

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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

Tom Gulbransen
Chairperson
CEQ

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: January 12, 2022
TIME: 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference

PRESENT:

Thomas Gulbransen, Chair
Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair
Rob Carpenter Jr
Frank De Rubeis
Anthony Graves
Mark Haubner
Constance Kepert
Hon. Anthony Piccirillo
Mary Ann Spencer
Herbert Strobel

ABSENT:

Kaetlyn Jackson

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning
Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner
John Corral, Environmental Projects Coordinator
Christine DeSalvo, Principal Office Assistant

GUESTS:

Hon. Al Krupski, Suffolk County Legislator, District 1
Hon. Dominick Thorne, Suffolk County Legislator, District 7
Hon. Trish Bergin, Suffolk County Legislator, District 10
Hon. Manual Esteban Sr., Suffolk County Legislator, District 16
Robyn Silvestri, Executive Director, Save the Great South Bay
Maria Nida, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law
Dorian Dale, Sustainability Director, Suffolk County Department of Economic
Development and Planning

CEQ Chair Tom Gulbransen read the following opening Meeting statement:

“This is the regularly scheduled CEQ meeting for January 12, 2022 meeting of the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality and for the record we do have a quorum present.

Instead of a public meeting open for the public to attend in person, members of the public may listen to or log into the video conference. This meeting and its notice follow the Open Meetings Law as amended by Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021, signed into law by Governor Hochul on 9/2/2021, which law, in part, authorizes County committees and bodies to hold meetings remotely via videoconferencing or teleconferencing, provided the public has the ability to view or listen to the meeting and the meetings are recorded and later transcribed. In this instance, we will be using ZOOM and will be recording the entirety of the meeting.

Additionally, we will be following the voting protocol used by the Suffolk County Legislature at its March 17, 2020 meeting. All voting on Board Actions and Resolutions will be done via a roll call and we ask that all Board Members clearly state their name when making a motion and clearly state their vote when their name is called.”

After the statement was read, the Chair Tom Gulbransen introduced and welcomed Suffolk County Legislator Anthony Piccirillo, the new Legislative member of the CEQ.

Legislator Piccirillo thanked the Chair and the CEQ and noted that he looks forward to serving on the CEQ and working together with the CEQ members. Legislative Piccirillo also noted that he has an open door policy and is always open to talking with any CEQ members on any item that a CEQ member would like to discuss.

Minutes:

December 8, 2021 Meeting Summary

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to approve the December 8, 2021 CEQ minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kepert carried.

Correspondence:

None

Public Portion:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Updates on Housing Program for Historic Trust Sites

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services with Suffolk County Parks, noted that as a follow up to last month's CEQ meeting, the house at Northville Bluffs County Parks has been rented. This house was completely renovated and restored by Suffolk County Parks before the tenant moved in.

Mr. Martin, noted that Suffolk County Parks is considering using the current vacant apartment at the main house at Coindre Hall for office space. Mr. Martin noted that this change is currently under review by Suffolk County Parks.

Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin, informed the CEQ that the Parks Department is currently working on a number of new Custodial Agreements but there are no completed custodial agreements to report at this time.

In response to a question from Legislator Krupski, Mr. Martin also provided the CEQ with an update on the work that has taken place at the Manorville Church historic property.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table December 7, 2021, December 21, 2021 and January 3, 2022

Mr. Kaufman pointed out to the CEQ, the legislative resolution related to the Carmans River Fish Passage project at Lower Lake in Yaphank that was on the LADS report. Mr. Kaufman, noted that this project and the fish passage project at Woodhull Dam near the County Center in Riverhead are two interesting projects that the CEQ has recently reviewed. Suffolk County Planning Director, Sarah Lansdale, noted that Suffolk County Planning will follow up with the CEQ on some addition details on the Carmans River Fish Passage project.

Mr. Gulbransen also asked about the legislative resolution regarding a settlement agreement relating to the Lawrence Aviation site. Planning Director Lansdale provided the CEQ with an overview of this resolution.

After the above noted discussion, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table December 7, 2021, December 21, 2021 and January 3, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Motion carried.

After the vote on the LADS Report, the CEQ members and CEQ Staff introduced themselves to Legislator Piccirillo (the voting CEQ member) and as well as to the other Suffolk County Legislators in attendance.

Other Business:

Election of Officers

Mr. DeRubeis made a motion to elect Tom Gulbransen as CEQ Chairperson and Michael Kaufman as CEQ Vice-Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. The motion carried unanimously.

After the Election of Officers, the CEQ discussed the SEQRA review that took place last year relating to the inclusion of properties into a New York State Ag District and the possibility of gaining additional guidance before this year's Ag District review period. CEQ members discussed the importance gaining additional guidance regarding how the CEQ SEQRA review fits into the larger New York State Ag District Program. The CEQ also noted the timeframe of the process and the importance of receiving additional guidance regarding considering input from local municipalities. Ms. Lansdale noted that she will work to obtain proper guidance for the CEQ from New York State Ag and Markets and the County Attorney's office prior to this year's Ag District review program.

CAC Concerns:

None

The CEQ adjourned the Meeting