

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: August 9, 2023
TIME: 9:33 AM – 10:22 AM
LOCATION: Microsoft Teams meeting

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Mark Haubner

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
Christine DeSalvo, Office Administrator, 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

Michael Camacho, Asst. County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law

GUESTS:

Diana Lynch, Senior Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Departments of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

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

Hon. Legislator Jason Richberg, Suffolk County Legislator, District #15

Claire Mangelli, Chief of Staff for Suffolk County Legislator Richberg, District # 15

Tom Gulbransen, Chair of the CEQ, called the August 9, 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 August 9, 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 Microsoft Teams. 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 Microsoft Teams 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:

- Meeting Summaries May 10, 2023 and June 13, 2023 and July 12, 2023

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. De Rubeis to approve the May 10, 2023, the June 13, 2023 and the July 12, 2023 CEQ minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

John Corral, Staff to the CEQ, noted that the CEQ received two correspondence prior to this CEQ meeting. These correspondence included:

- A July 28, 2023 correspondence from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) in regards to the Downtown Smithtown Sewering Project that the CEQ reviewed at its July 12, 2023 Meeting.

Mr. Corral noted that this correspondence indicated that a NYSDOT Permit would be required for Project work within the NYSDOT road right-of-way. The

correspondence also provided a contact person at NYSDOT. Mr. Corral noted that it is known that this Permit is needed and that the Project EAF indicated that this Permit would be required. Mr. Corral also noted that CEQ staff provided this correspondence to Suffolk County Department of Public Works.

- A July 31, 2023 correspondence from James Rigano in regards to the Suffolk County Coindre Hall park property.

Mr. Corral noted that this correspondence was in regards to the road project at Coindre Hall and the proposed addition to the NYSDEC mapped wetlands area at the Coindre Hall property. Mr. Corral noted that the correspondence states that the ongoing roadway project should not continue while the proposed amendment to the wetlands boundary is being considered by NYSDEC.

Mr. Corral also noted that CEQ staff discussed this correspondence with the Suffolk County Department of Parks and that Suffolk County Parks confirmed that this road project has been completed and that it was done in accordance with the NYSDEC permit. Mr. Gulbransen noted that it is important that the Suffolk County Parks Department received this correspondence.

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, provided the CEQ with an update on the Housing Program. Mr. Martin informed the CEQ that there is a new vacancy at Prosser Pines County Park. Mr. Martin noted that this housing unit is currently being renovated. After the renovation, the Suffolk County Housing Committee will review the property and make a recommendation regarding the appropriate rental rate. Mr. Martin noted that a date for the Housing Committee meeting has not yet been set.

Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

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

Mr. Martin also updated the CEQ on a resolution on IR 1637-2023 which is on the July 25, 2023 LADS Report. Mr. Martin noted that IR1637-2023 proposes to amend the existing oversight committee for the Vanderbilt Museum. Mr. Martin

noted that these changes will add the Suffolk County Parks Commissioner to the Committee and require more direct reporting from the Committee to the Legislature. Mr. Martin noted that he thinks this is a good process to put in place especially because the Legislature approves the capital funding to maintain the Museum site.

Mr. Martin also announced that Suffolk County is closing on the acquisition of the Avery Homestead. This is an 11 acre homestead from the Avery family in East Patchogue that dates back to the 1750s. Mr. Martin noted that the property has 4 buildings: a house from 1880s that is good condition which includes an apartment on the second floor that can be rented; a large barn from 1930s that is in good shape; a house from 1820 that is in poor shape and will have to be partially rebuilt and a small former flower shop located near South County Road that is in good shape. Mr. Martin noted that once the Suffolk County Parks Department has the property secured, he will start the process with the Historic Trust Committee of having the building considered for dedication to the Suffolk County Historic Trust.

The CEQ discussed the CEQ/Historic Trust's role in the preservation of these historic properties. Mr. Martin stated the CEQ/Historic Trust reviews and makes recommendations to the Suffolk County Legislature on what properties/buildings should be dedicated to the Historic Trust. The Suffolk County Legislature then determines whether the property/building should be placed on the Historic Trust. The CEQ also discussed whether the CEQ should consider the financial impacts that may be related to the upkeep of these historic properties. Mr. Martin and Mr. Corral noted that it's their understanding that the CEQ/Historic Trust makes recommendation on the historic significance of the properties/structures and the financial considerations are the Legislature's responsibilities. Mr. Corral also noted that CEQ staff can do a little more research related to this issue.

Project Review:

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

- A. Proposed Maxine Postal County Park Improvements Project, Village of Amityville, Town of Babylon

A presentation regarding the proposed Maxine Postal County Park Improvements Project was given by Hon. Legislator Jason Richberg, Suffolk County Legislator for the 15th District and Diana Lynch, Senior Environmental Analyst with the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation.

The proposed project involves improvements to Maxine Postal County Park located at the south end of Unqua Place in the Village of Amityville. The Park, which borders the Great South Bay on the Park's south and east sides, consists of two tax map parcels totaling 1.13 acres. The Suffolk County Department of Parks seeks to make improvements to the Park consisting of clearing existing brush and vegetation as required to allow for the construction of the park improvements. The proposed park improvements include: a new paved parking area with 7 standard parking spaces

and 1 accessible parking space, a walking path, a 12 foot wood framed gazebo, an exercise area, ten benches and five trees.

After the project presentation the CEQ discussed the proposed project. This discussion included:

- The type and suitability of materials used for the proposed walking trail and the proposed exercise area. It was agreed that the Suffolk County Parks Department would work with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works and consider the project site's close proximity to the Great South Bay when determining the appropriate permeable materials to use for the proposed exercise area.
- The importance of using native vegetative plantings due to the projects close proximity to the Great South Bay.
- The recommendation that the Parks Department consider removing the vegetation at the edges of the Park property and replace with more suitable native vegetative plantings.
- The CEQ also discussed the public benefit of the project. These benefits include providing the public with safe access to the park so that the public can use the park and enjoy the scenic views of the Great South Bay.

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

Project Review:

Recommendations for LADS Report:

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table July 25, 2023

After a brief discussion, Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table July 25, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. De Rubeis. Motion carried.

Other Business:

None

CAC Concerns:

None

The CEQ adjourned the Meeting