

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: April 12, 2023
TIME: 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM
LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Thomas Gulbransen, Chair
Kaetlyn Jackson

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
Sarah Lansdale, Commissioner, 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:

Hon. Dominick Thorne, Suffolk County Legislator, District # 7

Emerson Hasbrock, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Carolyn Sukowski, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Lorne Brousseau, Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning

Michael Brown, Suffolk County Dept. of Economic Development and Planning

Lisa Broughton, Suffolk County Dept. of Economic Development and Planning

Camilo Salazar, Suffolk County Dept. of Economic Development and Planning

Erik Bergey, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Susan Leach

Michael Kaufman, the CEQ Vice-Chair, called the April 12, 2023 CEQ Meeting to order. Mr. Kaufman stated that a quorum was present and that Tom Gulbransen, the CEQ Chair, was not able to attend the April 12, 2023 CEQ Meeting. Mr. Kaufman noted that as Vice-Chair he will be running the Meeting and then asked John Corral, CEQ Staff, to read the following opening statement:

“This is the regularly scheduled CEQ meeting for April 12, 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:

- February 8, 2023 Meeting Summary

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. De Rubeis to approve the February 8, 2023 CEQ minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Haubner. Motion carried. Mr. Graves abstained.

Correspondence:

John Corral, Staff to the CEQ, provided information on the below correspondence that the CEQ

received since the last CEQ meeting on February 8, 2023:

- Mr. Kaufman and Mr. Corral informed the CEQ of a March 28, 2023 Correspondence that was received by the Town of Southampton Planning Board. The correspondence is a SEQRA Coordination letter from the Town of Southampton Planning Board that is in regards to the Polsinelli Management Town Site Plan application. The March 28, 2023 Town of Southampton Planning Board's SEQRA Coordination letter identified the CEQ as an Involved Agency and indicated that the applicant (Polsinelli Management) is requesting a modification to the Town's Site Plan approval.

The CEQ reviewed and discussed this March 28, 2023 letter as well as the original August 16, 2022 Town of Southampton's Planning Board's SEQRA Coordination letter for the Polsinelli Management Town Site Plan application and the CEQ's September 14, 2022 response letter.

Having considered the March 28, 2023 Town of Southampton Planning Board's SEQRA Coordination letter as well as the previous related correspondences, Mr. De Rubies made a motion to authorized the CEQ Vice Chair to send a response letter to the Town of Southampton Planning Board noting that the CEQ does not object to the Town of Southampton Planning Board acting as Lead Agency and clarify that the CEQ does not make an approval related to this Town Site Plan application and that the CEQ should be considered an Interested Agency and not an Involved Agency in this SEQRA review. The motion was seconded by Legislator Piccirillo. Motion carried

- Mr. Corral noted that as follow up correspondence to the February 8th CEQ meeting, the CEQ received a correspondence from Desiree Benn, President of Coindre Hall Park Community, regarding Coindre Hall Park Community's March 1, 2022 Ecological Presentation and from David Jakim regarding his Ecological Assessment of Coindre Hall Park.
- Mr. Corral noted that the CEQ also received a March 8, 2023 Correspondence from James Rigano regarding a Habitat Assessment that was completed for the Coindre Hall Property and a March 22, 2023 email correspondence from Ms. Benn regarding the Coindre Hall Advisory Group. These correspondences were provided to the CEQ members.
- In addition, the CEQ received a February 21, 2023 Correspondence from PSEG Long Island related to the SEQRA review for the Hampton Bays Overpass project. This correspondence was also provided to the CEQ members.

Public Portion:

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

However, at the end of meeting a member from the public, Susan Leach, requested to speak. Mr. Kaufman noted that she could provide her public comments to the CEQ.

Ms. Leach noted her concerns regarding the storage of materials and debris at the Coindre Hall property. Ms. Leach stated that these materials were in close proximity to the Town of Huntington's Gold Star Beach and also in close proximity to a wetland area. Ms. Leach believed this storage was related to an Oyster cultivation project. Ms. Leach noted her concern regarding the impact these materials could have on the wetlands and stated that this material should be removed. Ms. Leach also noted that this morning she emailed the CEQ staff photographs of this material/debris. Mr. Kaufman thanked her for her comments and noted that the CEQ will look into her comments.

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 four housing vacancies that he had discussed at previous CEQ meetings including a property at Southaven County Park, a property at Old River Road in Manorville, a property on River Road in Manorville and a property at Cedar Point County Park have all been rented and will be occupied by May 1, 2023. Mr. Martin, also stated that the Parks Department has a new vacancy at Cedar Point County Park. 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 provided the CEQ with information on IR 1304-2023 which is on the LADS report authorizes the appraisal of land for the County acquisition of a Deep Well Farm addition. This property is located across the street from the main farm. Mr. Martin noted that the Parks Department agreed that this property has archeological historic significance and could be added to the Deep Well Farm Parks property.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

It was noted that no projects were received this month for CEQ Review.

Project Review:
Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table March 7, 2023 and April 4, 2023

As part of the CEQ's review of the March 7, 2023 LADS report, Mr. Kaufman updated the CEQ on IR 1121-2021, which is in regards to a restoration project proposed for the Nissequogue River. Mr. Kaufman noted that some of the technical project details still need to be worked out and as a result no bonds shall be issued or construction work take place for this project until SEQRA is complete. After the above discussion, Mr. De Rubeis made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table March 7, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Graves. Motion carried. Legislator Piccirillo voted no.

After the CEQ discussed the April 4, 2023 resolutions, Mr. De Rubeis made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table April 4, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Graves. Motion carried. Legislator Piccirillo voted no.

Other Business:

- Legislator Thorne provided the CEQ with an update on a historic property (known as the Swan River County Park Addition/Avery Property) the County is working to acquire in East Patchogue. Legislator Thorne provided an overview of this proposed acquisition and noted the historic importance of the property. Michael Brown, from Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning and Richard Martin also provided additional information to the CEQ regarding the historic significance of this property and its acquisition status. The CEQ voiced support for the acquisition of this historic property.
- Suffolk County Stormwater Management Program Annual Report 2023

A presentation was given by Emerson Hasbrouck, Marine Program Director, with Cornell Cooperative Extension on the Suffolk County Stormwater Management Program. Mr. Hasbrouck's presentation consisted of a power point presentation on the efforts and results of the Stormwater Management Program. The annual report can be found online at www.SuffolkStormwater.com

CAC Concerns:

None

The CEQ adjourned the Meeting