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**ENVIRONMENT, PARKS & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Environment, Parks & Agriculture Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on January 23, 2023.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Anthony Piccirillo, Chairperson (excused absence)  
Leg. Robert Trotta, Vice Chair  
Leg. Bridget Fleming  
Leg. Leslie Kennedy  
Leg. Kara Hahn  
Leg. Nicholas Caracappa  
Leg. Al Krupski (excused absence)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

William Duffy, Counsel to the Legislature  
Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature  
Brett Robinson, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature  
Lance Reinheimer, Director/Budget Review Office  
Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office  
Robert Martinez, Aide to Leg. Caracappa  
Irene Donohue, Aide to Leg. Fleming  
Ali Nazir, Aide to PO  
Brendan Sweeney, Aide to PO  
Chris DeLuca, Aide to PO  
Laura Farber, appointee/SC Board of Trustees of Parks, Recreation and Conservation  
Lois Hayn, public speaker  
Desiree Benn, public speaker  
David Jakim, public speaker  
Larry Borman, public speaker  
Dale Gifford, public speaker  
Michelle Zarifis, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, County Exec's office  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

1 THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:04 AM

2  
3 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

4 Welcome everyone to the Environmental, Parks & Agricultural  
5 Committee. I'd just like to point out that Legislator Piccirillo  
6 has an excused absence today and Sarah Anker has an excused  
7 absence. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by  
8 Legislator Hahn.

9  
10 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

11  
12 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

13 Mr. Clerk, roll call, please

14  
15 (Roll call by Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature)

16  
17 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

18 (Not present)

19  
20 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

21 Here.

22  
23 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

24 (Not present)

25  
26 **LEG. FLEMING:**

27 Present.

28  
29 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

30 Here.

31  
32 **LEG. HAHN:**

33 Present.

34  
35 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

36 Here.

37  
38 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

39 (Not present)

40  
41 **CLERK TASSONE:**

42 Five.

43  
44 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

45 Legislator Krupski also has an excused absence, I forgot to  
46 mention. Okay, do we have any correspondence?

47  
48 **CLERK TASSONE:**

49 All correspondence has been distributed accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

50  
51 **PUBLIC PORTION**

52  
53 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

54 Okay, we have some public portion. Our first speaker will be Lois  
55 Hayn. She has three minutes. Ma'am, please come on up.

1 **LOIS HAYN:**

2 Good morning. I am a wildlife rescue volunteer. The organization  
3 I work with took in over 800 critters in 2022. You might be  
4 shocked at how many of those animals were emaciated and starving.  
5 It should come as no surprise, however, to hear that a great number  
6 of them were in that state due to loss of habitat.

7  
8 Every advancement of the Coindre Hall project has caused  
9 destruction of wildlife habitat. That included the removal of  
10 acres of woodland and wetland, a hundred trees, countless native  
11 shrubs. Native trees removed included pussy willow, critically  
12 endangered ash, native black cherry and oak trees. Oak trees are  
13 vital to the survival of caterpillars. Caterpillars are important  
14 pollinators to many plants. If you sit on this board, I'm sure you  
15 must understand the seriousness of that issue. They're just not  
16 any old bug.

17  
18 It is telling that left untouched were black locust trees, known  
19 host trees for the deadly spotted lantern fly that we keep reading  
20 about. An installation of an unwanted road caused fragmentation of  
21 our precious wetlands and consequently further destruction of  
22 habitat. How could people on an advisory board charged with making  
23 recommendations for the future of a park cavalierly cause that kind  
24 of devastation? I'll tell you how. The Coindre Hall Advisory  
25 Board is not made up of people whose priorities include  
26 environmental concerns. A disproportionate number of its members  
27 are commodores and Yacht Club members, all of whom advocate for  
28 what is essentially an extension of their fiefdom. Commodore Carr,  
29 whom I told is -- I'm told is the business -- in the business of  
30 building piers advocates for the pier, of course. He also says  
31 that designing the lower part of the property as a nature or  
32 designating the lower part of the property as a nature preserve  
33 will and I quote "kill the lower portion of this gold coast  
34 estate."

35  
36 Nature preserves don't kill anything. Putting parking lots in the  
37 area allowing cars to travel around up and down the extent of the  
38 park through wooded areas, possibly at unacceptable speeds because  
39 who's gonna monitor it, might. But aside from that, he ignores the  
40 fact that keeping the project historically accurate would mean  
41 leaving the area wild, as it was when Mr. Brown owned it. Historic  
42 photos proved that it had a rural appearance at that time with  
43 natural fields. There were no manicured lawns.

44  
45 The members of the Coindre Hall Advisory Board basically make up a  
46 special interest group. Contrary to what Commodore Carr says they  
47 do not represents a broad spectrum of society unless most of the  
48 people in that society own boats and are members of yacht clubs.  
49 Very close to 2,000 people from varied areas and walks of life in  
50 Suffolk County, I might add, which might deter people from calling  
51 us in Huntington NIMBYs, have signed our petition urging that the  
52 lower portions of the property be designated a nature preserve. It  
53 represent a much broader specter of the community than does this  
54 board. They understand that doing that is a sustainable, fiscally  
55 and environmentally responsible action. Thank you.

1 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

2 Thank you. Perfect timing.

3  
4 (Applause)

5  
6 Our next speaker is Desiree Benn.

7  
8 **DESIREE BENN:**

9 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the board -- of the  
10 Committee. My name is Desiree Benn. I'm the president of Coindre  
11 Hall Park Community, a grassroots organization located in the 18th  
12 district. There is a consensus for the lower five acres of Coindre  
13 Hall Park which contains wetland to be designated as a nature  
14 preserve. The wetlands at Coindre Hall meets the criteria laid out  
15 in the Suffolk County Nature Preserve handbook to be designated as  
16 a nature preserve. Designate this area as a nature preserve.

17  
18 I have a letter here from the Sierra Club. And it says "letter of  
19 support. We, the executive committee of the Sierra Club, Long  
20 Island group, are writing on behalf of our 7,000 members in support  
21 of a petition for the Coindre Hall Park community to designate the  
22 lower five acres of Coindre Hall Park as a nature preserve."  
23 That's 7,000 members.

24  
25 I also have another letter of support from HMFS Huntington  
26 Mobilization For Sustainability. And finally I have a petition for  
27 nearly 2,000 signatures of Suffolk County voters and this is  
28 growing. That's the support of nine thousand. Nine thousand are a  
29 consensus. Community and organizational support equals a  
30 consensus.

31  
32 According to the Suffolk County Charter, only properties found to  
33 possess natural beauty, estuarine values including wetlands and  
34 shorelines, ecological significance may be designated to the  
35 Suffolk County Nature Preserve. Coindre Hall has documented as  
36 possessing, one, natural beauty as documented in the Historic  
37 Trust; two, wetlands as documented in the New York State DEC; and,  
38 three, ecological significance as documented in the LWRP. Coindre  
39 Hall Park possesses all these qualities. Coindre Hall Park needs  
40 to meet only one criteria according to Suffolk County Nature  
41 Preserve Handbook to be classified as a nature preserve. Yet it  
42 possesses two of the criteria.

43  
44 So, Commissioner Smagin was given -- given the documented  
45 ecological sensitivity of the site prior to the start of  
46 construction, was Coindre Hall ever assessed for the presence of  
47 endangered species? Do you support the lower five acres of mat  
48 wetlands being designated as a nature preserve? I would very much  
49 like to have a meeting with Commissioner Smagin as he has assured  
50 me to discuss these issues including invasive species removal.

51  
52 The support among the community and the environmental groups is  
53 gaining momentum for the lower five acres of Coindre Hall to be  
54 designated as a nature preserve. So who exactly is against the  
55 designation of a nature preserve being applied to Coindre Hall Park  
56 property? Thank you.

1  
2 (Applause)

3  
4 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

5 Our next speaker is David Jakim.

6  
7 **DAVID JAKIM:**

8 Yes, hello. Thank you, Suffolk County representatives, for  
9 inviting me to speak today. My name is David Jakim. I'm an  
10 ecologist and I hold an MS in environmental geoscience from Queens  
11 College with certifications in biodiversity assessment for land  
12 use planning. I have conducted ecological field surveys at the  
13 Suffolk property with Desiree Benn on two occasions: On September  
14 29, 2022 and October 23rd, 2022.

15  
16 Coindre Hall Park stands out -- is an extraordinary mosaic of  
17 diverse habitats including forests, hardwood swamp, meadow, wet  
18 meadow and fresh meadow marsh that are fed by springs and seeps.  
19 Coindre Hall Park is an important reservoir of local biodiversity.  
20 This area along Hempstead (sic) Harbor supports hundreds of species  
21 plants, hundreds species of birds and other wildlife. Protecting  
22 Coindre Hall Park is protecting Huntington Harbor and Puppy Cove.  
23 Any land use planning process for Coindre Hall Park must consider  
24 environmental impacts to Huntington Harbor and Puppy Cove.

25  
26 A half acre wet meadow habitat on the site supports over 70 species  
27 of trees, saplings, shrubs, wildflowers, hedge rushes and myriad  
28 birds, the majority of which are native species. In addition, a  
29 small harbored swamp composed of red maple, sweetgum and black  
30 tupelo is a regionally rare ecological community that is sensitive  
31 to disturbances.

32  
33 Wet meadow habitats are recognized as significant ecological  
34 communities by the New York State National Heritage Program.  
35 However, this habitat is not included on the wetland map of the  
36 site prepared by the New York State DEC or in any ecological  
37 studies. These wetlands and ecological communities need to be  
38 included in the planning process. It's critical to ensure that  
39 these ecological communities are linked together across the  
40 landscape rather than developed and set aside as small fragments  
41 and pockets of habitat. The designation of the area as a nature  
42 preserve is an important mechanism to ensure the protection of  
43 these habitats and wetlands in the future and in perpetuity. Thank  
44 you.

45  
46 (Applause)

47  
48 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

49 Thank you. Our next speaker is Larry Borman.

50  
51 **LARRY BORMAN:**

52 Hi, good morning. Thanks for --

53  
54 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

55 Good morning.

1 **LARRY BORMAN:**

2 Good morning. Thanks for having me to speak. So, I'm actually  
3 speaking on behalf of Richard C. Koopman. He can't be here today.  
4 He was a former now retired deputy and acting director as well as  
5 principal environmental analyst of the Town of Huntington,  
6 Department of Environmental Control.

7  
8 These are his words. "I've had the opportunity recently to walk  
9 through the lower portion of Suffolk County Parkland at Coindre  
10 Hall on Huntington harbor. I'm aware that Suffolk County has plans  
11 for further improvements to this parkland including the  
12 construction of a new pier and walkway. My initial perusal of the  
13 subject area leads me to believe that the planned addition of a  
14 pier and walkway would be premature in light of the existing  
15 environmental condition of the site. To my knowledge mitigation of  
16 the impacts of upland runoff and erosion as well as previous  
17 construction activities have not been adequately addressed required  
18 both by SEQRA and the Huntington Harbor LWRP. I believe it would  
19 not be possible to adequately address the existing impacts as well  
20 as impacts of any future planned construction without a full  
21 environmental assessment of the site and a comprehensive plan of  
22 all the future improvements by the County for Coindre Hall. As we  
23 know, Coindre Hall is a unique and valuable parkland. And it's  
24 visited and appreciated by patrons from a number of active and  
25 passive recreational activities. Any future plans for this park by  
26 the County should ensure that there is proper balance of uses and  
27 none of the existing uses be alienated. This balance could not be  
28 adequately achieved if improvements were initiated in a piecemeal  
29 fashion without addressing all future potential impacts of  
30 improvements that are currently contemplated. Essentially we need  
31 a comprehensive plan and a full environmental review." Thank you.

32  
33 (Applause)

34  
35 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

36 Thank you. Okay, our next speaker is Dale Gifford. Mr. Gifford?  
37 Miss Gifford.

38  
39 **DALE GIFFORD:**

40 Good morning. I'm here again representing Coindre Hall Park  
41 Community Group and our very real concerns about the park, the  
42 working being done in it, the environmental impact, the alienation  
43 of community concern and perhaps most importantly the astounding  
44 fiscal irresponsibility of decisions that have been made. Ladies,  
45 as a reminder it was we who brought to you the disgraceful and  
46 dangerous neglect of the publically used portions of the buildings  
47 and parking lot at the top of the park; not the Coindre Hall  
48 Advisory Board or the Parks Department. It was we who reported the  
49 illegitimate razing of approximately 100 trees in the lower portion  
50 of the park. It is we who pick up trash and pull invasives. We  
51 have repeatedly reported stormwater and groundwater nitrogen latent  
52 runoff flowing through the park in a now almost completely  
53 unmitigated fashion as so much filtration has been removed. Save  
54 the Sound downgraded Huntington Harbor's health from a B minus to a  
55 C minus. There is a very popular public bathing beach immediately  
56 adjacent.

1  
2 We have reported to you the regular flooding around the rusted  
3 steel frame boathouse and the storm driven breaching of the  
4 partially repaired wall. Decisions concerning the expenditure of a  
5 tremendous amount of money are being made without foresight  
6 planning, community input or it would appear common sense. The  
7 County accepted the low bid of \$824,130 to repair the seawall.  
8 Work commenced this past summer without a comprehensive plan. The  
9 wall now stands at approximately 75 percent sealed up. I say  
10 sealed up because that is what essentially the workers are doing.  
11 Rather than studying the flooding prone elements of this site, the  
12 surrounding drain and proceeding accordingly, the decision was made  
13 to report -- to repaint the exterior of the wall and cement cap the  
14 interior. The sea poles are far too few, too small and inadequate.  
15 The result is what you see here in these pictures taken December  
16 22, 2022. This water was not brought here by magic.

10:19AM

17  
18 The surrounding topography, the removal of filtration and in this  
19 case the additional storm driven breach of the seawall resulted in  
20 this intense ponding. The unfinished corner of the wall -- please  
21 hold it higher -- the unfinished corner of the wall provides the  
22 only exit for the torrent. When that portion is closed off this  
23 spring, we will soon have a pool with that condemned rusted steel  
24 frame fracture in the middle. This is and will be the result of  
25 proceeding without a comprehensive plan. This ponding will not  
26 magically stop happening.

10:20AM

27  
28 Any work done on top of this, like a parking lot or a boardwalk  
29 will eventually have to be torn up in order to address this issue  
30 that is fiscally irresponsible and wasteful. What is needed right  
31 now is a pause, a pause in which multiple perspectives are more  
32 professionally considered. It is impossible to argue with the  
33 reality of the results of the decisions made to this point. It is  
34 imperative that a more responsible, inclusive future be created for  
35 Coindre Hall. Thank you.

10:20AM

36  
37 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

38 Thank you very much. And those pictures speak a thousand words.

39  
40 (Applause)

41  
42 **DALE GIFFORD:**

43 Don't they? Thank you very much.

44  
45 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

46 Okay, is there anybody else who would like to speak on this  
47 topic or any topic? Seeing none, I'll make a motion to close the  
48 public portion.

49  
50 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

51 Motion.

52  
53 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

54 Second by Legislator Caracappa. All those in favor? Opposed?  
55 Abstentions? The public portion is closed.

1 **CLERK TASSONE:**  
2 Five. (VOTE: 5-0-0-2. **LEGISLATORS KRUPSKI and PICCIRILLO NOT**  
3 **PRESENT**)

4  
5 **APPOINTMENT RESOLUTIONS**

6  
7 Okay, let's move onto the agenda. IR 1975, Appointing Diane R.  
8 McNally as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum  
9 Commission (Trustee No. 8). (Bontempi). I'll make a motion to  
10 approve.

11  
12 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**  
13 Second.

14  
15 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**  
16 Second by Legislator Caracappa. Does she have to be here?

17  
18 **LEG. FLEMING:**  
19 She should be. General protocol. It's an appointment, not a re.

20  
21 **LEG. KENNEDY:**  
22 They have to come the first time; not for the reappointment.

23  
24 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**  
25 Is she here today?

26  
27 **LEG. FLEMING:**  
28 Why are we making an exception, if I may?

29  
30 **LEG. KENNEDY:**  
31 I had asked our attorney --

32  
33 **STENOGRAPHER:**  
34 Are you on the record?

35  
36 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**  
37 We'll discharge it. And if she doesn't come --

38  
39 **LEG. KENNEDY:**  
40 Yeah, when somebody did not show that was a first-timer, I had  
41 asked Mr. Duffy is it still the first one that has to show. And he  
42 said, no, it's not, so.

43  
44 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**  
45 How about we make a motion to discharge without recommendation and  
46 we'll --

47  
48 **LEG. KENNEDY:**  
49 Good.

50  
51 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**  
52 And if she shows up at the General -- yeah.

53  
54 **LEG. KENNEDY:**  
55 That's good.



1 **LEG. HAHN:**

2 Coming to the General Meeting is okay, but not coming at all is  
3 not.

4  
5 **LEG. FLEMING:**

6 But we might want to check with the sponsor. Because I know in the  
7 past when, for instance, someone that we had -- I was appointing  
8 was unable to come to Committee, it was kind -- it's a whole  
9 different thing at the General. It's more formal. It takes more  
10 time. They might prefer to come to Committee, which is what I've  
11 seen in the past.

10:22AM

12  
13 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

14 Well, we'll decide that then. So I'll make a motion to discharge  
15 without recommendation; second by --

16  
17 **LEG. FLEMING:**

18 But then you're not back at the Committee, Rob.

19  
20 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

21 Let's make a motion to approve. And she comes to the General  
22 Meeting -- she should come; she absolutely should come.

23  
24 **LEG. FLEMING:**

25 How can we make -- how can we as committee members weigh in? We  
26 don't have a resume; we haven't heard from her; we don't know what  
27 her -- you know, I'm very, very grateful that people are willing to  
28 serve in government but what is the protocol here?

29  
30 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

31 We'll stick with the motion to discharge without recommendation. I  
32 have a second from Legislator Kennedy. All those in favor?  
33 Opposed? Abstentions?

34  
35 **CLERK TASSONE:**

36 Five. (VOTE: 5-0-0-2. **LEGISLATORS KRUPSKI and PICCIRILLO NOT**  
37 **PRESENT**)

38  
39 **LEG. FLEMING:**

40 May I also just request a resume from the sponsor?

10:23AM

41  
42 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

43 Sure.

44  
45 **LEG. FLEMING:**

46 Thank you.

47  
48 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

49 Okay, I believe -- is this a reappointment. So IR 1975 is  
50 discharged without recommendation. **IR 1004, Appoint member to the**  
51 **Suffolk County Board of Trustees of Parks, Recreation and**  
52 **Conservation (Laurie Farber). (Richberg). Is she here, Laura?**  
53 Come on up.

10:23AM

54  
55 **LAURA FARBER:**

56 Hi.

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10:24AM

10:24AM

10:25AM

**VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

How are you? So you are Jason's -- Legislator Richberg's appointment?

**LAURA FARBER:**

Yes, I was approached by his office.

**VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

How you doing?

**LAURA FARBER:**

Okay.

**VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

Okay, you want to just give us a little background about yourself?

**LAURA FARBER:**

Okay. The last time I was here I brought kids to testify actually. Last time I was here I brought some young people to testify at this Committee about plastics. And I've had kids working on that issue for years. I do a lot of work with kids.

I have been a park ranger at Fire Island National Seashore. I did some interpretive work for Suffolk County Parks ages and ages ago so I have some training and background in interpretation. I have a degree, a BS in environmental science. I did a lot of bird research primarily on Fire Island as well. I spend a lot of time in the park -- county parkland down the street from where I live now in Wyandanch and take a lot of pictures.

**VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

A federal park --

**LAURA FARBER:**

A seasonal park ranger, yeah.

**VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

Seasonal, okay.

**LAURA FARBER:**

Yeah, yeah. I worked there several summers.

**VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

I didn't know they hired people seasonally.

**LAURA FARBER:**

They did back when I was in college.

**VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

Okay, that was a while ago. Oh, a while ago for me, too. (Laughter) Anybody have any questions?

**LEG. FLEMING:**

I have a question.

1 **VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

2 Go ahead.

3  
4 **LEG. FLEMING:**

5 Good afternoon. Thank you very much for being here, for offering  
6 your service and for providing your resume. This is the first I've  
7 had an opportunity to see your qualifications. I know this is an  
8 unpaid position so I don't mean to be tough on you. I'm very glad  
9 that you're willing to do it. But I just wanted to ask a little  
10 bit about your perspective with regard to participating as a  
11 trustee; very, very important role to play. It is a little bit  
12 demanding. They've done -- you've done some Zoom meetings, right,  
13 but a lot of travel.

14  
15 **LEG. HAHN:**

16 Yes.

17  
18 **LEG. FLEMING:**

19 There's now once again a lot of travel, which I found great as a  
20 representative you're all over the County; you learn about places  
21 but it is -- I appreciate your willingness to do that. Could you  
22 talk just a little bit about what your perspective is on the role  
23 of our parks system. And when you're deliberating on important  
24 issues as a member of the trustee board, what is the perspective  
25 that you would bring to bear on the role of the parks system in our  
26 communities?

27  
28 **LAURA FARBER:**

29 Well, my background is more on the ecological end than the  
30 recreational end of it. I've done a lot of studying, reading,  
31 work, taking kids around to parks. So to me the natural areas that  
32 this County has is absolutely a phenomenal park system. I don't  
33 know any place like it. It's just absolutely amazing. We have  
34 some really, really amazing places here on Long Island. And I grew  
35 up on Long Island. I grew up in Nassau. And I will tell you that  
36 I went to Girl Scout Camp in New Jersey, in northwestern New  
37 Jersey. And we'd go on hikes and we'd come across streams. And  
38 I'd be all excited. They all looked me like I was crazy. I'm  
39 like, we don't have streams like this where I come from. I didn't  
40 know we did. About every couple of miles all along the whole south  
41 shore of Long Island was streams at one point, you know, until I  
42 did research and really looked this up. I didn't know this.

43  
44 And it wasn't until I started really connecting with people who did  
45 a lot of birding that I really got to see Long Island and really  
46 fell in love with -- I guess I would say what Long Island was at  
47 one time. Because, again, I did some research on that and it was  
48 described as a paradise originally. Some of the original, original  
49 people who wrote about early Long Island described it as a  
50 paradise. Pretty amazing place that we have here. And it's nice  
51 that we know that we still have some places left. But I know  
52 there's a lot of things in trouble between rising sea levels, which  
53 means our groundwater levels are changing. The sewerage -- the  
54 sewerage that's being put in actually on my own street is going to  
55 change the whole water systems and what that means for our  
56 wetlands. And I'm aware of that. I don't know what we can do, but

1 I'm aware of it.

2

3 **LEG. FLEMING:**

4 I really appreciate your careful work, bringing us your resume and  
5 sort of describing all of that. As an elementary school teacher in  
6 the natural sciences, I can imagine you're going to bring a lot to  
7 bear to the discussions of how the parks system can best serve the  
8 community. So thank you very much for that. And I guess -- is it  
9 fair to say that as an elementary school science teacher, you'll  
10 look for opportunities to promote the parks in a way that will feed  
11 into that educational purpose of the parks?

10:29AM

12  
13 **LAURA FARBER:**

14 I think we need to promote them in a way that people understand  
15 their importance and are supportive. I think that's very  
16 important.

17

18 **LEG. FLEMING:**

19 Perfect. Well, thank you very much for your willingness to serve.  
20 I fully support your appointment. Thank you.

10:29AM

21  
22 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

23 Legislator Hahn.

24

25 **LEG. HAHN:**

26 Yes, I echo Legislator Fleming's comments thanking you for your  
27 willingness to serve on this Committee. I was chair of the  
28 Legislature's Environment Committee and Parks Committee and then  
29 Environment and Parks Committee for ten years and parks are really  
30 my passion. And I'm so grateful for your willingness to step up  
31 and serve. And then for the very important point I created a park  
32 passport for kids for the very reason that you mentioned. And I  
33 think so many don't realize the spectacular spots we have right in  
34 our own backyard. And so to me I very much recognize the need for  
35 champions for access. Not over use, but access. Too often there  
36 are forces that work to keep people away. And I think passive uses  
37 are important to build stewardship, to build understanding of the  
38 beauty and the habitats that we do have. And it's a very delicate  
39 balance. And I'm just curious your opinion on that.

10:29AM

40  
41 **LAURA FARBER:**

42 Well, I know that we have parks that nobody can really get to  
43 because there's no place to park. So that's -- and people want to  
44 go there. They end up with parking tickets and so forth. We have  
45 other parks that are heavily used. And I'm aware that heavy use,  
46 particularly with dogs, oddly enough, does impact the wildlife.  
47 And that's something we need to be sensitive to, not oblivious to.  
48 You know, so you're right, there needs to be some balance there.  
49 We need to keep in mind that there are a lot of things that only  
50 live in undisturbed centers of undisturbed areas; not even on the  
51 fringes. So we need to look at the balance, but we need to help  
52 people see and appreciate and understand our beautiful natural  
53 places here.

10:30AM

54  
55 **LEG. HAHN:**

56 Thank you.

10:31AM

1  
2 **VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

3 Thank you. Legislator Kennedy.

4  
5 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

6 Thank you. Thank you for volunteering your time to be a trustee.  
7 With your education and your experience we are blessed to have you.

8  
9 **LAURA FARBER:**

10 Thank you.

11  
12 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

13 Just the statement about the sewers affecting the groundwater level  
14 bought me over. So continue to use your knowledge and I support  
15 you.

16  
17 **LAURA FARBER:**

18 Thank you.

19  
20 **VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

21 Thank you. Okay, so we have a motion. I'll make a motion to  
22 approve; second by Legislator Hahn. All those in favor? Opposed?  
23 Abstentions?

24  
25 **CLERK TASSONE:**

26 Five. (VOTE: 5-0-0-2. **LEGISLATORS KRUPSKI and PICCIRILLO NOT**  
27 **PRESENT)**

28  
29 **VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

30 Okay, 1004 is approved. And congratulations, you are now on the  
31 Suffolk County Trustee -- oh, Tuesday's meeting. You don't have to  
32 show up Tuesday but --

33  
34 **LEG. HAHN:**

35 You don't have to be there, right.

36  
37 **VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

38 You're not on it actually yet, so. We have no presentations.  
39 Let's move into Tabled Resolutions.

40  
41 **TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

42  
43 **IR 1731, Authorizing appraisal of land under the Suffolk County**  
44 **Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No.**  
45 **24-2007, Sylvester Manor Educational Farm, Inc. - Town of Shelter**  
46 **Island (SCTM Nos. 0700-007.00-07.00-016.000 and**  
47 **0700-008.00-01.00-005.010 p/o). (Fleming). At the request of the**  
48 **sponsor, we'll make a motion to table; second by Legislator**  
49 **Fleming. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?**

50  
51 **CLERK TASSONE:**

52 Five. (VOTE: 5-0-0-2. **LEGISLATORS KRUPSKI and PICCIRILLO NOT**  
53 **PRESENT)**

54  
55 **VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

56 1731 is tabled. **IR 1921, Authorizing the appraisal of land under**

1 the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by  
2 Local Law No. 24-2007, 2384 Belmont Ave., LLC property - Town of  
3 Brookhaven (SCTM Nos. 0200-159.00-02.00-008.002 and  
4 0200-159.00-02.00-008.003). (Hahn). Legislator Hahn, I'm assuming  
5 you're going to make a motion to approve? Tabled for public  
6 hearing, I meant.

7  
8 **LEG. HAHN:**  
9 Yes.

10:33AM 10  
11 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**  
12 I'm sorry?

13  
14 **LEG. HAHN:**  
15 Motion to table.

16  
17 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**  
18 Motion to table. I'll second the table. All those in favor?  
19 Opposed? Abstentions?

10:33AM 20  
21 **CLERK TASSONE:**  
22 Five. (VOTE: 5-0-0-2. **LEGISLATORS KRUPSKI and PICCIRILLO NOT**  
23 **PRESENT**)

24  
25 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**  
26 1921 is tabled. 1951, Adopting Local Law No. -2022, A Charter Law  
27 to extend the 2014 Enhanced Suffolk County Water Quality Protection  
28 Program. (Co. Exec.). This has to be -- it was closed, I believe.  
29 Motion to approve. I have a question on this if somebody could  
10:33AM 30 approach.

31  
32 **CLERK TASSONE:**  
33 Mr. Chairman, we have a motion.

34  
35 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**  
36 I'll second it for the sake of talking about it. And if I got this  
37 right, this was set to expire or did expire this year and we're  
38 extending it another year?

39  
40 **MR. SALAZAR:**  
41 Yeah, this is -- my name is Camilo Salazar, Suffolk County Water  
42 Quality. So, yes, it was set to expire at the end of 2022 but we  
43 had delays due to COVID and the cyber attack that we suffered in  
44 September so we are asking for an extension this year to make use  
45 of the remaining funds in the enhanced water quality fund.

46  
47 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**  
48 How much money is left in it?

49  
50 **MR. SALAZAR:**  
51 So we have approximately -- there are some projects that are still  
52 going on so there are -- so some of the funds are encumbered  
53 already. Some of them are obligated. So from the 8733, we have  
54 approximately \$20,000. That will go into the Mud Creek project.  
55  
56

1 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

2 Twenty thousand?

3

4 **MR. SALAZAR:**

5 About 20,000, from the enhanced sewer infrastructure funding, we  
6 have approximately encumbered, we have approximately 1.5 million so  
7 they are going to be spent. And obligated we have 329,000.

8

9 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

10:35AM 10 Twenty nine plus twenty --

11

12 **MR. SALAZAR:**

13 329,000 in advanced sewer infrastructure.

14

15 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

16 Okay. So this is strictly for sewers and this is money that we  
17 bonded back in 2014?

18

19 **MR. SALAZAR:**

10:35AM 20 That's correct.

21

22 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

23 Are we paying it off now? Are we -- have we been paying --

24

25 **MR. SALAZAR:**

26 Yes.

27

28 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

29 -- interest on this money that we haven't even used?

10:35AM 30

31 **MR. SALAZAR:**

32 We haven't used the fund for years. We have delay since 2020 due  
33 to COVID and delay in the projects that had been implemented. So  
34 what this resolution is doing is extending the deadline in order  
35 for us to be able to use the remaining funds.

36

37 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

38 Okay, to Budget Review, correct me if I'm wrong, did we borrow this  
39 money in 2014?

10:36AM 40

41 **MS. HALLORAN:**

42 Usually they -- they have the authorization to borrow but they  
43 usually check with the department when they're ready to use the  
44 money. And that's when they might issue the bonds closer to when  
45 they're ready to use it.

46

47 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

48 This money in particular?

49

50 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

51 I'm pretty sure this was under County Executive Steve Levy where  
52 they upfronted the money. They bonded the money; received the cash  
53 to do these water quality programs. And this was set to expire, as  
54 said just now, there are a few dollars left from this. But my  
55 understanding is the money was borrowed. We have the money. We  
56 upfronted money.

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10:37AM

10:37AM

10:37AM

**VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

Okay. So this is 2014, it says. So it wasn't under Steve Levy; it was under the current County Executive.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

Is this the 477 program?

**MR. SALAZAR:**

This is the enhanced water quality money. So it's separate from the 477 program but it's added to it. So it's part of a settlement that happened to us in '14. So that money was put aside for the water quality projects and sewer infrastructure.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

So this is -- supplements --

**MR. SALAZAR:**

Yes.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

-- the work of the WQPRP?

**MR. SALAZAR:**

That's correct, yeah.

**VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

I'm not arguing. My question is, have we been paying interest on this from 2014? I mean is this sitting in a bank account. And if it is, how much are we getting interest on it and how much is the loan because this is the reason we're 62. Or 61 now, I guess. Working towards 62.

**LEG. FLEMING:**

May I? Oh, sorry.

**VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

Lance, do you have any idea if this money is sitting in a bank somewhere?

**DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

Yeah, based on what I have now, no, I can't answer that. And maybe I misspoke about the (inaudible) but I thought this was the program that they started under Levy to upfront the money that was originally part of the water quality.

**VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

It might be the lawsuit.

**DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

-- in that bond and then it was reauthorized.

**VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

It might be the lawsuit settlement money.



1 **MR. SALAZAR:**

2 It is.

3

4 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

5 Okay.

6

7 **MR. SALAZAR:**

8 What's what it is.

9

10 **DIRECTOR REINHEIMER:**

11 I stand contracted. I'm sorry.

12

13 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

14 It is the lawsuit money. Okay. All right, so we have a motion and  
15 a second to approve.

16

17 **LEG. FLEMING:**

18 On the motion.

19

20 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

21 On the motion.

22

23 **LEG. FLEMING:**

24 Just one question. The only amendment is extending from December  
25 1st, 2014 to December 31st, 2023 under this Article 12 (a)?

26

27 **MR. SALAZAR:**

28 12 (a), that's correct, yes.

29

30 **LEG. FLEMING:**

31 Okay. Thank you, Mr. -- thank you, Mr. Trotta. I'm sorry.

32

33 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

34 Okay, so we have a motion, a second. All those in favor? Opposed?  
35 Abstentions?

36

37 **CLERK TASSONE:**

38 Five. (VOTE: 5-0-0-2. **LEGISLATORS KRUPSKI and PICCIRILLO NOT**  
39 **PRESENT**)

10:39AM

40

#### 41 **INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

42

43 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

44 It passes, it's 1951. **Introductory Resolutions. IR 1976,**  
45 **Extending the Pollinator Pathway Task Force. (Hahn).** Motion by  
46 Legislator Hahn; second by Legislator Fleming. All those in favor?  
47 Opposed? Abstentions?

48

49 **CLERK TASSONE:**

50 Five. (VOTE: 5-0-0-2. **LEGISLATORS KRUPSKI and PICCIRILLO NOT**  
51 **PRESENT**)

10:39AM

52

53 **VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**

54 1976 is passed. 1002, Making a SEQRA determination in connection  
55 with the Proposed Air Traffic Control Tower Replacement Project at  
56 Suffolk County Gabreski Airport, Town of Southampton. (Pres. Off.).

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10:39AM

**LEG. FLEMING:**  
Motion to approve.

**VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**  
Motion to approve by Legislator Fleming; second by Legislator Kennedy. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**CLERK TASSONE:**  
Five. (VOTE: 5-0-0-2. LEGISLATORS KRUPSKI and PICCIRILLO NOT PRESENT)

**VICE CHAIR TROTТА:**  
1002 is approved. We have no Procedural Motions, no Home Rules, no executive session, this meeting is adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:39 AM**