

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



ROBERT J. GAFFNEY
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Theresa Elkowitz
CHAIRPERSON

James Bagg
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, January 19, 2000
a.m.

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 11:35

PRESENT: Voting Members - Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson, Presiding; Larry Swanson, Vice-Chairperson; Tom Cramer, Sharon Kast, Michael Kaufman, Nancy Manfredonia, Barbara Van Liew

Staff: James Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst
Kathleen Rigano & Gail Calfa, Secretaries

Departmental Staff:

Suffolk County Executive's Office
Chris Nuzzi, County Executive Assistant
Suffolk County Law Department
Jenny Kohn, Assistant County Attorney
Suffolk County Legislature
Barbara LoMoriello, Legislative Assistant to Leg. Cooper
Elizabeth Nostrand, Legislative Aide to Leg. Fisher
Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Mike Frank, Commissioner
Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services
Judy Gordon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Nicholas Gibbons, Environmental Analyst
Suffolk County Planning Department
Jennifer Lowe, Intern
Suffolk County Police Department
Vinny Stile, Director of Communication Systems

Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Ben Wright, Chief Engineer, Division of Sanitation
Ed Byrne, Principal Civil Engineer

Conservation Advisory Councils:

Joy Squires, Chairperson, Huntington CAB
Steve Brown, Brookhaven CAC

Guests:

Bill Peet, Long Island Jr. Soccer
Doug Dowd
Margo Myles, Environmental Analyst, Town of Huntington Planning Dept..

The CEQ meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairperson Elkowitz. In attendance were 7 voting members and the Chairpersons of the Huntington Conservation Board and the Brookhaven Conservation Advisory Council.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Mr. Kaufman, seconded by Ms. Kast, the minutes of the November 17, 1999 CEQ meeting were approved as written and distributed.

PROJECT REVIEW:

1. Recommended Type II Actions

- a. Ratification of Staff Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table on November 23 and December 7, 1999 and January 3, 2000.

Mr. Bagg of the CEQ staff preliminarily reviewed the recommendations on legislative resolutions laid on the table on 11/23/99, 12/7/99 and 1/3/00. After discussion by the members, Mr. Swanson made a motion to ratify the staff recommended SEQRA classifications for the 11/23/99, 12/7/99 and 1/3/00 proposed legislative introductory resolutions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and passed unanimously. Those resolutions that are classified as Type II actions under SEQRA need no further environmental review. Chapter 279 of the Suffolk County Code specifies that those classified as either Unlisted or Type I actions require an EAF be prepared and submitted to the CEQ.

- b. Proposed Improvements of Existing Facilities to Sewer District #7, Medford, Town of Brookhaven (8119)

Ben Wright, Chief Engineer, Division of Sanitation, Department of Public Works briefed the Committee on this project stating that the money transferred for this project was less than \$30,000 for

replacement of an emergency generator. A motion was made by Michael Kaufman to classify this project as a Type II action since it was a replacement in-kind. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed by unanimous vote.

- c. Proposed Improvement of Existing Facilities to Sewer District #10, Stony Brook, Town of Brookhaven (CP 8175)

Mr. Wright stated that this project involves replacement of equipment at pumping stations that are approximately 30 years old. A motion was made by Michael Kaufman to classify this project as a Type II action. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed by unanimous vote.

- d. Proposed Improvements of Existing Facilities to Sewer District #14, Holbrook, Town of Islip (CP 8118)

Mr. Wright noted that this project is to retrofit covers, upgrade scrubbers and replace the medium. A chemical mist to reduce odors at this facility rather than mask it will be used. The mist will stay within the tank. Michael Kaufman questioned if the mist was dangerous if inhaled and the Council was reassured that the chemical was safe. Ben Wright said there would be a pilot experiment before the money would be spent on the project. Motion was made by Michael Kaufman to classify this project as a Type II action. The motion was seconded by Larry Swanson and passed by unanimous vote.

- e. Proposed Improvements of Existing Facilities to Sewer District #22, Hauppauge, Town of Smithtown (CP 8171)

This project is for \$200,000 to replace the internal components of the clarifiers and filter in the plant. A motion was made to classify this project as a Type II Action by Tom Cramer. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed unanimously.

2. Proposed Improvements to Suffolk County Sewer District #18N - Heartland, Village of Hauppauge, Town of Smithtown (CP 8126)

Mr. Wright stated that this District has two sewage treatment plants: Heartlands and Suffolk Business Center. Improvements are needed to both plants. Work at the Heartland Sewage Treatment Plant, including site storm water drainage basins, placing rip-rap on north edge of road, repaving the access road and painting the process tanks as necessary in order to maintain the STP site and systems. A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to classify this project as an Unlisted Action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and passed by unanimous vote.

3. Proposed Improvements to Suffolk County Sewer District #18S - Suffolk Business Center, Village of Hauppauge, Town of Smithtown (CP 8126)

This project involves improvements to Suffolk County Sewer District #18S Suffolk Business Center Sewage Treatment Plant, including two (2) new Rotating Biological Contactors with pumps, yard piping, final filter, screen access platform, repaving the access road, modification of the aeration tanks, general maintenance involving cleaning, painting and replacement of fans and louvers, in order to maintain system reliability. A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to classify this project as an Unlisted Action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed unanimously. Question was raised by Larry Swanson as to North Shore Treatment Plant's nutrient removal. Ben Wright explained that \$3 million was received for the Kings Park plant to meet the 2 mg/l standard. It may achieve 3 mg/l. There also have been discussions with Gyrodyne concerning recharging the SUNY plant effluent upland.

4. Proposed Surplus Tower Space Marketing: Mt. Misery Tower Site, Town of Huntington

Mr. Stile from the Police Department stated the County wants to market surplus antenna space on the existing tower. This would clear the way for any entrepreneur who wants to use the tower. It would be similar to Omnipoint. The County Executive wants the CEQ to review approval of surplus tower space. Larry Swanson questioned whether there would be any additions to the tower that would make it objectionable to the community. It was stated that any structural work done on the tower will be only to install new antennae. The tower is presently structurally sound. Its location is off the Northern State Parkway at the end of Mt. Misery Road. Motion made by Tom Cramer to classify the project as an Unlisted Action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. It was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed by a unanimous vote including the Huntington Conservation Board.

5. Proposed Suffolk County Recreational Facilities at Yaphank, Town of Brookhaven

This item was presented by Michael Frank, Commissioner, Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. The project involves the construction of two golf courses on 285 acres, a 10 acre driving and practice range, a 10,000 to 20,000 sq. ft. putting green, a 10,000 to 20,000 sq. ft. clubhouse and pro shop, a 10,000 to 12,000 sq. ft. maintenance building, a 10,000 to 11,000 sq. ft. materials storage building, a 2 acre maintenance yard, 10 soccer/sport fields, as well as 450 parking spaces and access roads on a 384 acre site in Yaphank classified for general county purposes. Commissioner Frank advised that the court ruled that the Golf Course FGEIS and finding statement were null and void because the original legislative resolution did not meet SEQRA requirements. Therefore, a new detailed EAF has been prepared for the Yaphank Recreational Facilities and the project must be considered by itself.

He noted that on October 18, 1999, the Legislature passed legislation phasing out pesticides in most instances. At their November meeting, the CEQ received handouts concerning organic maintenance and a protocol when chemical pesticides will be used. It was noted that the SEQRA

procedure for the Yaphank site currently being followed is correct to get the court's approval for a stipulation of settlement. Presently, non-chemical fertilizers are being used in county parks. The golf courses will have a 104 acre buffer area to remain in its natural state as well as natural out-of-play areas. There was some discussion on language change within the EAF. On page 15, it should be changed to reflect that the various mitigation measures "will" and "shall" be a part of the project. On page 31, Glover Street and Suffolk Avenue are to be reversed. Page 17 should be changed to show that well permits will be required of N.Y.S. D.E.C. A motion was made by Tom Cramer to classify this as a Type I Action and issue a Negative Declaration based on the mitigation measures in the EAF and was seconded by Michael Kaufman. The motion passed unanimously including the Brookhaven CHC.

6. Proposed Greenways Acquisition of the DeLalio Sod Farm for Active Recreation, Eastport, Town of Brookhaven.

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Commissioner Frank and Mr. Peet of the Long Island Junior Soccer League. The project involves the acquisition of approximately 58 acres of property under the Greenways Fund for Active Recreation and proposes the development of six (6) regulation and four (4) junior soccer playing fields. An existing building on site will be used for restrooms, maintenance and storage space. Parking for approximately 150 cars will be located along Eastport Manor Road and Head of the Neck Road. This facility shall be maintained in accordance with the Organic Parks Maintenance Plan.

The question was posed as to traffic statistics, i.e., peak hour for cars, high traffic during tournaments, etc. It was stated that the project will generate 155 maximum vehicle trips/hr. All runoff from the parking area and fields will be retained on the site by means of leaching basins. A question was raised by Council Member Barbara Van Liew regarding the buffer on road so that parking is shielded from the road. Commissioner Frank stated that a buffer area will be retained next to the road. Organic fertilizer only is being used. Motion made by Mr. Cramer to classify this as an Unlisted Action and a Negative Declaration be issued. The motion was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and passed unanimously including the Brookhaven CHC.

7. Proposed Greenways Acquisition of Creek Road Properties for Active Recreation, Mill Dam Park Expansion, Town of Huntington

Presentations regarding the project were given at the meeting by Mr. Frank, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and Ms. Myles, Town of Huntington Planning Department. The project involves the acquisition of 7.0 acres of property under the Greenways Fund for Active Recreation and upon which the Town of Huntington agrees to construct recreational facilities consisting of two (2) regulation-size soccer fields that can double as four junior soccer fields, a walking/jogging loop, and an expanded gravel parking area to be accessed from within the Town's existing Mill Dam Park entrance.

Larry Swanson noted that the sewage treatment plant in the area floods periodically and wondered if it would cause a problem. Ms. Myles said that since Creek Road is the low point, no problems are anticipated. The pond and wetlands southwest of the site are regulated by the N.Y.S. D.E.C.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to recommend that the project be classified as an Unlisted Action for which a Negative Declaration should be issued. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swanson and passed unanimously including the Huntington Conservation Advisory Board.

HISTORIC SERVICES REPORT:

Mr. Martin, Director of Historic Services, gave an update of the County's historic properties and an overview of several projects dealing with them. He pointed out that the Marine Museum in West Sayville wants to put up a temporary pole barn next to the Perry Boathouse. The barn will be used for two to three years as a restoration shop for the 1988 oystering sailboat "Pricilla" after which time it will be taken down. A motion that the project is a Type II action because it is temporary in nature was made by Mr. Cramer, seconded by Ms. Kast and passed unanimously. Mr. Martin also pointed out that the Parks Department wants to restore an existing storage shed to be used as a boat restoration shop in West Sayville. A motion was made by Mr. Cramer that it is a Type II Action since it involves the rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure-in-kind on the same site. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kast and passed unanimously.

Mr. Martin then stated that the County acquired the Brookside Estate in Sayville and that, hopefully, in the future, they will hold an Historic Trust Committee meeting there. He pointed out that the brick piers at the entrance to the house are too close together and will not permit fire vehicles to enter the site. Since the piers are not part of the original architecture and were installed later, the Parks Department would like to remove them and restore the entrance to the way it originally was. Mr. Cramer made a motion that it is a Type II Action under SEQRA since it involves the removal of an accessory or a pertinent structure for the protection of the property which will not negatively impact the historic integrity of the site. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kast and passed unanimously.

The Deepwell Showhouse was very successful and profits from this year's event were up significantly from last year. It was pointed out that the annual Historic Trust Meeting scheduled for Brookside will have to be rescheduled at a later date since the members will have to park in the school yard. It was thought that the meeting could be rescheduled for the end of June when school is not in session.

Other Business

Michael Frank informed the Council that the Greenways Committee picked the Smithers property for the location of the Suffolk County Environmental Education and Interpretive Center. He pointed out that The Nature Conservancy thinks the site represents most of the habitat types found in the County. It

is also a historic site with existing structures and buildings that can be utilized for the Center. If the Legislature approves of the location, the Parks Department will come back to CEQ with a master plan, a Site Survey Management Report (SSMR) and EAF for any development proposals and use of the property. The historic integrity of the site will be kept. The CEQ has no objections for use of the site as an environmental education center.

Barbara Van Liew asked if the Yaphank Cemetery could be dedicated to the historic trust. It is part of Potters Field. The Parks Department will look into it and discuss it at the next Historic Trust Committee meetings.

The CEQ calendar for the year 2000 was approved as submitted.

Theresa Elkowitz was re-elected as Chairperson of the CEQ and Larry Swanson was re-elected as Vice Chairperson.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35