

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Lawrence Swanson
Chairperson
CEQ

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: February 21, 2018

TIME: 9:35 am – 10:15 pm

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 2nd Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Larry Swanson, Chair

Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair

Robert Carpenter Jr.

Frank De Rubeis

Michael Doall

Hon. Kara Hahn

Constance Kepert

Mary Ann Spencer

ABSENT:

Eva Growney

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

Joy Squires

STAFF:

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner

John Corral, Senior Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Principal Clerk

GUESTS:

Al Krupski, Suffolk County Legislator, District #1

Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Dorian Dale, Director of Sustainability, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Lauretta Fischer, Chief Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

Michael Maraviglia, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Maria Nida, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law

Janet Longo, Acquisition Supervisor, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Christina DeLisi, Legislative Aide, Office of Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory

Diego De La Rocha, Intern, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

Catherine Stark, Legislative Aide, Legislator Al Krupski

Andrew Galasso, Lighthouse Marina

Minutes:

January 17, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to approve the January 17, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

CEQ staff noted that one correspondence letter addressed to the Chair of the CEQ was received this past month. The letter was from the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) and was a SEQRA Lead Agency Coordinated Review letter where GOSR is seeking to be SEQRA Lead Agency for the Carlls River and Connetquot River Watersheds and Southwest Sewer District Project. It was noted that the project involves connecting properties in the Carlls River and Connetquot River Watersheds to the Southwest Sewer District. The project also involves connecting additional properties that are within the existing Southwest Sewer District. It was noted that the CEQ received the letter as an Interested Agency. The letter as well as the map showing the proposed Sewer District expansion areas was passed around to the CEQ members.

Staff noted that the CEQ had previously received similar Coordinated Review letters in which GOSR was seeking to be SEQRA Lead Agency for the Patchogue Sewer District connection project and the creation of a Sewer District with a Sewage Treatment Plant in the Mastic Shirley area. CEQ Staff also noted that they would keep the CEQ Members updated on the project but that there was no action that the CEQ needed to take in regards to this letter.

Mr. De Rubeis asked if Suffolk County Department of Public Works was involved in the project and the CEQ Staff confirmed that they were. Mr. Kaufman also clarified that this project was related to sewer collection systems and did not involve changes/construction work to the Connetquot or Carlls Rivers themselves and the CEQ staff confirmed that this was correct. After these clarifications regarding the agencies involved and the nature of the project were made, the CEQ had no issue regarding GOSR assuming SEQRA Lead Agency status for this project.

Public Comment:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

- Updates on Housing Program for Historic Trust Sites

Richard Martin, Director of Suffolk County Historic Services, informed the Council that both vacancies at West Hills County Park and at the Robinson Duck Farm property have been filled by Suffolk County employees. Mr. Martin noted that during the time that these rental units were vacant the County renovated the units.

Mr. Martin noted that at this point all of the County's rental units are now occupied.

- Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin did not have any new updates on the Custodial Agreements.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Acquisition of Land for Hamlet Park/Historic/Cultural Park Purposes Known as the TDG Jamesport Owner, LLC Property – Hamlet Park/Historic and/or Cultural Park Component in the Town of Riverhead

Ms. Laretta Fischer, Chief Environmental Analyst with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, gave a presentation regarding the acquisition of an approximately 11.21 acre parcel, identified by Suffolk County Tax Map Number 0600-047.00-01.00-003.003 p/o and 0600-068000-01.00-035.000, by Suffolk County under the New Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program – Hamlet Park/Historic and/or Cultural Park Component. Ms. Fischer noted that the Town of Riverhead would improve and maintain the park in perpetuity. It was also noted that the proposed improvements will be in accordance with the Project Plan that was provided to the CEQ. The

improvements would include a parking area, pedestrian trails, benches, and kiosks describing the history of Jamesport and the archeological/ancient burial site. The Project Plan also includes a designated non-disturbance area to protect and preserve the historically and archeologically significant portion of the property. Ms. Fischer also noted that her discussions with the Town indicated that the improvements to the Park will be in two phases. Phase I, which is proposed to be done within 6 months of property acquisition, will include a parking area constructed with crushed stone and include a lift area for ADA handicapped access. Phase I will also include Trail A which will be 36 inches wide (wide enough for a wheelchair) constructed with recycled concrete aggregate bordered by a 1 foot width of woodchips on both sides of the trail. Phase II will include Trail B which will be constructed with wood chips.

Legislator Krupski also noted the special importance of the acquisition due to the presence of the ancient Indian burial ground that is located on a portion of the subject property. Legislator Hahn asked if the Native American tribe is supportive of this project and if they are all right with the placement of the proposed trails given that there is an Indian burial ground on the property. Legislator Krupski noted that the Native American tribe that was buried at this location are no longer in existence but he noted that at a public hearing two years the local neighboring Native American community were supportive of the proposed project.

Legislator Hahn also asked if wood chips were the best materials to use for the walking trails to maximize accessibility by all County residents. The Legislator had noted that she had heard during a series of meetings with Suffolk County Parks, trail advocates and trail makers that there are issues regarding the maintenance of wood chips especially in locations with steeper slopes. Following Legislator Hahn's question, it was noted by Legislator Krupski that the slopes where the trails are to be located are not very steep. The CEQ also had a discussion on whether wood chips were the best materials to use for the walking trails. It was recommended that the Town of Riverhead, which will be constructing the trails, carefully consider the best materials to use for the trail based on the proposed use and the maintenance required. Dorian Dale, Suffolk County's Chief Sustainability Officer, recommended as a possibility material for the ADA accessible trail a grid interlock system called Ecoraster. Mr. Dale noted that he would pass the information he has on this material along to the project team working with the Town.

After the discussion 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 Mr. Doall. Motion carried

- B. Proposed Acquisition of Land for Open Space Preservation Purposes Known as the Berkowitz Property – Mastic/Shirley Conservation Area in the Town of Brookhaven

Ms. Laretta Fischer, Chief Environmental Analyst, with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning gave a presentation regarding the acquisition of an approximately 0.05 acre parcel, identified by Suffolk County Tax Map Number 0209-030.00-03.00-019.000, by Suffolk County under the New Enhanced Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program 2014 Referendum – Land Purchases for Open Space Preservation. This property will be transferred to the Suffolk County Department of Parks in order to assure it remains as open space for passive recreational use.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

- A. Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table - February 6, 2018.

Mr. Corral noted that the recommendation for IR 1075-2018 which involves the installation of a walking trail on the Suffolk County Old Field Farm Property be changed to “Table for SEQRA Review”. CEQ staff noted that they have been working with Legislator Hahn’s office on the SEQRA review for this project and that there are some project details that the Legislator’s office is working out with Suffolk County Parks prior to completing the SEQRA review.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table - February 6, 2018, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Motion carried.

Other Business:

- After the review of the TDG Jamesport Acquisition the CEQ had a discussion regarding ADA requirements for walking trails on public land. The CEQ voiced concern as to whether it is feasible to make all walking trails ADA accessible. It was noted that Suffolk County Parks may have guidelines regarding ADA accessible trails. CEQ Staff noted that they will contact Nick Gibbons, with Suffolk County Parks, to see if additional information is available on this topic.
- Mr. Kaufman noted that CEQ is planning to have a Training Session in April or May of this year for any CEQ members or CAC members who would like an update on issues related to SEQRA and the Suffolk County Historic Trust.

CAC Concerns:

None

Meeting Adjourned