

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 MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: September 18, 2019

TIME: 9:30 am – 11:30 am

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library

H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 2nd Floor

Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Larry Swanson, Chair

Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair

Hon. Kara Hahn

Robert Carpenter Jr.

Frank De Rubeis

Michael Doall

Constance Kepert

Mary Ann Spencer

Andrea Spilka

ABSENT:

Eva Growney

Thomas Gulbransen

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

John Corral, Senior Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Principal Office Assistant

GUESTS:

Alfreen Wright, Deputy Bureau Chief, Suffolk County Department of Law
Dorian Dale, Director of Sustainability, Suffolk County Department of Economic
Development and Planning
Russ Mackey, Senior Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works,
Highways
Jeffrey Dawson, Principal Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works,
Highways
Robert Castello, Junior Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works,
Highways
Ken Zegal, Associate Public Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Health Services
Audrey Kessler, Treasurer, Yaphank Historic Society
Robert Kessler, President, Yaphank Historic Society

Minutes:

- August 21, 2019

A motion was made by Ms. Spencer to approve the August 21, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Mr. DeRubeis and Mr. Doall abstained. Motion carried.

Correspondence

CEQ staff informed the CEQ that a letter dated September 11, 2019 from Mr. Robert Nuzzi to Larry Swanson, Chair of the CEQ was received. It was noted that the letter expresses Mr. Nuzzi discontent with how his groups' handout materials were handled at the Suffolk County Subwatershed Wastewater Management Plan DGEIS Public Hearing that was held on September 6, 2019. It was also noted that a copy of this letter has been placed in the Mr. Swanson's folder. Mr. Swanson noted that he likely will be responding in writing to this received letter.

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

- Updates on Housing Program for Historic Trust Sites

Mr. Martin updated the CEQ on the Homan House in Yaphank and informed the CEQ that there will be an open house on October 26, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Martin then introduced Mr. Robert Kessler, President of the Yaphank Historic Society, to give a history of the Homan House. Mr. Martin noted that the Yaphank Historic Society, under Mr. Kessler's leadership, was largely responsible for the successful rehabilitation of the Homan House.

Mr. Kessler gave a short presentation on the restoration of the Homan House. Mr. Kessler also showed the CEQ members pictures of the restoration. Mr. Kessler also thanked Ms. Mary Ann Spencer and the CEQ for its support in helping this project be completed.

- Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin noted that there was nothing new to report in regards to the Custodial Agreements.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Improvements to CR 101, Sills Road, from Dunton Avenue to New York State Route 27 (Sunrise Highway) North Service Road, Town of Brookhaven

Mr. Russ Mackey, with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works, gave a presentation on the improvements to CR101. The project involves various roadway safety improvements including pavement rehabilitation/resurfacing, turning lane capacity improvements, construction of new traffic signals, construction of ADA-compliant curb ramps and upgrades to traffic signal equipment, signage and pavement markings. This project will also include minor improvements to existing storm sewer infrastructure. It was also noted that this project requires New York State Department of Transportation permits.

After a discussion 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 Ms. Kepert. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table September 4, 2019.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table September 4, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Motion carried.

CAC Concerns:

No CAC concerns or comments were raised.

Other Business:

- Suffolk County Department of Health Service's Request for a 30 day Extension of the Public Comment Period for the Suffolk County Subwatershed's Wastewater Management Plan's Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Mr. Swanson noted that the Suffolk County Department of Health submitted the following request "based upon input received during the public comment period associated with the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan, the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, as project sponsor, is requesting a 30-day extension of the public

comment period for the DGEIS. The requested extension would result in a public comment period closing date of October 16, 2019. Please consider this request during the next meeting of the Council on Environmental Quality currently scheduled for September 18, 2019.”

Mr. Swanson then asked Mr. Zegel, with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, if there was anything he would like to add. Mr. Zegel noted that he did not have anything specific to add but briefly summarized the nature of the comments received to date. Mr. Zegel noted that there had been a number of comments expressing support but they had also received some comments stating the importance of the Plan and the relatively short time frame to provide comments. Mr. Zegel noted that as a result of these comments the Suffolk County Department of Health determined that it was appropriate to request an extension of the Public Comment Period.

After Mr. Zegel’s comments Mr. Swanson noted the importance of making the public aware of this Plan and the public comment period. CEQ staff noted that in addition to insuring that all the SEQRA publications requirements are met that the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning can work with the Council on additional forms of outreach.

Mr. Swanson also thanked all the CEQ members and the CEQ staff who attended the SEQRA public hearings. Mr. Swanson then summarized some of the public comments that he heard at the Public Hearings. Mr. Swanson stated that he believes it will be very important for the Suffolk County Department of Health Services to carefully consider and respond to these comments during the next phase of the SEQRA review process. The CEQ members also discussed some of these issues during the meeting.

After the CEQ’s extended discussion, Mr. Carpenter made a motion to accept the Suffolk County Department of Health Service’s Request for a 30 day Extension of the Public Comment Period for the Suffolk County Subwatershed’s Wastewater Management Plan’s Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

- The CEQ briefly discussed the issue that was raised by Mr. Nuzzi’s September 11, 2019 letter regarding the confusion that took place regarding handout materials at the September 6, 2019 Subwatersheds Plan’s DGEIS Public Hearing. After discussing the issue the CEQ discussed potential ways to prevent this type of confusion from occurring in the future.

The regular CEQ Meeting Adjourned