

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: December 10, 2014

TIME: 9:35 am to 10:45 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

Larry Swanson

Michael Kaufman

Mary Ann Spencer

ABSENT:

Thomas Gulbransen

Hon. Kara Hahn

Dan Pichney

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner

John Corral, Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation

Al Krupski, Legislator, District 1

Jill Lewis, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Riverhead

Frank Russo, V.P. Engineer, H2M

Minutes:

Minutes for the November 19, 2014 CEQ meeting were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Kaufman noted that as part of the Riverhead Sewage Treatment Plant reuse project summary the November minutes should include that in 1996 Suffolk County adopted a Generic Environmental Impact State regarding the reuse of wastewater on Suffolk County golf courses. A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to approve the November 19, 2014 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bagg. Mr. Swanson abstained. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

None

Public Portion:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Mr. Martin updated the Council on the following:

- Housing Program:
Mr. Martin stated that there were no new updates to report and that all of the units occupied.
- Custodial Agreements:
Mr. Martin stated that there were no new updates to report.

Mr. Martin noted that Suffolk County and the Yaphank Historic Society are proceeding with the restoration on the Homan House. Mr. Martin noted a lot of work has been done cleaning up the interior of the house and now the architects are drawing up plans for the restoration.

Mr. Martin noted that the Mary Booth House has been approved for the National Register. The Yaphank Historic Society went to a meeting in Albany and is looking to have additional buildings in the Historic District approved for the National Register. This recognition allows for grants and the recognition of the House.

Ms. Growney asked Mr. Martin to give a little information on Mary Booth. Mr. Martin noted that Mary Booth was the editor of Harper's Bazaar at the high point of her career. She also wrote about the history of New York City which was used as a text book in the city school system and was one of the first published comprehensive histories of New York City. In addition, Mary Booth translated French writers who supported the Union cause during the civil war. Mr. Martin noted that Mary Booth received a letter from Abraham Lincoln thanking her for her efforts. Mary Booth also worked with the

Committee that organized the building of the Statue of Liberty and had an important impact on the relationship between the United States and France.

Mr. Martin also noted that the Parks Department had a successful light of the Big Duck in Flanders. Mr. Martin noted that it is a popular event with a big turnout and media coverage. Mr. Martin noted that the event was also supported by the Town of Southampton and the Friends of the Big Duck.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Town of Riverhead and Suffolk County for Riverhead Sewage Treatment Plant Effluent Reuse, Town of Riverhead

Mr. Corral summarized what was before the CEQ and the SEQRA material that was included in the information packet that the CEQ members received. Mr. Corral noted that SEQRA was completed for the overall Riverhead Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade and that the action before the CEQ involves the SEQRA review for the Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) between the Town of Riverhead and Suffolk County what would allow the reuse of treated wastewater from the upgraded Riverhead Sewage Treatment Plant on the Indian Island Golf Course for irrigation purposes. Mr. Corral noted that the SEQRA information that the CEQ received for this IMA includes: a draft resolution highlighting what is being considered, the Part I and Part 2 of the EAF that was done by the Town of Riverhead for the reuse of wastewater on the Indian Island Golf Course, and a Part 3 that includes studies related to this proposed project and letters of support from New York State Department of Health, the Suffolk County Department of Health as well as Cornell Cooperative Extension. Also included are the Town's SEQRA coordinated review documents that were completed for the overall Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade.

Mr. Bagg asked if the Town's SEQRA review for the Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade included the reuse of wastewater on the Indian Island Golf Course. Mr. Corral noted that the reuse plan is referenced in the SEQRA that was done for the entire Sewage Treatment Plan Upgrade. Ms. Russo noted that the documents provided satisfied the concerns she had when the reuse project was first presented to the CEQ at its November Meeting. Mr. Kaufman noted that the research he has done regarding the reuse of wastewater on golf courses is viewed positively from the people he has talked to from around the Country.

Legislator Krupski noted that representatives from the Town of Riverhead are present if the CEQ has any additional questions regarding the project. Legislator Krupski noted that there has been a recent increase in shellfish in the Peconic Bay due to Town, State and County efforts to control runoff into the Peconic Estuary and due to all the local land preservation efforts to limit development and impacts to the Peconic estuary system. Mr. Kuspski noted that Riverhead is doing a great upgrade for the Sewage Treatment Plant

and the reuse of wastewater on the Indian Island County Park is a positive project for the East End of Long Island. Mr. Krupski recommended that this process should be looked into for other Suffolk County sewage treatment plants and golf courses.

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.

B. Authorizing the Town of East Hampton to utilize the Fowler House and property for Park and Historic Preservation Purposes

Mr. Corral noted that Mr. Martin made a presentation at the last CEQ meeting regarding this project and the CEQ determined that an EAF should be submitted to the CEQ and that the Project should be reviewed under SEQRA. Mr. Corral noted that the EAF has now been prepared and is before the CEQ for review.

Mr. Corral and Mr. Martin also summarized the nature of the proposed action for the CEQ noting that the project involves authorizing the Town of East Hampton to utilize the structure on the property (known as the Fowler House) and property (Suffolk County Tax Map No. 0300-162.00-01.00-010.002) for park and historic preservation purposes. The subject property was transferred to the Town of East Hampton in 2002 for affordable housing purposes. After the subject property was transferred it was determined by the Town of East Hampton that the subject parcel is not an appropriate site for affordable housing. After the subject property was transferred it was also determined that the structure on the property has historical significance and the Town of East Hampton's wishes to retain the parcel for park and historic preservation. Mr. Corral also noted that a Suffolk County Introductory Resolution (I.R. 2157-2014, Sponsored by Legislator Schneiderman) has been proposed that will authorize the Town of East Hampton to utilize the structure and property for park and historic preservation purposes provided the Town complies with certain requirements.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. Mr. Bagg stated that the CEQ resolution should include the requirements listed in I.R. 2157-2014 regarding the future use of the property as the reasons why the proposed action is a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Recommendations for LADS Report:

A. Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table November 18, 2014 and December 2, 2014

Mr. Corral noted that the Staff's SEQRA recommendations are listed on the November 18, 2014 LADS report as well as the December 2, 2014 LADS report and that none of

the resolutions appear to have an issue related to their SEQRA determinations.

Mr. Corral noted that IR 2157-2014 is the resolution regarding the Fowler House Property and that staff will notify Legislative Council regarding amending the SEQRA clause for this resolution.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations for the November 18, 2014 and the December 2, 2014 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried. Mr. Kaufman recused himself on IR 2163-2014.

Other Business:

Ms. Russo, inquired of the members if the 2015 Meeting Schedule was acceptable and there were no objections. The 2015 Meeting Schedule will be sent out accordingly.

CAC Concerns:

None

Meeting Adjourned