

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVE LEVY
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

R. Lawrence Swanson
CHAIRPERSON
CEQ

Michael P. Mulé
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS
COORDINATOR

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: July 20, 2011

TIME: 9:35am to 11:00 pm

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 4th Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Larry Swanson, Chair; James Bagg, Eva Growney; Michael Kaufman; Richard Machtay,
Daniel Pichney, Mary Ann Spencer

ABSENT:

Gloria Russo, Vice Chair
Tom Gulbransen
Hon. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

Steve Brown, Town of Brookhaven

STAFF:

Michael Mulé, Environmental Projects Coordinator
Christine DeSalvo, Senior Clerk Typist

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

Sarah Lansdale, Director
Suffolk County Department of Planning
Richard Martin, Director, Historic Services
Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Nick Gibbons, Environmental Analyst
Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
Michael Pitcher, Director of Communications
Suffolk County Presiding Officer

GUESTS:

Christopher Kent, Chief Deputy Suffolk County Executive
Suffolk County
Robert Braun, Assistant County Attorney
Suffolk County Department of Law
Tom Young, Assistant County Attorney
Suffolk County Department of Law
Lauretta Fischer, Chief Environmental Analyst
Suffolk County Department of Planning
Janet Longo, Acquisition Supervisor
Suffolk County Department of Environment and Energy
Division of Real Property Acquisition and Mgmt.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Machtay to approve the June 15, 2011 minutes.
The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from the Huntington Town Supervisor regarding an easement for the installation of a gas line to the VA Hospital. The letter stated that the project has not received any expressed objections and that the Town is conducting its own SEQRA review. They don't anticipate any adverse environmental impacts and no existing park facilities would be affected.

HISTORIC TRUST DOCKET:

Richard Martin, Director, Historic Services, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation updated the Council on the following:

On Housing:

- The Stimson House at West Hills County Park is still vacant. However, two people have expressed interest and will be looking at the house in the near future.

On Custodial Agreements:

- The custodial agreement with the US Lighthouse Society at Cedar Point County Park is complete. Currently, the group is raising funds to replace the existing roof.
- The Blydenburgh Mill reconstruction project is almost complete and will probably be finished by the end of August.
- The Main House at Blydenburgh County Park is being painted and the gutters and leaders are being replaced. Work should be completed by the end of the month.
- The Yaphank Historical Society is working to open the Mary Booth house by the end of August.

LOCATION

H. LEE DENNISON BLDG. – 4TH FLOOR
100 VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. BOX 6100
HAUPPAUGE, NY 11788-0099

(631) 853-5191
fax (631) 853-4044

PROJECT REVIEW:

1. Recommended Unlisted Actions

Proposed National Grid Easement Across County of Suffolk Parkland for Gas Service to the VA Hospital, Town of Huntington

In a presentation given by Robert Braun, Assistant County Attorney with the Suffolk County Department of Law, he explained how National Grid proposes to bury a natural gas transmission line along the property line of the park in order to provide natural gas service to the VA Hospital. It was explained that this will not interfere with any existing or proposed recreational facilities as outlined in the Park Master Plan. The project will allow the VA Hospital to convert its oil burning central plant to natural gas thus offsetting 10,000 tons of CO2 emissions per year.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Growney. Motion carried.

Purposed Acquisition for Open Space Preservation Purposes Known as Beaverdam Creek County Wetlands Addition – Affenita Property, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation was given by Ms. Laretta R. Fischer, Chief Environmental Analyst with the Suffolk County Department of Planning concerning the acquisition of 0.57 acres of land in the Beaverdam Creek watershed for open space preservation purposes.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend classification as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Machtay. Motion carried.

2. Recommended Type I Actions

Proposed Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement and Statement of Findings for the Declaration as Surplus and Subsequent Sale of 250± Acres of County Owned Land in Yaphank for Mixed Use Development purposes, Town of Brookhaven

The Council discussed the two documents and requested that changes be made to the Statement of Findings to clarify the project description, better define the role of the Town in future SEQRA processes and further explain the requirements for Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the FGEIS and recommend the adoption of the Statement of Findings as amended. Ms. Growney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Recommended Type II Actions

Ratification of Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table June 21, 2011

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations. Mr. Machtay seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- The Council was notified of the July 26th, 2011 Public Scoping Hearing on the Suffolk County Sewer District Capacity Study EIS which is to be held in Brookhaven Town Hall at 6:30 p.m..
- The Council was notified of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Cell Tower hearing that was to be held on July 20th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vanderbilt Museum. A discussion on the topic followed.

CAC CONCERNS:

- Steven Brown wanted to know if the County eliminated the discharge from the pipe at Old Field Farm County Park that was discharging into West Meadow Creek. Nick Gibbons indicated that he did not know if the pipe had been removed but knew that the Town of Brookhaven had initiated some corrective action in elevating the road at the entrance to Old Field Farm. He went on to state that the Suffolk County Parks Department addressed the flooding issue at the entrance to the park that resulted from the recent road reconstruction.
- Steve Brown referenced the grant that the Town of Brookhaven received to remove Pepper Weed on both the Town and County property and is concerned that people discharging kayaks into and out of West Meadow Creek, through the Pepper Weeds can help spread the plant. Mr. Gibbons stated that there is a condition on the property that prohibits water access from the site but will look into the issue further.

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