

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: May 10, 2023
TIME: 9:32 AM – 11:22 AM
LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference

PRESENT:

Rob Carpenter Jr
Frank De Rubeis
Anthony Graves
Thomas Gulbransen, Chair
Mark Haubner
Kaetlyn Jackson
Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair
Mary Ann Spencer
Herbert Strobel

ABSENT:

Hon. Anthony Piccirillo

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

None

STAFF:

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning
John Corral, Environmental Projects Coordinator, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning
Elisa Picca, Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning
Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Departments of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Jennifer Kohn, Asst. County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law

GUESTS:

Mikael Kerr, Farmland and Open Space Supervisor, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning

Andrew Amakawa, Senior Planner, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning

Melissa Kangas, Planner, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning

Jade Killean, Suffolk County Dept. of Eco. Dev. and Planning

Hon. Legislator Mazzarella, Suffolk County Legislator, District #3

Tim Rothang, Legislative Aide, Suffolk County Legislator Fleming, District #3

Irene Donohue, Legislative Aide, Suffolk County Legislator Fleming, District #2

Norman Karl

Jude Rozenveld

Tom Gulbransen, Chair, called the May 10, 2023 CEQ Meeting to order. Mr. Gulbransen stated that a quorum was present and read the following opening statement:

“This is the regularly scheduled CEQ meeting for May 10, 2023 meeting of the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality and for the record we do have a quorum present.

In accordance with Suffolk County Local Law No. 26-2021, the CEQ, as an Advisory Body to the Legislature, will hold this meeting electronically via Zoom. 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. Public comments may be provided during the Meeting’s public portion. We will be using ZOOM and will be recording the entirety of the meeting. The minutes of the meeting will also be posted on the Suffolk County CEQ website.

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:

- April 12 Meeting Summary

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. De Rubeis to approve the April 12, 2023 CEQ minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Graves. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

John Corral, Staff to the CEQ, provided information on the below correspondence that the CEQ received since the last CEQ meeting on April 12, 2023:

Public Portion:

During the public portion of the meeting no member of the public requested to speak.

Historic Trust Docket:

Director's Report:

Updates on Housing Program for Historic Trust Sites:

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services with Suffolk County Parks, provided the CEQ with an update on the Housing Program. Mr. Martin informed the CEQ that one housing vacancies that he had discussed at previous CEQ meetings including a property at Robert Cushman County Park, a property at River Road. Mr. Martin noted that this residence will be renovated by the Parks Department and then be made available for rent.

Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin noted that he did not have any new updates regarding the custodial agreements.

However, Mr. Martin wanted to comment on four resolutions on the May 2, 2023 Laid on the Table report. Mr. Marin provided the CEQ with information on IR 1384-2023 which is on the LADS report for funding regarding the Cedar Point Lighthouse.

IR 1385-23 For Additional funds in this year's budget for Cedar Point Lighthouse

IR1387-23 the Housing program which needed housekeeping with regards to wording of the resolution, i.e. changing tenant to licensee. They aren't allowed to provide leases in the Parks Department they have to be licensee. Another example was the Parks Police are now Park Rangers.

IR1396-23 For additional funds for the LI Maritime Museum for repairs to roof and replacement and upgrades to the fire alarm system.

Mr. Martin also noted that the there were concerns over items left by Cornell at Coindre Hall, at this time all items have been removed. Also an upcoming project there will be a public hearing regarding CR36 South Country Road work which goes through a Historic District. One of the Historic Trust Committee members Ellen Williams has been keeping a close eye on this project since it is going through a Historic District and there are local concerns. Mr. Martin spoke with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works on this project and they are just getting input at this time and they should be bringing this project before the CEQ this winter.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Inclusion of the Below Listed Properties into an Existing Certified Agricultural District Pursuant to New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Section 303-b (Note – SEQRA review will be done for each property see project EAFs for property details)

Prior to the review of the individual applications, Mr. Gulbransen, as Chair of the CEQ, described the work that the CEQ has done over the past few months in preparation for the CEQ review of this year’s proposed Agricultural District inclusion applications. Mr. Gulbransen noted that this preparation included receiving legal guidance from the

Suffolk County Department of Law, reviewing how other New York State Counties conducts their SEQRA reviews and reviewing existing Suffolk County Farmland Programs and Plans including the Suffolk County Agricultural Stewardship Program. Mr. Gulbransen noted that these existing Farmland Programs such as the Suffolk County Agricultural Stewardship Program have the ability to address many of the environmental issues that the CEQ considers when reviewing the Agricultural District Applications.

After the above discussion, Mr. Kerr then provided an overview of each of the below Agricultural District applications. This overview included a description of the subject property, the surrounding properties and the on the subject property’s existing and/or anticipated farm operations.

For each property, the CEQ discussed the subject property and the proposed Ag District application. The CEQ then considered the environmental criteria listed in Part II of the EAF to determine whether the proposed Ag District Inclusion application may have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

1. ***South Haven Farm, LLC, Town of Brookhaven***

After the above noted review, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis. Motion carried.

2. ***GKLF, LLC & GKLF II, LLC, Town of Southold***

After the above noted review, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Haubner. Motion carried.

3. ***473 Woodbury Rd., LLC, Town of Huntington***

After the above noted review, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strobel. Motion carried.

4. ***Cedar Croft Farm, LLC, Town of Huntington***

After the above noted review, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Graves. Motion carried.

5. ***GC Properties & Development, Town of Islip***

After the above noted review, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis. Motion carried.

6. ***Meagan & Thomas Zegarelli, Town of Southampton***

After the above noted review, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis. Motion carried.

7. ***5625 Aldrich Lane, LLC, Town of Southold***

After the above noted review, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Haubner. Motion carried.

8. ***Horseblock Road, LLC, (aka Vic's Nursery West), Town of Brookhaven***

After the above noted review, Mr. De Rubeis made a motion to recommend the classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table May 2, 2023

After a discussion, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table May 2, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis. Motion carried. Mr. Kaufman abstained from IR 1437.

Other Business:

Mr. Gulbransen asked Mr. Kerr with regards to the Agricultural Districts if he could highlight the parcel specific details for them to focus on. Highlight what part is different from what is going on presently. Mr. Kerr noted that he can certainly do that for next year.

Mr. De Rubeis noted that we should receive from the Towns a SEQRA acknowledgment from them on any environmental issues the Town may have.

Mr. Gulbransen also noted that we have open seats on the Council.

CAC Concerns:

None

The CEQ adjourned the Meeting