

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, June 19, 2002

TIME: 9:35 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

PRESENT:

Voting Members - Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson, Presiding; Thomas Cramer;
Michael Kaufman, Adrienne Esposito; Legislator Ginny Fields; Jack Finkenberg,
Lance Mallamo, and Nancy Manfredonia

ABSENT:

Larry Swanson, Vice Chairman

Staff:

James Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst
Kathleen Rigano, Gail Calfa & 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
Charles Skinner, Contracts Manager
Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Ralph Borkowski, Landscape Architect
Paul G. McMahon, Sr. Civil Engineer
Stephen Astuto, Architect

Conservation Advisory Councils:

Steve Brown, Chairperson, Brookhaven Town

Guests:

Kenneth Holmstron, Consultant, LIRO-Kassner, Inc.
Jason Farina, Consultant, LIRO-Kassner, Inc.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Thomas Cramer, seconded by Michael Kaufman, the minutes of the May 15, 2002, meeting were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairperson Elkowitz noted the following correspondence to the Council for the record:

a. Letter to Chairperson Elkowitz, dated May 31, 2002, from R. Lawrence Swanson (Larry Swanson, Vice Chairman, CEQ), in his capacity as Director of the Waste Reduction and Management Institute in Stony Brook stating the issues that should be addressed in the EIS regarding mosquito control, specifically, pesticide applications in wetlands and their effect on insects and crustaceans, animals, marine waters, consumption of food products, wetland ditching, etc. Chairperson Elkowitz suggested that CEQ staff send this letter to the Department of Public Works and Health Services stating that these are the first official comments we have received on scoping even though a positive declaration has not officially been issued.

b. Letter to Jim Bagg, dated May 3, 2002, from Geri Sheridan regarding the property leased to the Hauppauge Youth Organization. She is requesting the status of this project since it was supposed to be a ball field for free use by HYO, and it will now be used for summer camp with fees from each child. Ralph Borkowski, stated DPW has an investigation in progress and the HYO has a meeting with the DEC on July 1. HYO will come before the CEQ with their new plan.

Chairperson Elkowitz suggested that the Council be advised what DPW has discovered in its investigation and that CEQ review the lease agreement before the HYO presentation to CEQ is made.

c. Letter to Dear Friends of Old Field Farm, dated Spring 2002, from Friends for Long Island's Heritage listing the renovations scheduled and their status.

PROJECT REVIEW:

1. Recommended Type II Actions:

- a. Ratification of Staff Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table May 21, 2002 and June 11, 2002

A motion was made by Michael Kaufman to ratify the staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Thomas Cramer and passed by a majority vote with one abstention (Jack Finkenberg).

2. Proposed Planning and Construction of a New Arson Building on the Fire Training Academy Grounds in Yaphank, Town of Brookhaven, CP 3414

A presentation was given by Ralph Borkowski, RLA, Landscape Architect in the Department of Public Works, who stated that the project involves the planning and construction of a new Arson building on the Fire Training Academy grounds in Yaphank. This concrete block and wood structure will be a one-story, 425 sq. ft. building that will rest on an existing concrete pad and footing.

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to classify the project as a Type II Action. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed unanimously.

3. Proposed Actions at Bergen Point Country Club and Bulk Nursery, Suffolk County Parklands, Town of Babylon

An overview regarding the history of various projects was given at the meeting by Judy Gordon, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation who briefed the Council by stating that the agreement with Global Golf covers the property on the east side of Bergen Avenue. DPW would like to take back that land from Global, dedicate some of it to the Nature Preserve and use the site for office space for the Long Island Junior Soccer League. Legislative action would be necessary to amend the contract. Mrs. Elkowitz then went over the individual:

a. Proposed Improvements to play areas at Bergen Point Golf Course. This project involves improvements, including grading, planting, irrigation and otherwise reconfiguring holes within the existing course. No additional clearing is required to accommodate these alterations. This was considered to be a Type II action under Part 617.5(c)(1), (2), (6), (11) and (15), since it involves the maintenance, repair, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction, maintenance of existing landscaping or natural growth, extension of utility distribution facilities and minor temporary uses of land having negligible or no permanent impact on the environment.

b. Improvements to driving range. Construction of three target greens as well as synthetic turf hitting area on right side of existing tee line. Grass was planted and additional soil was necessary. This is considered to be a Type II Action under Part 617.5(c)(2) and (6) since it involves replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a facility in kind, on the same site, as well as maintenance of existing landscaping or natural growth.

c. Dedication of all but 2.5 acres of the former Bulk Nursery to the Suffolk County Nature Preserve. This was considered to be a Type II Action under Part 617.5(c)(20) since it involves routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment.

d. Change in occupant at Bulk Nursery office building from Global Golf, Inc., to Long Island Junior Soccer League. This was considered to be a Type II Action under Part 617.5(c)(20) since it involves routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment.

e. Installation of a portable bathroom. This was considered to be a Type II Action under Part 617.5(c)(7) since it involves construction or expansion of a primary or accessory/appurtenant, non-residential structure or facility less than 4,000 square feet of gross floor area and not involving a change in zoning or a use variance and consistent with local land use controls, but not radio communication or microwave transmission facilities.

f. Installation of a pump station. This was considered to be a Type II Action under Part 617.5(c)(7) and (11) since it involves the construction of a facility of less than 4,000 sq. ft. and the extension of utility distribution facilities, including gas, electric, telephone, cable, water and sewer connections to render service in approved subdivisions or in connection with any action on this list.

g. Irrigation upgrade. This was considered to be a Type II Action under Part 617.5(c)(11) since it involves extension of utility distribution facilities, including gas, electric, telephone, cable, water and sewer connections to render service in approved subdivisions or in connection with any action on this list.

h. Equipment purchases. This was considered to be a Type II Action under Part 617.5(c)(25) since it involves the purchase of equipment or supplies.

i. Clubhouse renovations. This was considered to be a Type II Action under Part 617.5(c)(1) and (2) since it involves the maintenance or repair, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility on the same site.

j. Car barn renovations. This was considered to be a Type II Action under Part 617.5(c)(7) since it involves construction or expansion of a primary or accessory/appurtenant, non-residential structure or facility less than 4,000 square feet of gross floor area and not involving a change in zoning or a use variance and consistent with local land use controls, but not radio communication or microwave transmission facilities.

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to classify all the above projects as Type II Actions. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed by a unanimous vote.

4. Proposed Addition to Tri-Community Health Center, Town of Babylon - CP 4022

A presentation was given by Ralph Borkowski, RLA, Landscape Architect, in the Department of Public Works, who stated that the project involves the planning and construction of a 3,500 sq. ft. addition to the Tri-Community Health Center. The original 10,700 sq. ft. facility will be renovated and refurbished. The expansion will also include modifications to the heating, ventilating and air conditioning system required to protect employees and patients from airborne infectious diseases.

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to classify the project as a Type II action. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed unanimously.

5. Proposed Planning Phase Only of the Demolition of Old Cooperative Extension Building, Town of Riverhead - CP 1768

A presentation was given by Ralph Borkowski, RLA, Landscape Architect, in the Department of Public Works, who stated that the project involves the planning phase only of the demolition of the old Cooperative Extension building.

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to classify the project as a Type II Action. The motion was seconded by Legislator Ginny fields and passed by a majority vote with one abstention (Michael Kaufman). Mr. Borkowski was alerted to the fact that the CEQ had, in the past, recommended that the building be placed in the Historic Trust and that information should be noted and discussed in the EAF.

6. Proposed Planning Phase Only of Improvements to Skilled Nursing Facility, Town of Brookhaven - CP 4057

A presentation was given by Ralph Borkowski, RLA, Landscape Architect, in the Department of Public Works, who stated that the project involves the planning phase only of the renovation and additions to the Physical Therapy Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Therapeutic Recreation and Adult Health Day care areas at 14 Glover Drive, Yaphank, Town of Brookhaven. This project will expand the Skilled Nursing Facility by approximately 8,000 sq. ft. with another 4,000 sq. ft. being altered.

A motion was made by Michael Kaufman to classify the project as a Type II Action. The motion was seconded by Adrienne Esposito and passed by a unanimous vote.

7. Proposed Planning and Construction Phases to Replace Fire Hoods at Police Headquarters - Town of Brookhaven - CP 3164

A presentation was given by Ralph Borkowski, RLA, Landscape Architect, in the Department of Public Works, who stated that the project involves the planning and construction phases of the replacement of fire hoods at Police Headquarters which will provide adequate ventilation to remove fumes from the work environment.

A motion was made by Nancy Manfredonia to classify this project as a Type II Action. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed by a unanimous vote.

8. Proposed Laurel Valley Park, Well Field Development, Town of Southampton.

A request for postponement was made by Mr. Frank of the Suffolk County Water Authority. A motion to table this project was made by Thomas Cramer. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed by a unanimous vote.

9. Proposed Reconstruction of CR 80 from William Floyd Parkway to Mastic Road, Mastic, Town of Brookhaven - CP 5516

A presentation was given by Paul G. McMahon, P.E., Consultant Projects Coordinator, in the Department of Public Works, and Kenneth J. Holmstrom, P.E., Vice President of the LiRo Group, who stated that the project involves road and drainage improvements, increasing lanes, where necessary, addressing safety and congestion in a high accident area, pavement, the planning and design of the reconstruction of CR 80, From William Floyd Parkway to Mastic Road, Mastic, Town of Brookhaven. Council members requested more detailed information with respect to the Forge River drainage.

A motion was made by Thomas Cramer to approve this project as a Type II Action for planning only. The motion was seconded by Michael Kaufman and passed by a unanimous vote. It was agreed that the representatives from the LiRo Group would return with more complete plans at a later date.

HISTORIC SERVICES:

Richard Martin briefed the Council on the following:

- a. Meadowcroft - Aventura Construction from Melville won the bid for the restoration of the Auto House. That job should proceed this summer. Tours are available on Sundays from 1 PM to 3 PM until October. Bayport Heritage sponsors the tours.
- b. Splashes of Hope is sponsoring an Art Show at Meadowcroft on July 14, 2002, between 10 am and 4 PM.
- c. Old Field - Bid openings took place for the ring work and they were too high. The project cannot go forward until it goes out for bids again.
- d. Cedar Point Lighthouse - The Long Island Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society is working on the National Register nomination which, hopefully, will be reviewed in July by the State so the applications for grants for this project can be processed. A Sunset Walk will take place at the Lighthouse in August to stir up an interest in this project.
- e. Blydenburgh - A speaker will be present at 7:30 on Thursday, Walter Holian, a Millwright at the Mill who will give a lecture on the Mill at the Annual Greenbelt Trail Meeting. Blydenburg House is open on Saturday afternoons, year round, for tours.
- f. Sagtikos - The Committee that was set up for a "use" plan will meet on site on June 26, 2002 to go over the collections and the concerns to review the site for planned use once the County closes on the property. A meeting will be set up for the Historic Trust Committee to meet on this site to tour it and discuss its historic status.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Trails Information Center at Exit 70, Manorville, is open Friday through Monday until Labor Day.

Chairperson Elkowitz stated that Commissioner Scully has transmitted to Legislator Fields the work done previously on the Nature Preserve.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Thomas Cramer to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Nancy Manfredonia. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.