

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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

Gloria Russo
Chairperson
CEQ

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: November 16, 2016

TIME: 9:35 am – 11:20 am

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 2nd Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair

Robert Carpenter Jr.

Frank De Rubeis

Michael Doall

Eva Growney

Constance Kepert

Mary Ann Spencer

Hon. Al Krupski

ABSENT:

Gloria Russo, Chair

Thomas Gulbransen

Hon. Kara Hahn

Larry Swanson

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner

John Corral, Senior Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS:

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

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

Lauretta Fischer, Chief Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Daniel Gulizio, Peconic Baykeeper

Correspondence:

None

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions: (Taken Out of Order)

- A. Proposed Acquisition of Land Under the New Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program – Open Space Component and the Old Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program – Brushes Creek Addition – for the Capital Asset Retirement Fund, LLC and Tristate Capital Holdings, LLC Property, Town of Southold.

Lauretta Fischer, Chief Environmental Analyst for the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment, gave a presentation to the CEQ. The project involves the acquisition of 0.67 acre parcel, identified by Suffolk County Tax Map number 1000-127.00-08.00-017.002, to be dedicated to Suffolk County Parks in order to assure it remain in open space for passive recreational use. The 0.67 acre parcel is part of an assemblage of six parcels being acquired as part of the overall 25.87 acre Brushes Creek acquisition. The other five parcels are Master List parcels for which Suffolk County has previously issued a SEQRA Negative Declaration in connection with the parcels' future acquisition for open space purposes.

Mr. De Rubeis made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Legislator Krupski. Motion carries.

Minutes:

The minutes for the October 19, 2016, CEQ were tabled until the December 14, 2016 CEQ meeting.

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Mr. Martin updated the Council on the following:

- **Housing Program:**
Mr. Martin noted that Suffolk County Parks is continuing to work on the interior renovations at Blydenburgh Cottage in Blydenburgh County Park. Once finished with the improvements the property will be reappraised for a new rental rate. Mr. Martin also noted that the tenant moved out of the property at 300 Old River Road in Manorville and Parks will be renovating this property before it is rented again to a new tenant in the early spring.
- **Custodial Agreements:**
There were no new updates on the custodial agreements.

Mr. Martin informed the Council that the Big Duck lighting in Flanders will take place on November 30, 2016 at 7 p.m.. He reminded everyone that the Big Duck is owned by Suffolk County and is likely the most famous County landmark.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table November 9, 2016.

Mr. Corral noted that the staff's SEQRA recommendations are listed on the November 9, 2016 LADS reports. Mr. Corral also noted that CEQ staff has been working with the Suffolk County Department of Public Work on Introductory Resolution 1968-2016 which is for the rehabilitation of Guggenheim Lake. Mr. Corral explained that the Department of Public Works is working with the hired consultant to prepare an EAF for this project and that it will be submitted to the CEQ for their review. As a result, Mr. Corral noted that the recommendation on the LADS report next to IR 1968-2016 is to submit an EAF to CEQ for review.

Mr. Carpenter made a motion to accept staff recommendations for the November 9, 2016 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommended Type I Actions:

- A. Proposed Adoption of Suffolk County Resolution, "Accepting the Comprehensive Master Plan for the Yaphank County Complex", Town of Brookhaven

Josh Slaughter Legislative Aide for Legislator Kate Browning gave a presentation regarding the Master Plan for the Yaphank County Complex. The proposed action involves the adoption of a Legislative Resolution to accept the Comprehensive Master Plan for the Yaphank County Complex which was prepared by the Yaphank County Center Planning Committee. The Comprehensive Master Plan for the Yaphank County Complex is a land use plan that was developed to provide a long term development guide for the Yaphank County Complex. The Comprehensive Master Plan for the Yaphank County Complex allows for the development of up to 30 to a maximum of 60 acres of the existing developable land (aprox. 197 acres) at the Yaphank County center for future County needs and the preservation of the remaining land. The Master Plan does not designate where the development areas should be located but does includes development guidelines to fulfill the goals of maintaining a “campus-style” design for the Yaphank County Complex, protecting the Complex’s natural resources and protecting the character of the surrounding community.

As part of its project review the CEQ discussed the following topics in detail:

- The feasibility of having solar energy production at the Yaphank County Complex. It was noted that there are possibilities for solar production at the Yaphank County Center. It was noted that solar is being considered for the County Jail roof. In addition, the Plan recommends that solar be considered on roofs and parking lots but does also allow for a maximum of 5 acres increments of solar development on the areas that have been designated for future County development use.
- Clarification that the Suffolk County Farm is not included in this Comprehensive Plan and the Plan’s recommendations do not apply to the County Farm. The CEQ also requested that the acreage and references to the County Farm should be checked and clarified to accurately represent the historic nature of the Farm and the preservation protections that are currently in place. The CEQ also felt that the Plan’s reference that the County Farm may have resulted in Nitrogen impacts to the groundwater should be removed because unlike the other groundwater plums referenced in the Plan which were based on the groundwater sampling and scientific analysis this reference was speculative in nature.

Ms. Kepert made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as a Type I Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carries. Mr. Kaufman abstained from the vote.

Other Business:

The CEQ discussed the upcoming public scoping sessions for the Subwatersheds Management Plan that are scheduled for November 29, 2016 in Hauppauge and December 1, 2016 in Riverhead. Mr. Kaufman, the CEQ Vice Chair, discussed the process and how the County has conducted public scoping sessions in the past. Mr. De Rubies provided some of the comments he had on the draft scope.

Public Portion: (Taken Out of Order)

Before the end of the CEQ meeting Mr. Gulizio with the Peconic Baykeeper organization commented on the testimony that was given yesterday at the Suffolk County Legislature's Environment, Planning and Agriculture (EPA) meeting. Mr. Gulizio noted that there was testimony at the EPA Committee meeting on the Ronkonkoma Hub sewer connection project by Chris Kent, the applicant's attorney, that noted that there were two Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) done, one for the Ronkonkoma Hub development project and one for the Bergen Point Sewage Treatment Plant expansion. Mr. Gulizio noted that this was incorrect and wanted to know if the CEQ had based their SEQRA recommendation to the Legislature on this information. Mr. Kaufman, Vice Chair of the CEQ, stated that he had also testified before the EPA committee yesterday regarding the Ronkonkoma Hub sewer connection project. Mr. Kaufman noted that there was an EIS done for the Ronkonkoma Hub Project and this EIS discussed two possibilities for wastewater treatment. The plan discussed the possibility of a constructed Sewage Treatment Plant located near the project in the Town of Islip and also discussed the possibility of a connection to the Bergen Point Sewage Treatment Plant. Mr. Kaufman noted that there had also been a SEQRA review done for the Bergen Point Sewage Treatment Plant but there was not an Environmental Impact Statement done for that project. Mr. Kaufman also discussed the CEQ's recent review of the Ronkonkoma Hub sewer connection project. CEQ Staff also clarified what was discussed as part of the CEQ's SEQRA review for the Ronkonkoma Hub sewer connection project. Mr. Kaufman then noted that Mr. Guilizio's public comments have been heard by the CEQ and that he may wish to also make these comments to the Town of Brookhaven and the Suffolk County Legislature.

CAC Concerns:

None

Meeting Adjourned