

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: January 21, 2015

TIME: 9:30 am to 11:00 am

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 4th Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Gloria Russo, Chair

James Bagg, Vice-Chair

Eva Growney

Thomas Gulbransen

Larry Swanson

Michael Kaufman

Mary Ann Spencer

ABSENT:

Hon. Kara Hahn

Dan Pichney

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner

John Corral, Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS:

Amy Keyes, Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Gil Anderson, Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Paul McMahan, Principal Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Ed Schneyer, Director, Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management

Jennifer Kohn, Assistant Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law
Richard Martin, Director Historic Services, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
Nick Gibbons, Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conversation
Troy Petrignani, Intern, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning
Mark Ramber, Cameron Engineering & Associates
Mark Wagner, Principal, Cameron Engineering & Associates
Allan M. Dorman, Mayor, Village of Islandia
Tony Church, Commissioner of Parks, Village of Islandia
Joseph W. Prokop, Village Attorney, Village of Islandia
Joseph Iannucci, Village Engineer, Cashin Associates
John Pavacic, Executive Director, Central Pine Barrens Commission
Steven Hyman, Civil Engineer, H2M
Matt Moblin, Civil Engineer, H2M
Thomas Cilmi, Suffolk County Legislator 10th District

Minutes:

Minutes for the December 10, 2015 CEQ meeting were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Kaufman wanted to include in the minutes the discussion of Suffolk County's 1996 GEIS that studied the use of treated wastewater on golf courses. Staff noted that at the December, 2014 CEQ meeting the 1996 GEIS was discussed during the review of the November minutes and was also referred to during the review portion of the Riverhead sewage treatment plant effluent reuse project. The CEQ agreed to amend the minutes to reflect the 1996 GEIS discussion.

A motion was made by Ms. Growney to approve the December 10, 2015 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Mr. Corral noted that in the CEQ members' folders are a number of letters of correspondence related to the Lead Agency coordination for the the Ronkonkoma Hub proposed sewer extension project. The letters include Suffolk County's coordinated review letter for the project, a letter in response from the Village of Islandia objecting to Suffolk County being Lead Agency and requesting to be the Lead Agency for the project, and a memo from Suffolk County regarding a January 20, 2015 meeting that was held by Suffolk County in an effort to resolve the Lead Agency dispute. It was noted that at this time the Lead Agency dispute has not yet been resolved.

Public Portion:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Mr. Martin updated the Council on the following:

- **Housing Program:**
Mr. Martin stated that there are no new updates to report and that all of the housing units are occupied.
- **Custodial Agreements:**
Mr. Martin stated that there were no new updates to report.
- **Other updates:**
Mr. Martin updated the Council on the work the Suffolk County Office of Historic Services is doing with respect to National Register designations. Mr. Martin discussed a letter received from New York State indicating that the Mary Louise Booth House was put on the State Register and is going forward to be placed on the National Register. Mr. Martin also noted that he will be meeting with Jennifer Betsworth at the end of February to continue the research and review work needed to put the Old Field Farm and the Club House to the east on the National Register. These properties are already on the State Register. In addition, the Historic Trust office is working to review additional properties in the Yaphank Historic District to add to the National Register.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Ronkonkoma Hub Development Sanitary Pumping Station and Force Main Piping Systems (Sewer District #25), Town of Brookhaven, Town of Islip, and Village of Islandia

An overview of the proposed project was given by John Donovan, Chief Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Sanitation Division. Mr. Donovan noted that the project is for a pump station, a force main and gravity main to connect the Ronkonkoma Hub redevelopment project to the Southwest Sewer District. Mr. Donovan described the proposed route of the piping conveyance system and the location of the proposed pump station. It was noted that the total length of the piping conveyance system is 7 miles (6.5 miles of force main and 0.5 miles of gravity main) and would be located entirely within existing roadway right of ways. Mr. Donovan also noted that the pump station will be originally designed to handle 500,000 gallon per day for the Ronkonkoma Hub project and can be expanded to handle approximately a million gallons per day.

After Mr. Donovan's overview, Ms. Russo requested to hear from the Village of Islandia so that they could explain why they think Suffolk County should not be lead agency for this project.

Joseph Prokop, Village of Islandia Attorney, discussed the Village of Islandia's position.

Mr. Prokop noted that the Village received notice of Lead Agency status for the project on December 22, 2014 and the Village responded with an election by the Board of Trustees to adopt Lead Agency status for the project. Mr. Prokop noted that they feel that the Village is most affected by this project and are best suited to be Lead Agency. Mr. Prokop also noted that if it cannot be agreed that the Village should be Lead Agency they would make the necessary referral to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Mr. Prokop also discussed the Villages concerns which included that an extensive review of this project was done by the Town of Broohaven where it was determined to be a Type I action with a Positive Declaration and that now Suffolk County is proposing that the project is an Unlisted Action. Mr. Prokop also noted that the Village is concerned that the pipeline would travel under the Connetquot River headwaters and would also impact the Village's roadways. Mr. Prokop also voiced concern that this project would result in additional discharge to the Great South Bay. In response CEQ members noted that the discharge would be to the Atlantic Ocean not to the Bay. Ms. Russo also requested that Suffolk County explain how the pipeline would be constructed through the Connetquot River headwaters. Mr. Donovan described the County's plan to use directional drilling to place the piping below the Connetquot River.

Ms. Russo stated that she wanted the CEQ members to hear what the issues and contentions are regarding Lead Agency status but that the CEQ should wait until the Lead Agency status is determined before the project is discussed further. Ms. Russo also stated that the CEQ will table the project until the Lead Agency status for the project is determined.

B. Proposed Northeast Branch Nissequogue River Restoration Project, Town of Smithtown and Village of the Branch

A presentation on the project was given by Paul McMahon, Principal Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, and Steven Hyman, Civil Engineer, H2M. It was explained that this is the third phase of a restoration project for the Nissequogue River and that the proposed project involves streambed restoration and silt removal along a portion of the Nissequogue River located in the Town of Smithtown and in the Village of the Branch. The proposed project also includes the removal and replacement of two culverts with modern, greater capacity culverts. The action is intended to improve stream conditions and flow through this segment of the Nissequogue River and reduce flooding in areas adjacent to the River. It was noted that this project received a one million dollar grant by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and is supported by the Village of the Branch and the Town of Smithtown. In addition, the project has already received a Permit from the NYSDEC.

After the CEQ discussed the details of the project Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

C. Proposed Suffolk County Firefighter Brush Truck Training Site, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Edward Moltzen, Assistant to the Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Services. The project involves the creation of a training site for volunteer fire fighters receiving instruction in the use of brush trucks (specialized, heavy vehicles/apparatus used for traversing densely wooded areas in combating wildfires) on approximately 33 acres of Suffolk County owned land adjacent to Suffolk County Fire Academy offices in Yaphank, New York. The no-burn training site will be designed to simulate real-world conditions for firefighters navigating forest terrain and does not include the construction of structures, ground excavation or water impoundment. The training will be conducted in partnership between the Suffolk County Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Services and the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission.

After the CEQ discussed the details of the project Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried. Mr. Gulbransen recused.

After the Motion carried for the proposed Suffolk County Brush Truck Training Site Mr. Swanson asked to discuss some additional issues related to the Ronkonkoma Hub sewer connection project. The CEQ discussed some broader context issues related to the sewer connection project including the Town of Brookhaven's SEQRA review of the Ronkonkoma Hub Project, the environmental issues related to the sewer main travelling through the headwaters of the Connetquot river, whether there is available capacity at the Bergen Point Sewage Treatment Plant and whether the environmental effect of additional treated effluent to the Atlantic Ocean has been considered. Staff noted that many of these issues being discussed by the CEQ were also raised at the January 20, 2015 Lead Agency meeting and that the CEQ staff will work with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works to revise the EAF and include additional information in an expanded Part III of the EAF to address these issues.

Recommendations for LADS Report:

A. Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table December 15, 2014 and January 5, 2015

Mr. Corral noted that the Staff's SEQRA recommendations are listed on the December 15, 2014 LADS report as well as the January 5, 2015 LADS report and that none of the resolutions appear to have an issue related to their SEQRA determinations.

Mr. Corral brought to the CEQ's attention that IR 2183-2014 was the Riverhead STP effluent reuse project that the CEQ reviewed at its December meeting and that the CEQ's recommendation is included on the December 15, 2014 LADS report. Mr. Corral also

noted that that IR 1024-2015 on the January 5, 2015 LADS report is for the FRES proposed firefighter brush truck training project that the CEQ reviewed at today's meeting. Mr. Corral noted that Staff would provide the legislature with the CEQ's recommended SEQRA clauses for this resolution.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations for the December 15, 2014 and the January 5, 2015 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Election of Officers

Mr. Swanson made a motion to nominate Ms. Russo as CEQ Chair and Mr. Bagg as Vice Chair for another term. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carried.

CAC Concerns:

None

Meeting Adjourned