

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO THE SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE COUNCIL

CAC Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2019

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Seatuck Environmental Center
550 South Bay Ave, Islip, NY 11751

Present:

Maureen Dolan Murphy, Chair CAC/Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Jeremy Campbell, NYS DOS/Reserve Coordinator
Christie Pfoertner, NYS DOS/Reserve Office
Rachel Neville, NYS DOS/Reserve Office
Maureen Dunn, Seatuck Association
Ben Sohm, South Shore Bay House Owners
Judi Bird, League of Women Voters Brookhaven
Sherry Forgash, NYS DOS/Reserve Office
Lou Siegel, NYS Marine Education Association
Marshall Brown, Save the Great South Bay
Artie Kopelman, Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (CRESLI)
George Costa, Trout Unlimited/Art Flick Chapter
Lane Smith, NY Sea Grant/TAC Chair
Judy White, CJ2 Communication Strategies
Sally Kellogg, NYS DOS/Reserve Office

1. Introductions

M. Dolan Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and introductions were made.

2. Suffolk County South Shore Blueway

J. White of CJ2 Communications Strategies described the Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan saying funding is provided from New York State Department of State and the contractors working on the plan are Nelson, Voorhis & Pope. This Blueway Plan has a goal of making it easier for visitors and locals to participate in nonmotorized sports and identify sites and classify them with amenities. This is being accomplished through a survey: a short version which identifies that a site exists and the longer version of the survey that asks for details. The survey can be done online or a person may call in and provide all the info for staff to then include. The project staff are working with commercial entities to identify potential rental capabilities for launch sites.

Question: A. Kopelman: Why and how would you put bathrooms in?

Answer: J. White: Some municipalities have areas that want bathrooms but the funding for this project is just to identify launch areas and to develop a plan which would include rating sites according to difficulty levels, availability of parking, cost, etc.

Question: M. Brown: Is Discover Long Island involved with this project?

Answer: J. White: Yes, on the Public Advocacy Committee.

Question: L. Siegel: Nassau County already has a blueway trail, have they been involved with this?

Answer: J. White and J. Campbell: Yes.

Question: L. Smith: Is there outreach for this project?

Answer: J. White: Yes. A press release went out on National Canoe Day in June, outreach staff will also be present at the Maritime Museum Seafood festival, at Alive after Five events, and are looking for other events to attend.

Question: G. Costa: Not every stream is suited to kayaking/canoeing, is this being accounted for?

Answer: J. White: The Sierra Club and The Nature Conservancy have expressed similar concerns and are identifying areas they consider are not appropriate, but the project staff will listen to input from other groups as well.

The CAC members reviewed the current map of inventoried properties for Suffolk County. J. White announced that the inventory is slated to be complete by the end of the summer.

3. SSER CAC Logo

The final two logos were viewed by the CAC members, a horseshoe crab underwater and the other has a Great Blue Heron with a bridge in the background. L. Smith asked for clarification on whether the logo is intended for the SSER program or just the CAC. M. Murphy responded that the CAC is hopeful the Council will incorporate the logo for the SSER program.

Motion by M. Murphy, to present the two logo prototypes to the SSER Council; seconded by A. Koppelman.

4. Suffolk County Balloon Legislation

M. Murphy announced that Suffolk County legislation is being introduced to ban any intentional release of balloons and demands the advertising of this ban in stores, the current law bans intentional releases of 25 balloons or more and there is no forced posting of the law.

Question: L. Smith: Does the legislation address mylar and regular balloons?

Answer: M. Murphy: Yes.

B. Sohm described seeing 21 balloons in the water on a recent trip offshore. M. Murphy urged B. Sohm and other CAC members to attend the public hearing in Hauppauge on July 16th at 1pm. M. Murphy will draft a letter of support that reflects the CMP to submit on Tuesday.

5. Jeremy Campbell, South Shore Estuary Reserve Office

J. Campbell described the feedback at the Nassau County Back Bays public meetings that occurred in Freeport and Long Beach. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will have additional meetings but the project is still in the early planning phases and they should have more concrete ideas for potential options in a year.

Question: M. Dunn: How many people attended?

Answer: J. Campbell About 30 in Long Beach.

Answer: M. Murphy: 20 – 25 in Freeport.

J. Campbell reminded the CAC that the feasibility study still needs to be complete and then funding must go through Congress. Comments made at the meetings included community members in Freeport asking why flood gates had not yet been installed and how a golf course in Long Beach that is being developed will affect things. A. Kopelman asked if USACE are looking at mitigation techniques and commented that there needs to be more public meetings and more public input.

Question: M. Dunn: Will SSER Council take a stand on the proposed project?

Answer: J. Campbell: NYS DOS manages coastal policies and USACE projects. DOS will support whatever is considered the best decision. Public meetings will be further east on LI to address the study area, not just the project area. A plan has not yet been formulated so there is nothing to review at this point. Two more public meetings will be held in the study area most likely after Labor Day.

S. Forgash announced that this July 2019 will be her last SSER CAC meeting, she will be retiring this summer. The CAC thanked her for her work and congratulated her on her retirement.

C. Pfoertner reviewed past functions including Mitzvah Day in Wantagh, S. Kellogg said there were 50 people that visited the Reserve table at the event and 19 volunteers participated in the Jones Beach clean-up immediately after Mitzvah Day. C. Pfoertner described the resiliency forums that occurred on June 6 with the Jones Beach Power Squadron where 40-45 people attended this shortened version, and the June 12 resiliency forum in Quogue Wildlife Refuge where 25 people were in attendance. If groups are interested in hosting or want informational materials they should contact C. Pfoertner. SSER staff coordinated Horseshoe Crab monitoring at two sites, Meadow Lane and Ponquogue Bridge, and seven volunteers participated. The top counts at the sites were 800 and 60 respectively with the 3rd night of each cycle resulting in the highest counts and the largest count of all was the first weekend in June. SSER will only coordinate for Meadow Lane next year.

For Invasive Species week, SSER staff will be pulling yellow iris at Seatuck on July 10. SSER will also be working with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County's marine mini camps and will be involved with Estuary Day which will be in the Long Island Sound watershed in Oyster Bay. If any members are interested in involving SSER please contact C. Pfoertner. Other suggested event named: Sayville Summer Fest and Captree Dockside Family Festival, M. Brown mentioned Save the Great South Bay has a "Swellibration" fundraiser event at Swell Taco on July 11, a fundraiser at Southside Tavern on July 12, and a mini lecture on July 26 at The View focusing on Methoprene, marshes and emerging contaminants. M. Brown also asked CAC members to write to support not restoring the West Brook Creek dam.

L. Smith updated the CAC on the TAC efforts. The TAC meets at the Maritime Museum in Sayville and are working on the feasibility of conducting a vulnerability assessment. Presentations were given at the TAC meetings by Alison Branco about examples of other vulnerability assessments and by Carolyn Fraioli about resources available for such a project. J. Campbell said the TAC is still identifying the scope of the assessment. L. Smith relayed that the committee has only met 3 times.

6. Public Comment and Announcement

Maureen Dolan Murphy – Reminded the CAC that the Stewardship Award is accepting applications and described that anyone who has helped further a CMP goal can be nominated. Paper forms are available tonight at the meeting and S. Kellogg said the application can be found on the DOS website. M. Murphy also described the changes to the application and mentioned they had been streamlined and are easier to fill out.

Maureen Dunn – 3,000 oyster shells distributed to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County and 2,000 oyster shells sent to ShiRP after being aged for one year. M. Dunn announced that Half Shells for Habitat has a Facebook page and encouraged CAC members to follow it.

George Costa – Trout unlimited is interested in freshwater issues such as maintaining the current water table. They are working with A Day in the Life, with the Pine Barrens Commission and with Stony Brook University students. The Stony Brook students are putting together TV and radio shows centered around the importance of the Pine Barrens and the various issues that influence it including the Carmans River.

*** Minutes, May 14, 2019**

Edits were made to the Penataquit Creek cleanup section.

Motion by A. Kopelman, to approve the amended May 14, 2019 CAC meeting minutes; seconded by B. Sohm;-carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.