

## **CENTRAL PINE BARRENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

3525 Sunrise Highway  
Great River, New York

**Tuesday, January 11, 2005  
6:00 p.m.**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

**Advisory Committee Members present:** Stephen M. Jones, Chairman, Tom Casey representing LI Greenbelt Trail Conference, Robert Carpenter representing the LI Farm Bureau, Lee Koppelman representing LI Regional Planning Board, John Halsey representing Peconic Land Trust, Jim Rigano representing Association for a Better Long Island, Dr. Henry Bokuniewicz representing SUNY at Stony Brook, and Dick Amper representing LI Pine Barrens Society.

**Others present:** As per attached sign-in sheet.

Copies of the Agenda, minutes of October 12, 2004 meeting, letters from South Fork Groundwater Task Force and Long Island Drinking Water Coalition, updated committee member listing, development application summary chart, and Public Review Draft of Chapter Amendments were given to each attendee.

#### **Opening Comments:**

At 6:30 p.m., Stephen Jones called the meeting to order without a quorum present. He welcomed everyone. He introduced a new member to the Pine Barrens staff, Karen Eichelberger and mentioned her background working with local and state governments.

Mr. Jones referenced a letter received from the South Fork Groundwater Task Force requesting to withdraw from participation in the Advisory Committee. In addition, he referenced a letter from the Long Island Drinking Water Coalition requesting to take their place. He noted that a balance between preservation and development needed to be kept and he thought this would be a reasonable substitution. The Advisory Committee would make a recommendation to the Commission for this substitution. Lee Koppelman requested the membership list of the Coalition as their office is in Nassau and he would like to know if they had representatives from Suffolk as the Pine Barrens is in Suffolk County. Mr. Jones responded that he would contact Mr. Joseph Lorintz, Executive Director for information on his membership.

Mr. Jones moved to the next item on the agenda, a status report for matters forwarded to the CPBJPPC for action. Regarding Northville Funds, Mr. Jones stated he had left a message for Michael Deering for an update on the County funds (approx. \$1.4 Million), and that County Real Estate was going to conduct a survey of property owners to gauge interest and he had not had a response back as yet. He then asked John Pavacic of NYSDEC if the Commission requested the 2-year time period of the NYSDEC, the answer was "no".

Questions were raised about the parcels that could still be acquired in the South Setauket Woods area and as the land development patterns have changed, if the county still needed to preserve more land there. Mr. Pavacic stated that he believed a meeting was scheduled with Peter Scully of NYSDEC and Suffolk County Real Property to discuss Setauket during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this year.

John Pavacic stated that the Commission had not taken any action on the issue of sand mining. There are pending applications straddling the Core and the CGA. Mr. Amper questioned what would be the best way to get a sand mining policy on the agenda for the Commission. Mr. Jones responded that we could formally ask by letter. Mr. Amper then questioned Bill Spitz if the DEC had weighed in on its position on sand mining. Mr. Spitz said he thought a letter had been sent, but he would check further on it.

The next item on the agenda was “application fees”. Mr. Jones stated that he now believed it would not be a good idea. He had spoken with Michael Deering for his opinion regarding the State Legislature and what would the response be to implementing application fees to increase revenue. The response was that the state would probably create a budget offset and decrease the grant if application fees were put into effect. In addition, the Commission did not seem to be interested at all.

Mr. Jones asked Ken Born of the Commission staff to give a brief rundown on the pending plan amendments and how/when they have been presented to the active councils of the Commission. Basically Chapter 7 (Public Lands Management section) gives ideals on how the Protected Lands Council should operate and has been renamed Pine Barrens Stewardship. In October the Protected Lands Council gave their conceptual endorsement of the proposed amendments. Mr. Jones mentioned that the Advisory Committee should come up with a plan as to how they would like to comment on the plan amendments: react to the hard copy or submit recommendations before the draft is ready. Mr. Born stated that he would be looking for direction from the Advisory Committee as they go through the plan chapter by chapter. Mr. Koppelman said that the Advisory Committee should make its recommendations before the draft is approved. Mr. Jones responded that everyone present had received a copy and each should review it and come back to the next meeting with recommendations. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Born to speak of some of the new recommendations. Mr. Born responded that steps had been made to list and link the goals, action items and policies. There are also cultural, historical and scenic issues that had been taken from Volume 2 of the plan and added to Chapter 7. Basically he has been working on overhauling the format and making it user-friendly. Tom Casey stated that the changes recommended for Chapter 7 were incremental rather than earth shattering, and basically changes were made to clear up ambiguities. It was noted that all the new language was in italics. The schedule was originally set for a final recommendation to be made in January of 2005 but has now been pushed back to spring of 2005.

A discussion ensued on the use of TDR's and density created in the Compatible Growth Area. Mr. Amper suggested that there be an Executive Summary of the Pine Barrens Act listing what was envisioned and what actually happened and make that available for public information looking 5 and 10 years into the future. We need to know if the towns are doing their part and if not, that changes need to be made. Mr. Koppelman responded that zoning recommendations and a study to find out if the drinking water objectives have been attained are more important than tinkering with the plan. Mr. Jones suggested a map.

Mr. Amper agreed that a map should show density, the number of units and reconcile the numbers from 1995 to 2005. It's important to see the reality. Mr. Jones said that the GIS department of the SCWA had kept up with new subdivisions and he would check to see if we could look at land use.

Mr. Amper questioned whether Chapter amendments were being proposed that may require legislation and changes to the law, or was it only recommendations for land use. John Milazzo responded that the Commission was working on some and recommendations would be made. Mr. Jones asked that the Advisory Committee be timely in going through the amendments so that comments can be made as soon as possible, if there are any.

Mr. Amper then asked about hardship exemptions, had the Commission acted on that? Mr. Milazzo responded that yes, there was a recommendation for legislation changing the standard on development. Ray Corwin needs to follow up on that.

Mr. Jones stated that he had met with Peter Scully and he wanted everyone to know that he wants the Advisory Committee to be in the loop for recommendations.

Lee Koppelman made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 12, 2004 meeting as submitted, seconded by Dick Amper. The motion was unanimously approved.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. in the Coram offices of the Suffolk County Water Authority.

A motion was made by Mr. Koppelman to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

**Attachments:**

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes of October 12, 2004 meeting
3. South Fork Groundwater Task Force letter (6/28/04)
4. Long Island Drinking Water Coalition letter (7/9/04)
5. Development Application Summary Chart (12/16/04)
6. Advisory Committee Member Listing (1/2005)
7. Chapter 7 – Public Review Draft (7/23/04)
8. Sign-in Sheet