

# 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 12, 2023  
TIME: 9:34 AM – 10:38 AM  
LOCATION: Microsoft Teams meeting

**PRESENT:**

Rob Carpenter Jr  
Frank De Rubeis  
Thomas Gulbransen, Chair  
Mark Haubner  
Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair  
Dawn-Marie Kuhn, Hon. Anthony Piccirillo's Designee  
Mary Ann Spencer  
Herbert Strobel

**ABSENT:**

Anthony Graves

**CAC REPRESENTATIVES:**

None

**STAFF:**

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning  
John Corral, Environmental Projects Coordinator, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning  
Elisa Picca, Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning  
Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Departments of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Maria Nida, Asst. County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law

**GUESTS:**

Nick Gibbons, Chief Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Departments of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Ben Wright, Principal Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Janice McGovern, Chief Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Dereck Stein, Legislative Aide, Legislator Krupski, District #1

Peter Hans, Director of Planning, Town of Smithtown

David Barnes, Environmental Protection Director, Town of Smithtown

Lisa Rickmers, Senior Environmental Planner, H2M

Greg Levasseur, H2M

Tom Schaefer, D&B Engineering & Architects

Meredith Byers, D&B Engineering & Architects

Allyson Murray, Principal Planner, Town of Smithtown

Casey Blumberg

Desiree Benn, President of the Coindre Park Community

Jennifer Juengst

Mandy Yau

Michael Kaufman, the CEQ Vice-Chair, called the July 12, 2023 CEQ Meeting to order. Mr. Kaufman stated that a quorum was present and that Tom Gulbransen, the CEQ Chair, was going to be running late and would join the CEQ Meeting shortly. Mr. Kaufman noted that as Vice-Chair he will be running the Meeting and then read the following opening statement:

*“This is the regularly scheduled CEQ meeting for July 12, 2023 meeting of the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality and for the record we do have a quorum present.*

*In accordance with Suffolk County Local Law No. 26-2021, the CEQ, as an Advisory Body to the Legislature, will hold this meeting electronically via Microsoft Teams. 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. Public comments may be provided during the Meeting’s public portion. We will be using Microsoft Teams and will be recording the entirety of the meeting. The minutes of the meeting will also be posted on the Suffolk County CEQ website.*

*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:**

- Meeting Summaries May 10, 2023 and June 13, 2023

Mr. Kaufman noted that the Meeting Summaries are still being prepared and were not available for review. Mr. Kaufman noted that the Meeting Summaries for the May 10,

2023 and June 13, 2023 CEQ meetings will be reviewed at the August 9, 2023 CEQ meeting.

**Correspondence:**

Mr. Kaufman noted that one correspondence from Desiree Benn had been received and was circulated to the CEQ. Mr. Kaufman noted the CEQ also received information that Ms. Benn wishes to speak at today's Public Portion.

**Public Portion:**

Desiree Benn, President of the Coindre Park Community, spoke in regards Suffolk County's Coindre Hall Park. Ms. Benn voiced her concern over the environmental review that had been conducted for the work that is taking place in connection with the Coindre Hall Boathouse restoration. Ms. Benn also voiced her concern regarding the permitted usage of the Suffolk County Coindre Hall Park.

**Historic Trust Docket:**

Director's Report:

Updates on Housing Program for Historic Trust Sites:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services with Suffolk County Parks, provided the CEQ with an update on the Housing Program. Mr. Martin informed the CEQ that there is currently only one housing vacancy. The vacancy is a house located at Cedar Point County Park. Mr. Martin noted that this house is currently being renovated. After the renovation, the Suffolk County Housing Committee will review the property and make a recommendation regarding the appropriate rental rate for the house.

Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin noted that he did not have any new updates regarding the custodial agreements.

Mr. Martin also updated the CEQ on the work taking place at Coindre Hall. Mr. Martin noted that the project to restore the seawall has been completed. Mr. Martin also noted that Suffolk County Department of Public Works is starting planning work for the restoration of the existing pier. Mr. Martin noted that this project will be brought to the CEQ for review when the design plans are prepared.

**Project Review:**

**Recommended Type I Actions:**

- A. Proposed Smithtown Downtown Sewering Project – Extension to Suffolk County Sewer District #6, Town of Smithtown

A presentation regarding the proposed Downtown Smithtown Sewering Project – Extension to Suffolk County Sewer District # 6 was given by Ben Wright, Principal Engineer with Suffolk County Department of Public Works and Lisa Rickmer, Senior Environmental Planner with H2M.

The project presentation included an overview of the proposed project. As part of this overview Mr. Wright noted that in 2022 the CEQ conducted a SEQRA review related to the acquisition of the land for the proposed recharge basin. The County’s SEQRA determination for the land acquisition stated that the County would conduct an additional review for the overall Downtown Sewering Project which is the SEQRA review that is before the CEQ today.

As described in the presentation the proposed project involves the Sewering of Downtown Smithtown/Village of the Branch and the sewer extension to Suffolk County Sewer District # 6. The construction work associated with the proposed project will occur at four localized sites and the connecting sewer line will occur within existing State and local right-of-way. These four localized sites are referred to in the Project Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) as the following: Recharge Basin Site; Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Site; Pump Station Site and Proposed Sewered Area.

The Proposed Sewered Area which includes downtown Smithtown/Village of the Branch will be connected to the Kings Park STP site via pump stations and force mains. The Kings Park STP currently has a 0.6 million gallons per day capacity and the proposed project will expand the STP by 0.6 million gallons per day to 1.2 million gallons per day to treat the project flow from the sewer district expansion.

The Kings Park STP currently discharges to Smithtown Bay but due to current disposal nitrogen limitations additional treated wastewater above the regulatory nitrogen limits will need to be discharged inland at the proposed recharge basin site. Please see the Project EAF for additional details on the proposed project.

The project presentation also addressed some of the key environmental considerations and reasons why it is anticipated that the proposed project would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. As part of this review, the CEQ discussed the anticipated nitrogen reductions that will result for the Nissequogue River. The CEQ also discussed the proposed crossing of the

Nissequogue River which is proposed to be conducted via an aerial crossing by connecting the sewer line to the underside of the New York State Route 25 overpass. It was discussed how this proposed aerial crossing will limit disturbance to the river.

After the above discussion, Mr. Gulbransen made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed project as a Type I Action with a Negative Declaration. Mr. Haubner seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. De Rubeis recused.

### **Project Review:**

#### **Recommended Unlisted Actions:**

- A. Proposed Huntington Station Hub Sewering Project – Extension to Suffolk County Sewer District #3, Town of Huntington

A presentation regarding the proposed Huntington Station Hub Sewering Project – Extension to Suffolk County Sewer District #3 was given by Ben Wright, Principal Engineer with Suffolk County Department of Public Works and Tom Schaefer with D & B Engineering & Architects.

The proposed project, which is a partnership between Suffolk County Department of Public Works and the Town of Huntington, involves the Sewering of the Huntington Station Hub and the sewer extension to Suffolk County Sewer District #3. The proposed project involves the proposed Huntington Station Hub proposed sewer district expansion area and the connection to Suffolk County Sewer District # 3 via pump stations, force mains and gravity mains.

The proposed Huntington Station Hub sewer area is located to the south of the Long Island Rail Road's Huntington Station with the majority of the properties located along New York Avenue (New York State Route 110). The location of the proposed Huntington Station Hub sewer district expansion and the proposed sewer line connection to the Suffolk County Sewer District # 3 is shown in the EAF.

The Bergen Point STP has sufficient capacity to accept the additional flow from the Huntington Station Hub sewer area and no upgrades are expected for the Plant as a result of this project. Current sewage disposal in the Huntington Station Hub (HSH) Sewer Area is handled by on-site treatment systems (cesspools and septic tanks) and the connection to the Bergen Point STP will result in improvements to groundwater via a reduction in contaminants and nitrogen discharged to groundwater. Please see the Project EAF for additional details on the proposed project.

As part of the CEQ review the CEQ asked about potential impacts to groundwater and if there is potential for groundwater drawdown and/or saltwater intrusion related impacts. In response to this question, the H2M project consultant indicated that based on the magnitude of the project's wastewater flow to the Bergen Point STP and a comparison to model analysis done for the Central Islip Sewer Connection project that had a similar magnitude of wastewater flow to the Bergen Point STP it is not anticipated that this project will result in significant impacts to groundwater in terms of groundwater drawdown and/or salt water intrusion related impacts.

The CEQ discussed the fact that the majority of the proposed sewer district expansion area is located within a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation designated Potential Environmental Justice Area. The CEQ also discussed that the proposed project is anticipated to have beneficial impacts by allowing for the treatment of wastewater and allowing for the revitalization of the downtown Huntington Station area in accordance with Town of Huntington land use approvals.

After the above discussion, Mr. De Rubeis made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. Mr. Gulbransen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Project Review:**  
**Recommendations for LADS Report:**

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 21, 2023

After a brief discussion, Mr. De Rubeis made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 21, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carpenter. Motion carried.

**Other Business:**

None

**CAC Concerns:**

None

The CEQ adjourned the Meeting