Project. The CEQ noted that they will discuss this correspondence in further detail during the CEQ review of the project.

It was also noted that CEQ staff received a correspondence from New York State Pine Barrens Commission staff noting the Pine Barrens Commission would not be able to provide comments on the Gabreski Airport Tower Replacement Project until its meeting on November 16, 2022 which is after the CEQ meeting. The CEQ noted that the CEQ would discuss this with the Joshua Smith, the Gabreski Airport Director during the project review portion of the meeting.

Mr. Gulbransen also noted the correspondence that was received by CEQ Member, Kaitlyn Jackson, who could not attend today's meeting. Mr. Gulbransen said that the correspondence was in regards to the CR 39 project and would be discussed in further detail during the CR 39 project review.

Public Portion:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services with Suffolk County Parks

Mr. Martin informed the CEQ that Suffolk County Parks currently has three housing vacancies. Mr. Martin noted that the County is rehabilitating these residences and they then will be reappraised. The Parks Housing Committee will then review the appraisals and make its recommendations to the Parks Commissioner. The housing properties will then be made available for rental.

Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin noted that he had no new updates on the custodial agreements.

Mr. Martin mentioned that the Big Duck lighting ceremony will take place on November 30th, 2022.

Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair of the CEQ, asked Mr. Martin to provide the CEQ with an update on the work that is taking place at Coindre Hall. Mr. Martin updated the CEQ on the work that is taking place on the seawall. Mr. Martin also noted that the Parks Department understands that before a new project is formally started at Coindre Hall the project would need to be brought to the CEQ/Historic Trust for review.

Project Review:

Recommended Type I Actions:

- A. Proposed Air Traffic Control Tower Replacement Project at Suffolk County Gabreski Airport, Town of Southampton.

Joshua Smith, Airport Manager for Suffolk County Gabreski Airport, requested that the Proposed Air Traffic Control Tower Replacement Project at Suffolk County Gabreski Airport be tabled until the December 14, 2022 CEQ meeting. This tabling request was made to provide the New York State Central Pine Barrens Commission with additional time to review and provide project comments. The Pine Barrens Commission staff had informed CEQ staff that the Pine Barrens Commission would not be able to provide project comments to Suffolk County until after its November 16, 2022 Pine Barrens Commission meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to table the CEQ review of the Proposed Air Traffic Control Tower Replacement Project at Gabreski Airport until the next regularly scheduled CEQ meeting on December 14, 2022. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Pedestrian Safety Improvements to CR39, North Road, from the vicinity of Boathouse Rd. to Tuckahoe Rd., Town of Southampton.

A presentation regarding the proposed Pedestrian Safety Improvements to County Road 39 (CR 39), North Road, from the vicinity of Boathouse Rd. to Tuckahoe Rd. was given at the meeting by Erik Bergey, Senior Civil Engineer with Suffolk County Department of Public Works and James DeKoning, Professional Engineer with L.K. McLean Associates.

The proposed project involves the construction of new and improved existing pedestrian facilities on both sides of County Road 39 (CR 39), North Road, from the Vicinity of Boathouse Road to Tuckahoe Road in the Town of Southampton. Existing sidewalk is limited within this highly used CR 39 project corridor and this project will result in new or improved sidewalks on both sides of the roadway.

The proposed project also includes new 4 inch mountable curb installation, installation of imprinted concrete retaining walls (not exceeding approximately 3 feet in height) as needed due to existing steep slopes adjacent to the roadway, drainage improvements, intersection improvements at Tuckahoe Road and the installation of signing and pavement markings. The proposed project also includes ancillary work to be performed by various utility companies, which may include relocating overhead electric,

underground and/or overhead telephone/communications and underground gas, water infrastructure as necessary, to construct the road improvements proposed by this project.

As part of its project review the CEQ discussed the concern with having the sidewalk directly adjacent to the roadway without a buffer. The project sponsors noted the very limited room that exists in the road right-of-way to add sidewalks. The project sponsors also noted the current high pedestrian activity and the great need to improve safety conditions on this existing roadway. The CEQ discussed that while these proposed improvements, while not what would be recommended if you were planning a new roadway, are important for this location in these circumstances and will result in improved safety conditions along this road corridor.

The CEQ also discussed the need for the County to closely coordinate with the Town to insure proper sidewalk maintenance especially for snow removal from the sidewalks. The CEQ also discussed CEQ Member Kaitlyn Jackson's comments regarding considering pervious pavement and using natural drainage systems. The project sponsors noted that they considered these comments but because of the very high traffic that exists on this corridor the additional maintenance work that may be required due to the use of pervious pavement would be very problematic in this location.

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. Carpenter. Motion Carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations Type II Actions:

A. Proposed 2023 Vector Control Annual Plan of Work

A presentation regarding the proposed action was given at the meeting by Tom Iwanejko, Director of Vector Control with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works.

The proposed action involves the implementation of the 2023 Vector Control Annual Plan of Work by the Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Division of Vector Control, to control mosquito infestations that significantly threaten public health. To achieve this goal, the Division employs an integrated control program. Control measures are employed in a hierarchical manner that emphasizes prevention. Control first proceeds from surveillance and more permanent "environmentally friendly" measures such as water management and biological control, then through the use of highly specific larvicides and finally, the use of chemicals such as adulticides only after other measures prove to be either insufficient or not feasible. Only pesticides that are federally and New York State registered and approved for mosquito control will be used.

The 2023 Vector Control Annual Plan of Work includes continued planning and design of a County wide tick control plan, tick surveillance and information collection, outreach, technical assistance and small scale tick control trials. The CEQ discussed the high prevalence of tick related human diseases that occur in Suffolk County and the importance of developing a tick control plan.

It was also discussed that due to The 2023 Vector Control Annual Plan to the ransomware attack on the Suffolk County computer systems, sections of the 2023 Vector Control Annual Plan of Work concerning 2022 total pesticide use and mosquito population summaries will be updated once Suffolk County Vector control staff has access to the database server to complete entry of the 2022 records. Suffolk County Vector Control noted that they would provide the CEQ with these numbers as soon as they are available.

After the above noted CEQ discussion, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend that the proposed action be classified as a Type II Action with no further SEQR compliance required pursuant to Title 6 NYCRR Part 617.10(d)(1) as the proposed action will be carried out in conformance with the conditions and thresholds established by the Suffolk County Vector Control & Wetlands Management Long Term Plan's Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement and associated Finding Statement and as a result no further SEQRA compliance is required. The Motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Motion Carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table October 11, 2022

After a brief discussion, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table October 11, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Motion carried.

Other Business:

None

CAC Concerns:

None

The CEQ adjourned the Meeting