

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: June 8, 2022
TIME: 9:32 AM – 10:54 AM
LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference

PRESENT:

Thomas Gulbransen, Chair
Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair
Rob Carpenter Jr
Frank De Rubeis
Anthony Graves
Mark Haubner
Kaetlyn Jackson
DawnMarie Kuhn, Hon. Anthony Piccirillo's Designee
Mary Ann Spencer
Herbert Strobel

ABSENT:

Constance Kepert

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

Elisa Picca, Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Michael Brown, Land Management Specialist VI, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

Erin Reyes, Program Coordinator, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Gwynn Schroeder, Legislative Aide, Suffolk County Legislator Krupski, District 1

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

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

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

Joshua Smith, Airport Manager, Suffolk County Gabreski Airport, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Sergie Sow, Assistant Airport Manager, Suffolk County Gabreski Airport, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Michael Iasilli, Legislative Aide, Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming, District #2

Eoghan Kieran, Senior Permitting Manager, SubCom

Steve Mark

D. Dubin

William Sklar, VHB Consulting

Kellie Smith, Intern for Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment

CEQ Chair Tom Gulbransen read the following opening Meeting statement:

“This is the regularly scheduled CEQ meeting for June 8, 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.”

Minutes:

May 11, 2022 Meeting Summary

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to approve the May 11, 2022 CEQ minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

John Corral, staff to the CEQ, noted during the Correspondence Section of the meeting that no correspondence was received this month. During the CEQ meeting a June 8, 2022 letter was received by the NYSDEC in regards to the Proposed Northside Hangers LLC Project. This letter was sent via email to the CEQ members during the meeting. The CEQ reviewed and discussed this letter during the Northside Hangers, LLC project review portion of the meeting.

Public Portion:

None

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services with Suffolk County Parks, noted that the Parks Housing Committee did meet via Zoom on May 23, 2022. The Housing Committee reviewed four rental appraisals of Suffolk County Parks' vacant housing properties which included: two houses at Blydenburgh County Park, a cottage at Meadow Croft in West Sayville and the Indian Island Ranger Station. The Housing Committee recommended rental reductions for Meadowcroft cottage and the House at Blydenburg Historic District within Blydenburg County Park. These two properties are in relatively isolated portions of the Park and Parks Department will request that the tenant notify the Department if any problems arise in the Park. Since the Housing Committee Meeting, Suffolk County Parks has sent out rental availability notices for the four Parks Properties.

Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin noted that Suffolk County Parks met with the Third House Nature Center at Third House in Montauk. Suffolk County is working to complete a 20 year Custodial Agreement with the Third House Nature Center. This agreement will allow tours and events to start again at Third House.

Mr. Martin also briefed the CEQ on IR 1398-2022 regarding amending the 2022 capital budget and program and appropriating funds in connection with the restoration of the Cedar Island Lighthouse. Mr. Martin noted that this is an ongoing project and this resolution involves a request from Suffolk County Public Works for additional funds. Bids are going out now and these additional funds will allow for more work to be done during this phase of the project. Mr. Martin noted that this restoration work is anticipated to begin in the fall.

In response to a CEQ question, Mr. Martin also provided the CEQ with an update of the Fish Ladder County Project that is taking place at Lower Lake in Yaphank.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

A. Proposed Northside Hangars LLC Airplane Hanger Development Project at Suffolk County Gabreski Airport, Town of Southampton

Prior to the project presentation, the Chair of the CEQ, Tom Gulbransen, read into the record the received June 8, 2022 letter from NYSDEC. The CEQ then discussed the content of the letter.

Joshua Smith, the Gabreski Airport Director with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, then gave a presentation on the proposed project. The proposed project involves the proposed Northside Hangars LLC Airplane Hangar development of new private airplane hangars for general aviation use on 7.78 acres of leased land in the northern portion of the airport in an area that has previously been disturbed and has been designated by the Gabreski Airport Proposed Land Use Plan for “Future Aviation Development”. The proposed project involves the development of 46 airplane hangars for use by owners and pilots of single and twin propeller planes in 4 hanger buildings totaling 99,808 square feet. The proposed project also involves the development of 2.98 acres of taxiway space among and between the hanger buildings, 0.14 acres of aircraft tie-down space and 32 vehicle parking stall. It was also noted that the action is for aviation purposes and is in conformance with the 1990 Airport Master Plan, the 2012 Development Guidelines and the Gabreski Airport Proposed Land Use Plan.

After a project discussion, which included CEQ consideration of potential project noise and ecological impacts, Mr. De Rubeis made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. Mr. Graves seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. Proposed GU Holdings Ocean Ground Bed (OGB) Installation Associated with the Transatlantic Grace Hopper Cable System, Town of Brookhaven

Mr. Eoghan Kieran, Senior Permitting Manager, with SubCom gave a presentation on the Proposed GU Holdings Ocean Ground Bed (OGB) Installation Associated with the Transatlantic Grace Hopper Cable System. Mr. Kieran noted that he proposed project involves the establishment of an Ocean Ground Bed (OGB) at an area of road median, adjacent to the William Floyd Parkway at Suffolk County. The Ocean Ground Bed will consist of 12 vertical and interconnected anodes placed in 6 vertical boreholes that are approximately 39 feet deep a connecting cable will be used to connect the OGB anodes to the existing, already constructed, and installed cable system via an existing adjacent manhole. The construction time for the OGB is anticipated to be 10 to 14 days and will be done in a 20 foot by 120 foot temporary construction zone. After the OGB has been connected to the existing cable system via the existing manhole, the area of the newly constructed OGB system will be backfilled and the ground will be reseeded and returned to its original form.

Mr. Kieran noted that operationally an OGB acts similarly to a lightning rod on a building as the OGB acts as a passive pathway to create an electrical grounding system to the earth OGBs are passive and do not require an outside power source and do not omit any sound or any discernible electromagnetic fields. The proposed construction of this OGB is the final aspect in the development of a transatlantic subsea fiber optic cable linking East Coast of the United States with mainland Europe and the United Kingdom. The system, named Grace Hopper, has been developed in order to provide greater communication capabilities between the two continents.

After a project discussion Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. Mr. De Rubeis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table May 17, 2022 and May 23, 2022

The CEQ discussed the May 17, 2022 LADS report. This discussion included a discussion of IR 1342-2022 - Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Russel and Deana Galindo, for non-exclusive use of Parkland. The CEQ also discussed the recommendation that IR 1342-2022 be classified as an Unlisted Action and that an EAF be submitted for this resolution to CEQ for review. After the above noted discussion, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table May 17, 2022. The motion included the recommendation that IR 1342-2022 be classified as an Unlisted Action and that an EAF be submitted for this resolution to CEQ for review. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Motion carried.

The CEQ discussed the May 23, 2022 LADS Report. After the discussion, Mr. Carpenter made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table May 23, 2022. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carried. Mr. Kaufman abstained.

Other Business:

None

CAC Concerns:

None

The CEQ adjourned the Meeting