

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: August 17, 2011

TIME: 9:30 am to 11:00 pm

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 4th Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Larry Swanson, Chair; Gloria Russo, Vice Chair, James Bagg, Tom Gulbransen, Michael Kaufman; Richard Machtay, Daniel Pichney, Hon. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher

ABSENT:

Eva Growney

Mary Ann Spencer

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

Joy Squires, Town of Huntington

STAFF:

Michael Mulé, Environmental Projects Coordinator

Christine DeSalvo, Senior Clerk Typist

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

Dan Gulizio, Deputy 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:

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.
Boris Rukovets, PE, Special Projects Supervisor
Suffolk County Department of Public Works
MaryAnne Taylor, Consultant
CDM

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Hon. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher to approve the July 20, 2011 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bagg. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Michael Kaufman gave an overview on the August 2, 2011 memo he had written to the Suffolk County Health Committee as well as the Suffolk County Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee regarding nitrogen pollution of county groundwater.
- Received comments on the Draft Scope for the Sewer District Capacity Study from the Town of Islip, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Environmental Quality, Central Pine Barrens Commission and the Peconic Green Growth.

HISTORIC TRUST DOCKET:

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

Housing:

- The Stimson House at West Hills County Park has been rented. The tenant is expected to move in in the fall.

Custodial Agreements:

- The County is working on the custodial agreement with the L.I. Maritime Museum. It was noted that Steve Jones is now the Executive Director at the Museum. It was also discussed as possible site for a future CEQ meeting.
- The Yaphank Historical Society has planned an open house for August 20th, 2011 for the grand opening of the Mary Louise Booth House.

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 Type II ActionsRatification of Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table August 2, 2011 and August 16, 2011

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

2. Recommended Type I ActionsPurposed Acquisition for Open Space Preservation Purposes Known as the Links at East Quogue, LLC Property, Town of Southampton.

A presentation was given by Ms. Laretta R. Fischer, Chief Environmental Analyst with the Suffolk County Department of Planning concerning the acquisition of 165.67 acres of land known as the East Quogue, LLC Property in the Town of Southampton for open space preservation purposes.

Ms. Russo made a motion to recommend classification as a Type 1 action with a Negative Declaration pursuant to Title 6 NYCRR Part 617.4(b)(4) in that the action involves the acquisition of 100 or more contiguous acres. Ms. Russo went on to recommend that comments from the environmental site assessments be included in the negative declaration and the acreage be adjusted as necessary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

Proposed Final Scoping Document for the Suffolk County Sewer Capacity Study for Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma Hub, Middle Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yaphank and Southampton (CP 8189)

A brief presentation was given by Boris Rukovets, PE, Special Projects Supervisor with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. After which a lengthy discussion ensued. The Council had various concerns regarding cumulative impacts, traffic and build out effects, impacts on the Long Island Sound and the Great South Bay, growth inducing aspects of the project, impacts of STP failure, and incorporating TDR and other credit programs into this project.

Dan Gulizio, Deputy Director of Planning responded to the mention of the comprehensive water resources management plan. He informed the group that it is in its draft form and has yet to be adopted. He went on to explain that the plan does not tackle the big picture. There is still a need to look at the entire region and decide which areas make the most sense for sewerage and which areas don't. Also, we need to explore what impacts are associated with those plans and how we can best protect our environmentally sensitive areas.

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These questions have not been addressed and yet at the same time we are doing a tremendous amount of work considering the implementation of sewer districts throughout the county. Mr. Gulizio went on to note that we already have a number of very disturbing trends going on in both surface water and groundwater and before we go much further on any of these individual projects there is a need to look comprehensively at all of them collectively.

Mr. Kaufman recommended that we put in triggers identifying what the possible issues are and not go outside the RFP but to have a mechanism to trigger a supplemental EIS.

Michael Mulé requested that anyone who had comments please submit them to him by August 24, 2011 so there would be enough time to submit the comments to the consultant and get a revised scoping document in time for the September 21st, 2011 CEQ meeting.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gulbransen. Chairman Swanson recused himself from both the discussion and vote. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Michael Mulé gave a report on the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Cell Tower hearing that was held on July 20th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vanderbilt Museum. The council was informed that the public hearing was very well attended but the vast majority opposed the project. The residents were angry that there was limited information provided on the project. Mr. Mulé also informed the Council that on July 17th, 2011 we had received a memo from the County Attorney's office regarding our request for a legal opinion on alienation of parkland. It will be placed on the agenda for the September 21st, 2011 CEQ meeting.

CAC CONCERNS:

- Joy Squires CAC for the Town of Huntington informed the Council of the 2011 Conference on the Environment that will be held at the Rensselaerville Meeting Center in Rensselaerville, New York on October 21 – 23, 2011 and all are invited to attend.

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