

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: November 20, 2019

TIME: 9:30 am – 11:40 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

Hon. Al Krupski

Frank De Rubeis

Michael Doall

Thomas Gulbransen

Constance Kepert

Mary Ann Spencer

Andrea Spilka

ABSENT:

Robert Carpenter Jr.

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner

John Corral, Senior Planner

Christine DeSalvo, Principal Office Assistant

GUESTS:

Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning, 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

Nick Gibbons, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Peter Scully, Deputy County Executive, Suffolk County

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

Ken Zegal, Associate Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Ecology

Anthony Caniano, Associate Hydrogeologist, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Ecology

Christina DeLisi, Suffolk County Legislative Aide for Suffolk County Presiding Officer

Guy Calla, Suffolk County Legislative Aide for Suffolk County Legislative District #14

Alyssa Turano, Suffolk County Legislative Aide for Suffolk County Legislative District #5

Catherine Stark, Suffolk County Legislative Aide for Suffolk County Legislative District #1

Brittany Toledano, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law

Thomas Romano, OLP Knights of Columbus #794

Robert Salvia, OLP Knights of Columbus #794

Mary Cascone, Town of Babylon, Historic Trust Committee

Minutes:

- October 16, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. DeRubeis to approve the October 16, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gulbransen. Mr. Kaufman and Mr. Doall abstained. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Mr. Corral, staff to the CEQ, noted that no correspondence were received this month.

Mr. Swanson, the CEQ Chair, asked Mr. Corral to brief the CEQ members on the CEQ letter that was recently sent to the Suffolk County Health Department. Mr. Corral noted that the Suffolk County Health Department had requested written clarification from the CEQ regarding some of the comments the CEQ had made during their review of the DGEIS for the Subwatershed Wastewater Plan. Mr. Corral stated that in response to this request, CEQ staff worked with the CEQ Chair and the CEQ members who had made the comments to provide a brief written response reflecting the CEQ member's views for the requested topics. Mr. Corral informed the CEQ that this letter has now been sent to the Health Department.

Mr. Swanson made a public information announcement that on Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Stony Brook University's Wang Center the next public meeting on the New York State Ocean Acidifications Action Plan will be held.

Ms. Spilka also noted that Mr. Swanson is hosting a forum with the League of Conservation Voters on Coastal Erosion on December 9, 2019 at Stony Brook University.

Public Portion:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

- Updates on Housing Program for Historic Trust Sites

Mr. Martin noted that there was no new updates on the housing.

- Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin noted that there was no new updates with regards to the Custodial Agreements.

- Dedication of the 1927 "World War Veterans Club" and Property Located at 185 North Broadway, Lindenhurst to the Suffolk County Historic Trust, Village of Lindenhurst and Town of Babylon

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services for Suffolk County and Mary Cascone, Director of Historic Services for the Town of Babylon and member of the Suffolk County Historic Trust Committee, gave a presentation regarding the property and its proposed dedication into the Suffolk County Historic Trust. In addition, Guy Calla, Legislative Aide from Legislator Kevin McCaffrey office also provided input regarding this property and the proposed dedication of the property to the Suffolk County Historic Trust.

The presentation noted that Suffolk County originally purchased the 1927 "World War Veterans Club" building and property located at 185 North Broadway, Lindenhurst in 1999 and then sold the property to the Town of Babylon in 2000 for the purpose of using the property as a cultural arts center with the intention of developing a veteran's museum. The property has remained unused and unimproved by the Town of Babylon for the past 20 years in violation of the reverter clause in the deed. The Town has recently agreed to transfer the subject property back to Suffolk County. The presentation also noted that a Suffolk County resolution was recently adopted directing the Suffolk County Real Estate Division to transfer the property from the Town of Babylon back to Suffolk County.

The presentation also described the historic history and context of the building. It was noted that the “World War Veterans Club”, which occupied the building, actively participated in World War I and in the community as a whole. It also stated that the CEQ Historic Trust Committee recommended to the CEQ that the 1927 “World War Veterans Club” building and property located at 185 North Broadway, Lindenhurst be dedicated to the Suffolk County Historic Trust due to both the properties historic architectural and contextual setting.

As part of the project discussion it was stated that Suffolk County Parks has concerns regarding the money that will be needed for the upkeep and maintenance of the property and is requesting that the property does not get turned over to Suffolk County Parks. Mr. Martin noted that a Suffolk County property is not required to be maintained by Suffolk County Parks to be placed in the Suffolk County Historic Trust. The CEQ also voiced their concern regarding the money that would be needed to update and maintain this building. In response to this concern it was noted by Mr. Calla that there is a willing group (The Knights of Columbus) that would like to partner with the County to update and maintain this building and they have the financial resources to do so. It was also clarified that public access will be maintained to the property.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion, that upon Suffolk County retaking ownership of the 1927 “World War Veterans Club” building and property at 185 North Broadway, Lindenhurst (Suffolk County Tax Map Number 0103-010.00-01.00-038.000), that said property should be dedicated to the Suffolk County Historic Trust. Ms. Keperter seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommended Type I Actions:

- A. Review Comments Received and Recommendation to Proceed with FGEIS for the Suffolk County Subwatershed’s Wastewater Plan

Prior to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services presentation, Mr. Swanson noted that he was disturbed by recent news that Nassau County is looking to tap into New York City’s water supply due to Nassau County’s poor water quality. Mr. Swanson asked the Health Department to consider and provide a response in the FGEIS as to whether the plan Suffolk County is pursuing with the I/A systems is sufficient in scale to protect Suffolk County’s drinking water (given the other things besides Nitrogen that are creating problems) or should the County be pursuing a more regional sewerage approach. Mr. Zegel, with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, provided some initial thoughts but noted the Health Department can further follow up with a response to this question.

Ken Zegel and Anthony Caniano with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services provided a presentation regarding the public comments received on the DGEIS for the Subwatershed Wastewater Management Plan. The Suffolk County Department of Health Services also provided an overview of how the Health

Department plans to index, organize and then respond to the comments in the FGEIS. The Health Department also noted based on the public comments received that they believe it is warranted for the CEQ to recommend to the Suffolk County Legislature that an FGEIS be prepared.

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services also discussed the anticipated timeline and noted that at the December 11, 2019 meeting the Health Department will provide their initial thoughts on their response to specific public comments. It was also noted that the Suffolk County Department of Public Health is available for weekly meetings after the December 11, 2019 meeting to review the Health Departments draft responses that will make up the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend to the Suffolk County Legislature that based on the comments received that a Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared on the Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan. Ms. Spilka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table November 6, 2019.

Mr. Swanson asked Mr. Corral to provide additional information on IR 1990-2019 and IR 2003-2019. Mr. Corral pointed out that IR1990 - Appropriating funds for Construction of Living Shoreline at Indian Island County Park Bluff (CP 7192) is a resolution for funding of the project but that there is a resolved clause in the resolution that states that no money can be spent for construction until SEQRA is complete. Mr. Corral noted that he spoke to both Suffolk County Parks and the Suffolk County Budget Office and was informed that this resolution is a way to maintain possible funding for this project for the next few years but there is no way that money can be spent on this project until SEQRA is complete. Mr. Corral also noted that CEQ staff looked back at the project history and after a long discussion at a CEQ meeting in 2017 the Parks Department decided at that time to withdraw this project from CEQ's consideration. Mr. Corral noted that Mr. Gibbons is working to bring this project back to the CEQ in early 2020.

Mr. Corral noted that IR 2003 – 2019 Appropriating Funds in Connection with Improvements to Environmental Recharge Basins (CP 5072) was limited to appropriating funds to purchase equipment needed to improve the recharge basins. Mr. Corral said that he did speak to Suffolk County Department of Public Works and the County does have funding for the improvement to recharge basins and that funding is used for scrapping the bottom of recharge basins and removing excess vegetation.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table November 6, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gulbransen. Motion carried.

CAC Concerns:

No CAC concerns or comments were raised.

Other Business:

Mr. Kaufman noted that he had received concerned comments from the public about the project involving improvements to the intersection of State Route 25A and CR 97, Nicolls Road. This project was discussed at the October 16, 2019 CEQ meeting. Mr. Kaufman noted that these citizens brought up concerns related to how this project would impact the character of the area and result in a loss of green space. Mr. Kaufman said he did mention to the citizens that there was extensive discussion at the CEQ meeting about this project. Mr. Kaufman noted the projects limited scale and its resulting safety improvements. Legislator Hahn also noted that this project was presented to the community at a civic meeting at the Setauket Neighborhood House.

The regular CEQ Meeting Adjourned