

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: July 17, 2013

TIME: 9:35 am to 10:40 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
Thomas Gulbransen
Hon. Kara Hahn
Michael Kaufman
Dan Pichney
Mary Ann Spencer

ABSENT:

Eva Growney
Larry Swanson

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

Joy Squires, Town of Huntington

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
Gilbert Anderson, Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Philip Berdolt, Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
John Donovan, Chief Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Ben Wright, Principal Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Jill Rosen-Nikoloff, Director Workforce Housing/Community Development, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning
Christopher Lubicich, Suffolk County Department of Health Services
Michael Pitcher, Director of Communications, Suffolk County Legislature
John Kennedy, Suffolk County Legislator, District #18
Debbie Tinnirello, Legislative Aide, District #5
Allyson Murray, Environmental Planner, Town of Smithtown

Minutes:

Minutes for the June 19, 2013 CEQ meeting were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Ms. Spencer to approve the June 19, 2013 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

The CEQ members were made aware of a CEQ letter that was sent to the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation regarding an RFP for the Master Plan at Hubbard County Park. This letter had been authorized by the CEQ at the June 19, 2013 meeting.

Public Portion:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Mr. Martin updated the Council on the following:

- Housing Program:
Mr. Martin noted that all of the County housing vacancies have been filled. The Robinson Duck Farm house was the last of the housing vacancies to be filled with a tenant moving into the location this week.

- **Custodial Agreements:**
Mr. Martin noted that there are no updates on the custodial agreements.
- **Current Events:**
Mr. Martin informed the Council that tours have been completed related to a request for interest on a new pilot program in which historic properties are adopted by a private entity and then restored. The tours took place at the first two potential properties for the pilot program, the Elwood School House in Elwood and Black Duck Lodge in Flanders. Proposals and ideas for expressions of interest are due by July 18, 2013. From these expressions of interest a formal RFP request will be sent out. Mr. Martin noted that there has been interest in this pilot program.

On the July 4th weekend Newsday ran an article regarding the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society. This was as a result of their 50th anniversary. John Hank attended the event and spent a lot of time with the volunteers. It was noted that the newspaper article helps with getting more attendance at the site.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

A. Proposed Sewer District #6 Kings Park, Sewer Extension, Town of Smithtown

Gilbert Anderson, Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, John Donovan, Chief Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works and Ben Wright, Principal Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works made a presentation on the project to the CEQ. Allyson Murray, Environmental Planner, from the Town of Smithtown was also present at the meeting to answer any questions.

Mr. Donovan discussed that the project would expand sewers to the main street Kings Park downtown area and also to the Kings Wood development which is on a failing system. The project involves the extension of the Suffolk County Sewer District #6 service area by the construction and installation of a wastewater collection and conveyance system. A pump station and force main would tie the Kings Park Central business district to the existing Kings Park sewage treatment plant.

Mr. Donovan noted that there was a feasibility study done in 2006 in which the Department of Public Works hired a consultant to see if sewers would be feasible to install in the area. The feasibility study determined that for social, economic and environmental reasons it would be beneficial to install sewers in this area. The Department of Public Works then hired an engineer to design the system. The design is about 95 percent complete. Now that a location has been identified for the pump station at the Smithtown Water District Site the Department is completing the design of the system. It was noted that the project is estimated to result in approximately 95,000 gallons a day being added to the existing Sewage

Treatment Plant and there is excess capacity at the Plant for the project. The Kings Park Treatment Plant has a capacity to handle 600,000 gallons per day and is currently treating 300,000 gallons per day. It was also noted that the Long Island Sound Study has a mass nitrogen loading requirement. It was discussed that the Plant is currently meeting this Long Island Sound Study requirement and would continue to be in conformance with this requirement after the increase flow that would result from this project.

Mr. Donovan noted that there are a lot of agencies involved with this project and a number of funding grants being made to support the project. It was discussed that the Town of Smithtown is in support of this project.

Mr. Kaufman asked a series of questions that were answered by Mr. Donovan:

Q. The additional capacity will not harm the Long Island Sound objectives, in other words the plant will still be within compliance of the Long Island Sound objectives regarding nitrogen?

A. Correct.

Q. There isn't going to be any connection with the Smithtown Central Business District?

A. That's correct.

Q. Is there going to be any connection to what they call the Uplands Project which is to the Northeast, is there any plan to pump any of the cleaned water from the STP at this time to that Upland Project?

A. No, that's not happening at this time.

Q. There isn't going to be any entry into undeveloped land or environmental sensitive land and no destruction of same?

A. Correct

Q. You said a moment ago that all construction was going in the roadbeds outside of the actual sewer areas?

A. Correct.

Q. The discharge of treated effluent will continue through the existing pipe into Smithtown Bay?

A. Correct.

Q. In your opinion is this going to improve the environment, basically for example looking at wastewater which right now goes into the groundwater component of the area, to the extent that this is going to be going into a sewage treatment plant is it the Department's opinion that the environment will be improved by this project?

A. It is our opinion that anything we can put on sewers is better than going into an onsite septic system. Onsite septic systems pretty much just have raw sewage settling out and leaching into the ground. Sewers we take that sewage and we treat it and make it a clean effluent, meeting all the DEC permits, and make it pretty much clean water. That is what will be done here and again the Kings Wood development is a classic example of having serious problems of failure and I think they have overflow backups on to their site so this would tremendously help that community.

Q. Now I'm going to ask a segmentation question. At one time there was talk about bringing the Smithtown Business District into this plan, the approximately cost of this project if that was to occur was north of 60 million dollars, are there any plans at this

- point in time to hook up to sewer treatment plant in the foreseeable future?
- A. No, the cost is tremendous that's why we are keeping the Smithtown component out of this project and there are no plans at this time to include the Smithtown Business District.

Mr. Bagg asked what approvals have to be obtained by the County before this project happens. Mr. Donovan said the NYSDEC reviews the engineering report that was sent to them, the plans and specs will have to be approved by NYSDEC. It was also noted that public hearings will have to take place for this project but that SEQRA has to be approved first.

Mr. Gulbransen and Legislator Hahn asked questions about the Nitrogen loading, the Long Island Sound Study's requirements and future development. Mr. Bagg noted that this would become a Suffolk County Sewer District and therefore applications have to go through the Sewer Agency and any hookups to the District has to go through that board and be approved by the County. Mr. Donovan also noted that in addition to being in compliance with the requirements of the Long Island Sound study that the STP has a maximum capacity of approximately 600,000 gallons per day.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion included that all necessary permits and approvals will be obtained from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and that the proposed action will be in conformance with the Long Island Sound Study. Legislator Hahn seconded the motion. Motion carries.

B. Proposed Demolition of the Bavarian Inn Building Structure, Town of Smithtown

Gil Anderson, Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, explained the Department of Public Work's proposed demolition project of the Bavarian Inn structure. Mr. Anderson noted that the Department of Public Works would be responsible for undertaking the project after securing all proper permitting from the NYSDEC and any other regulatory bodies.

Jill Rosen-Nikoloff, Director of the Division of Real Estate, noted that the County took over this property through a tax default in June, 2012.

Ms. Spencer asked if there was a long term plan for this parcel, for example is it intended to be parkland? Mr. Anderson noted that he is in charge of the demolition of the structure and does not have information on the future plan for the property. He noted that there are several plans being considered for the property at this point.

Legislator Kennedy added that there is earnest discussion about the plans for the property right now. Mr. Kennedy stated that the community wants to see it in park status and that the NYSDEC is interested in re-establishing the handicapped fishing pier.

Ms. Spencer noted the focus of her question was that it might save money to take the Inn and the parking lot pavement away together rather than separately. Mr. Anderson said they are looking at that right now. The pavement itself is a minimal cost relative to the building because the materials can be recycled. Mr. Anderson said the removal of the parking lot pavement maybe something they are required to do by NYSDEC right now but they still need to have discussion with the DEC about the project.

Mr. Bagg noted that the structure needs to be removed and the amount of parking lot pavement that is removed should be considered based on the plan for the property and then worked out by the Department of Public Works with the specification that they will get all necessary permits and approvals.

Mr. Bagg made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion included that all necessary permits and approvals will be obtained from New York State Department of Conservation prior to demolition and that the removal of any toxic and/or hazardous substances will be in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. Ms. Spencer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Recommendations for LADS Report:

A. Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 18, 2013.

Mr. Corral noted that the staff's SEQRA recommendations are listed on the LADS report but after review there were no items that staff felt were necessary to flag in terms of its SEQRA recommendations.

Mr. Kaufman noted that I.R.1560-2013 is not consistent to some degree with the Vector Control Plan and related EIS. The Council tabled its LADS Report recommendation for I.R. 1560-2013 and requested that further information be provided.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations, as amended, as presented for the June 18, 2013 Legislative Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bagg. Motion carried.

A. Recommendation for I.R. 1252-2013 (Amended):

Mr. Corral noted that I.R. 1252-2013 came before CEQ at the May CEQ meeting and the Legislator sponsor requested that discussion on this resolution be tabled. Mr. Corral also noted that I.R. 1252-2013 (amended) is the amended bill which explains the demolition of the structure and provides funding for the demolition. It was also noted that staff's SEQRA recommendation for this resolution is the same as the SEQRA recommendation that was made for the demolition of the Bavarian Inn Structure.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion included the same recommendations as for the demolition of the Bavarian Inn Structure which included that all necessary permits and approvals will be obtained from New York State Department of Conservation prior to demolition and that the removal of any toxic and/or hazardous substances will be in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. Mr. Bagg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion:

No comments were presented at this time.

CAC Concerns:

Other Business:

Meeting Adjourned.