

# 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, May 15, 2002

TIME: 9:30 am. - 11:45 a.m.

PRESENT: Voting Members. Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson, Presiding; Larry Swanson Vice Chair, Tom Cramer Michael Kaufman, Nancy Manfredonia, Jack Finkenberg Adriane Esposito, Legislator Ginny Fields

ABSENT: Lance Mallamo

### Staff:

James Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst  
Gail Calfa and Penny Kohler, Secretaries

### Departmental Staff

Suffolk County Executive's Office

Nicole DeAngelo, County Executive Assistant

Suffolk County Legislature,

Clark Gavin, Legislature Aide

Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Nick Gibbons. Environmental Analyst

Richard Martin, Director, Historic Services

Judy Gordon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner

Greg Lauri, Director, Sports & Recreation

Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Ralph Borkowski, Landscape Architect

Leslie Mitchel, Assistant Commissioner

Paul G. McMahon, Sr. Civil Engineer

Sal Bordonaro, Architect

### Conservation Advisory Councils:

Joy Squires, Chairperson, Huntington CAC

Guests:

Joseph Caracappa, Legislator  
 Kennet Holmstron, Project Manager, LIRO  
 Margo Myles, Sr. Env. Analyst, Town of Huntington  
 Jill Ozarski, Coastal Policy Spec., The Nature Conservancy (TNC)  
 Tom Dooley, Fire Management Specialist TNC  
 Bruce Horwith, Director Stewardship, South Fork, TNC  
 Marilyn Jordan, Ecologist TNC

MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson. She introduced Adrienne Esposito, the newest member appointed to the CEQ, and the members introduced themselves to Ms. Esposito. All nine positions are now filled on the Council.

On a motion by Larry Swanson, seconded by Michael Kufman, the minutes of the April 17, 2002 meeting were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. Elkowitz read a letter from Ben Wright of DPW to the Yaphank Taxpayers and Civic Association, regarding the proposed construction of a Scavenger Waste Treatment Facility in Yaphank. This project was presented to that group, as well as CEQ, sometime in 2000 and consistent comments from both groups were raised. DPW is now ready to address the Yaphank group once again and is looking for a possible meeting date. They feel they should now be able to respond to any questions that had been raised at that time.

Ms. Elkowitz also read a memo from Commissioner Scully of the Parks Department to the Honorable Ginny Fields, in regard to the proposed update/amendments to the Nature Preserve Handbook. The letter stated that pursuant to Legislative directives set forth in Resolutions 638 and 1018 of 1999, CEQ completed a series of recommendations for submission to the Legislature, which for some reason, was never done. For the record Legislator Fisher had requested that the matter be referred to the County Attorney for an opinion, and tabled at CEQ until the County Attorney issued an opinion, which has not been completed to date. In the meantime, a copy of the Charter Revision Recommendations is to be photostatted and sent to the CEQ members.

PROJECT REVIEW:1. Recommended Type II Actions:a. Ratification of Staff Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table April 30, 2002.

Mr. Bagg stated that I.R. 1556, Implementing pay-as-you-go ¼% Taxpayer Protection Plan for Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program for Pilot Project at Beaverdam Creek (Brookhaven Hamlet) is an Unlisted action requiring an EAF.

A motion was made by Mr Kaufman to ratify the staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia and passed by a unanimous vote.

b. Proposed Trail Clearing/Maintenance-Benjamin Property, Town of Huntington

A proposal was submitted by Margo Myles of the Town of Huntington Planning Department. The survey shows that the fire lanes, which were cut by the VA hospital, are still in existence but are overgrown. Security patrols as well as emergency vehicles need to have these lanes opened 8 to 10 feet in order to get through. The E Northport FD does not have a brush truck that could get through the area as it stands. A very small section of this project goes into Suffolk County Nature Preserve property. It was questioned as to whether this was a Type II action and if the citations apply. There will be removal of some trees. It was decided that this was an Unlisted action and that a short EAF would be required.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to table the action pending receipt of the EAF. The motion was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and unanimously carried.

c. Proposed Replacement of Security Booths at Suffolk County\*s Correctional Facilities, CP 3011

A presentation regarding the proposal was given at the meeting by Mr. Borkowski of the Department of Public Works. The project involves the purchase of equipment and construction of a structure less than 4,000 sq. ft.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to classify this project as a Type II action, which was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and unanimously carried.

2. Proposed Acquisition of Grace Presbyterian Church Property - Multifaceted Stage II, Active Parkland, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation was made by Legislator Caracappa. The project involves the acquisition of 4± acres of property belonging to and located behind the Grace Presbyterian Church to be used by the Middle County Youth Organization as baseball fields. There are existing ball fields on the back four acres now and the church wanted to sell the proposed site for residential subdivision. Legislator Caracappa would like to keep it as ball fields for the Little League. There will be no lighting and parking will be shared with the church.

A motion was made by Mr. Cramer to classify this project as an Unlisted action, Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and was passed with a unanimous vote.

3. Proposed Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long Term Plan

An overview regarding the project was given at the meeting by Ms. Elkowitz, Chairperson of the Council on Environmental Quality. The proposal involves a long-term plan for an integrated mosquito control program throughout the entire county that is guided by surveillance, includes public education and emphasizes preventive measures. Control proceeds in a hierarchical manner from physical controls

such as water management, through biological controls, bacterial larvicides, insect growth regulators and chemical controls. The Plan follows the principles outlined in the American Mosquito Control Association Pesticide Environmental Stewardship (PESP) Partnership Strategy Document.

The CEQ recommends that the Legislature and County Executive undertake the following environmental review procedure as required by Title 6 NYCRR Part 617 implementing SEQRA and Chapter 279 of the Suffolk County Code:

1. Make a preliminary classification of Type I action and express the intent to declare the Legislature as Lead Agency.
2. The Legislature should then initiate coordinated review in order to ultimately declare Lead Agency status. The CEQ, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works, would assist in performing the coordinated review with the other involved agencies, which include:
  - Department of Environmental Conservation Region I office
  - Any Corp of Engineers
  - US Fish & Wildlife Services
  - Town of Islip
  - Fire Island National Seashore
  - NYS Department of Health
  - Suffolk County Department of Health Services

Each agency must be sent a coordination letter expressing the Legislature\*s intention to declare Lead Agency Status along with a copy of the project EAF. A lead agency must be agreed upon within 30 days.

3. After declaring SEQRA Lead Agency status, the Suffolk County Legislature and County Executive should adopt a SEQRA determination of significance (positive declaration) requiring the preparation of a DGEIS which will analyze all of the short term, long term, and cumulative effects to the environment that will result from the proposed action. The Positive Declaration should indicate that public scoping will be performed.
4. The Legislature should direct that the Department of Public Works and Department of Health Services prepare a draft scope, hold a scoping hearing, and prepare a final written scope on the DGEIS pursuant to Title 6 NYCRR Part 617.8 to ultimately be issued by the Lead Agency.
5. The Department of public Works should then prepare or cause to be prepared the DGEIS and submit it to the CEQ for review and processing pursuant to Chapter 279-5 of the Suffolk County Code.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to submit the above recommendations to the legislature. This motion was seconded by Ms. Manfredonia and unanimously carried.

4. Proposed Improvements to CR 80, Montauk Highway, between NYS 112 and CR101. Sills Road, East Patchogue, Town of Brookhaven CP 5534

A presentation on the project, which was tabled at the last CEQ meeting, was given by Mr. McMahan, of Department of Public Works, who addressed the unresolved issues that were raised at that time. The "Missing Data" printed on the planning sheet, was a drafting error and should have been removed. That area is developed and supports a car dealership and a used car dealer. The western

watershed comprises 60% of the job. Added leaching basins before and after the Vortex system have been added so that it will retain ½" to ¾" of runoff and eliminate direct discharge into the creek.

On The East Side, added leaching pools will increase storage from 1" to 2" by installing 12-14 leaching basins off road and more leaching basins near the stream. A 2" storm event occurs about once a year, ½" storm is once every two months. The project as revised will recharge 80% of the run off from storm events. Now everything discharges directly into the creek and nothing is recharged.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to classify the project as an unlisted action with a negative declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swanson and carried unanimously.

5. Proposed Plan for 2002-2012 Restoration and Management of Maritime Grassland and Savanna in Theodore Roosevelt county Park, Montauk, Town of East Hampton

An overview and introduction was given by Mr. Gibbons of the Suffolk County Parks Department. Dr. Jordan, Bruce Horwith and Tom Dooley, of The Nature Conservancy, gave presentation on the past eight (8) years of management for this project. After European settlement, there was once 6,000 acres of grassland and fields in the Montauk area, which has dwindled to about 40 acres. They would like to preserve some of the maritime grassland habitat on the east end and return about 290 acres of woody scrub land to grasslands, as well as restore some of the moist wetland species at the edge. To do this, the burn acreage would be expanded from 32 to 290 and they would like to burn up to the wetland edge. A slide show was given with this presentation showing the various flora such as the Sand Plain gerardia and the rosy rock rose, which used to abound in the park, and which they would like to bring back. They don't want to impact the abundance of a species of rare moths, so they would only burn a of the grassland at a time and not two years in a row. Smoke management is taken into account very seriously, by monitoring the atmospheric conditions, which way the wind is blowing and at what speed, etc. The Clean Air Act ultimately governs.

After the presentation, there were many questions. Mr. Kaufman stated that the use of herbicides would have to get a variance from the County law. There is no data on what is in there now, so you won't know what the impact will be on existing systems. Mr. Swanson enjoyed the report; however, he questioned the assumption of The Nature Conservancy that their point of view is the *right* point of view. Long Island is in a Clean Air Act non-attainment area in terms of air pollution. Mr. Swanson would like to get a better idea of what the public thinks and also what is being lost due to these burns. He stated that burning is a tool that benefits native grasses, but he has concerns with respect to impacts on the wetlands, the use of herbicides, air quality, and the impact on existing flora and fauna species. Mr. Cramer said he thought for an overall management plan for ten years, we need other alternatives.

Mr. Swanson made a motion to classify this project as a Type I action with an associated positive declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cramer and passed by a vote of eight (8) to one (1).

HISTORIC SERVICES:

Richard Martin briefed the Council on the following:

The Mary Pickford Biography at Deepwells, has come to a close after a successful run.

The Volunteer Program was very successful and the Parks Department will be starting a new campaign, as volunteers are badly needed.

There are going to be brochures for all the county\*s historic sites, as well as histories and slides. Parks will pool all of their volunteer resources and there will be more action at various sites. When the county finally acquires Sagtikos Manor, it is going to need a lot of attention.

And finally, the BIG DUCK QUACK-OFF will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup> from 11 am-3 pm. Judges are needed!

CAC CONCERNS

Ms. Squires stated that the public perception of the County\*s Open Space program needs to be restored, and that various groups should write positive letters to the editor voicing their support and view points.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.