

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: February 8, 2023
TIME: 9:32 AM – 11:00 AM
LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Anthony Graves

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Sarah Lansdale, Commissioner, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning
Elisa Picca, Deputy 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, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning
Christine DeSalvo, Administrative Assistant, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning
Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Departments of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Jennifer Kohn, Asst. County Attorney, Suffolk County Attorney's Office

GUESTS:

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

Kyle Swaringen P.E., Director of Bridges & Structures Engineering, Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works

Bill Dugary, Gannet and Fleming

Leslie Mesnick, The Calladium Group

Ulises Arteag, Long Island Rail Road

Joe Holzap, Long Island Rail Road

Tom Shen, Long Island Rail Road

Kimberly Lamiroult, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Thomas Houghton P.E., Town Engineer, Town of Southampton

Patty Walsh, Legislative Aide, Suffolk County Legislator Trish Bergin, 10th District

Michael Iasilli, Legislative Aide, Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming, 2nd District

Desiree Benn, President of Coindre Hall Park Community

David Jakim

Dale Gifford

Richard Valentin

Dawn Carroll

Catlin Curry

CEQ Chair Tom Gulbransen read the following opening Meeting statement:

“This is the regularly scheduled CEQ meeting for February 8, 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 Zoom. 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 ZOOM 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:

- January 11, 2023 Meeting Summary

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. De Rubeis to approve the January 11, 2023 CEQ minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried. Mr. Strobel abstained.

Correspondence:

John Corral, Staff to the CEQ, noted that the CEQ had received two written forms of correspondence and that both of these correspondence had been provided to the CEQ members. The first correspondence was a January 12, 2023 email correspondence from Desiree Benn, President of Coindre Hall Park Community, requesting that the CEQ recommended the lower 5 acres of Coindre Hall into the Nature Preserve. The second correspondence was a January 16, 2023 email correspondence from Beth Finger supporting the Coindre Hall Park Community's request to place the lower 5 acres of the Coindre Hall property into the Nature Preserve.

Public Portion:

The following speakers provided public comments to the CEQ members:

- Desiree Benn, President of Coindre Hall Park Community, provided public comments to the CEQ. Ms. Benn spoke in support of designating the lower 5 acres of the Coindre Hall property as a Nature Preserve. As part of her public comments, Ms. Benn noted that her group will be providing a March 1, 2023 ecological presentation on the Coindre Hall property. Ms. Benn noted that she will provide the March 1, 2023 Zoom details to the CEQ staff after the CEQ meeting.
- David Jakim, provided public comments to the CEQ. Mr. Jakim stated that he is an Ecologist with certifications in biodiversity assessment for land use planning. Mr. Jakim summarized his findings from the two field surveys he conducted at the Coindre Hall property on September 29, 2022 and October 23, 2022. Mr. Jakim noted that his findings will be made available to the CEQ.
- Dale Gifford, provided public comments to the CEQ. Ms. Gifford noted her concern regarding the recent construction and clearing that has taking place at the Coindre Hall property. Ms. Gifford's public comments included pictures of the Coindre Hall property which depicted the effects of the recent construction work and the water ponding that has occurred near the sea wall.

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 noted that the Parks Housing Committee will hold a meeting on March 9, 2023 to review the appraisals for four housing vacancies that include a property at Southaven County Park, a property at Old River Road in Manorville, a property on River Road in Manorville and a property at Cedar Point County Park. The Parks Housing Committee will then make its recommendations to the Parks Commissioner.

Mr. Martin also noted that there are four related resolutions that are on the February 1, 2023 LADS Report which include IR 1069-2023, 1070-2023, 1071-2023 and 1073-2023 which will authorize the rental agreements for these four rental housing properties. Mr. Martin noted that no actions will be taken at the Legislature on these resolutions until after the Housing Committee meets.

Mr. Martin also provided the CEQ with information on IR 1055-2023 which is on the February 1, 2023 LADS report. This resolution will appropriate an additional 600,000 dollars to the existing fund for the Coindre Hall site. This funding is for the whole 30 acres site including the main house and the boat house. Mr. Martin noted that this money is anticipated to be used for the restoration of the gym roof and for the planned work at the boat house. Mr. Martin noted that this resolution is an annual allotment of funds for the site to continue work that has already been planned.

Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

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

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Replacement of County Road 80 (CR 80) Montauk Highway Bridge over Long Island Rail Road (Hampton Bays Overpass), Town of Southampton

Kyle Swaringen, P.E., Director of Bridges & Structures Engineering with Suffolk County Department of Public Works and Bill Dugary, P.E., Bridge Engineer and Project Manager with Gannet and Fleming gave a presentation on the proposed project.

The CR 80 Hampton Bays Overpass Bridge is jointly owned by Suffolk County and the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) per New York State Railroad Law. The proposed project

will replace the existing Hampton Bays Overpass along Montauk Highway (CR 80) with a new three-sided precast concrete bridge arch structure with a 50' span over the LIRR track. The roadway will be reestablished over the concrete bridge arch structure with no change to the horizontal or vertical alignment of CR 80. The proposed new bridge will increase the width of the sidewalk on the south side of the road from 4 feet to the 5 foot minimum standard and will increase the vertical clearance over the LIRR tracks from 16 feet 8 inches to 18 feet.

The existing bridge framing does not allow for staged demolition resulting in a need for a detour around the CR 80 project site during demolition and replacement. Approximately 8 months of initial work and substructure construction will take place prior to bridge demolition to reduce the overall detour duration. The detour duration is expected to be 8-10 months with the goal of avoiding impacts during the busier summer month. The proposed detour would utilize Ponquogue Avenue, Fanning Avenue and Canoe Place along the detour route and will include temporary traffic signals. Full closure of CR 80 will be limited to the project site with local traffic able to utilize the adjacent intersections with Old Riverhead Road and Gravel Hill Road.

This proposed project may also include 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 proposed project.

After the project presentation the CEQ members discussed the proposed detour and the potential traffic impacts that will take place due to this detour. The CEQ noted the difficult traffic conditions that already exist in this area and how it is particularly important to carefully consider how the traffic detour is designed and implemented. The CEQ also heard comments from Thomas Houghton P.E., Town Engineer with the Town of Southampton. Mr. Houghton spoke regarding the importance of the replacement of the bridge as well as on his concerns regarding the traffic impacts that will result from the proposed project. Mr. Houghton noted that the Town has a lot of comments on the best way to implement the Traffic Mitigation Plan. Mr. Houghton also stated that it is very important that the Suffolk County work closely with the Town of Southampton and that the Town's input into this Traffic Plan should be required.

After the above noted CEQ discussion, Mr. De Rubeis made a motion to recommend that the proposed Replacement of County Road 80 (CR 80) Montauk Highway Bridge over Long Island Rail Road (Hampton Bays Overpass) be classified as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion included the requirement that Suffolk County will coordinate with the Town of Southampton to develop a Project Traffic Mitigation Plan, which includes vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, that is suitable to both the Town of Southampton and Suffolk County. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Strobel. Motion Carried. Mr. Kaufman and Legislator Piccirillo voted No.

Project Review:
Recommendations for LADS Report:

- Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table February 1, 2023

Mr. Corral, noted that on this LADS report there are Historic Trust related resolutions that Mr. Martin had noted earlier in the meeting. Mr. Corral also noted that there is a resolution on the LADS report related to accepting a grant for planning and design for regional multi-hub project by Ronkonkoma Train Station and the Town of Islip Airport. Mr. Corral noted that the CEQ did not note a SEQRA issue with this resolution but wanted to insure that the CEQ was aware of this resolution.

After CEQ discussion on the February 1, 2023 resolutions, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table February 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carpenter. Motion carried. Legislator Piccirillo voted No.

Other Business:

None

CAC Concerns:

None

The CEQ adjourned the Meeting