



Science and Stewardship Division Update - May 17, 2023

Administration and Training:

- The hiring process has commenced for Ecological Field Specialist and Ecologist positions. The Ecologist position has been reposted after the previous candidate slated to start in May, rescinded their acceptance. Interviews were conducted for the Ecological Field Specialist and we are excited welcome Chris Steigerwald back to the Commission on May 30th. Chris is highly experienced and qualified for this position having previously interned with the Commission; led the southern pine beetle and oak wilt response as a Forest Technician for NYSDEC and on the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's invasive species strike force.

Prescribed Fire Program:

- *Administration:*
 - Grants gateway administration, quarterly reports and voucher development advances to ensure reimbursement of expenses incurred as well as access to the balance of funds to be used for prescribed fire planning and implementation.
 - Meetings on the prescribed fire programming and environmental review within the Dwarf Pine Barrens and Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forests have been conducted with NYSDEC.
 - Suffolk County, FOREST, and Brookhaven National Lab are extended much thanks and appreciation in providing necessary housing for the seasonal prescribed crew who reside outside of the Suffolk County. Prescribed fire operations leadership, implementation and equipment maintenance requires specific qualifications and experience. The high cost of living, seasonal nature of these positions and sourcing of qualified staff hinges on providing this housing.
- *Memoranda of Understanding/Agreement Development:* A review draft of the MOU has been provided back to the Commission for review. It currently is in review of the Commission Attorney with next steps being presentations to Suffolk County Legislature as a means of education and outreach before being introduced to the Legislature for execution. Ms. Weigand and Ms. Jakobsen also met with staff of NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to discuss establishing an MOU to help facilitate stewardship and educational activities on State Parklands, especially prescribed fire and southern pine beetle suppression.
- *Equipment:*
 - The Type 6 Fire Engine chassis has been delivered to Wildland Warehouse where it will undergo final upfits. The upfit completion is estimated to be complete in October. A 25% down payment was previously provided to Wildland Warehouse to secure the contract and to cover a percentage of the equipment costs. The chassis and receiving fee were paid to Van Bortel and Family Ford respectively.
 - Run flat tires for the UTV's are being procured to ensure higher durability and reliance in field. Other equipment such as air compressors and are also being purchased to ensure personal protective equipment and cache readiness.
- *Prescribed Burn Plan Development:*
 - Rocky Point East Burn Plan (1028 acres w/ 19 burn blocks) is in final draft, having completed technical and internal review and is under review by NYSDEC.
 - The Dwarf Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Enhancement Zone (633 acres w/11 burn units) is in technical review, whereafter it advances to final internal review and then NYSDEC review.
 - The Otis Pike/Upton Reserve Burn Unit (4252 acres across 23 burn blocks) in Otis Pike Pine Barrens State Forest (NYSDEC) and Upton Reserve (BNL) is in final development.
 - After approvals of both the Dwarf Pine Barrens and Otis Pike Burn plan, SEQRA review of these plans will be initiated.

- **Education and Outreach:**
 - Numerous presentations have been recently provided on the prescribed fire program to help inform and notify the public, emergency responders and agencies of upcoming operations.
 - Ms. Weigand presented an update on the prescribed fire program as well as southern pine beetle to the Wildfire Task Force Meeting with special focus on safety and not entering SPB affected forests when responding to wildfires.
 - A presentation on the Dwarf Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Enhancement Zone and a southern pine beetle update was also presented via Zoom for the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. In attendance were the major of Quogue as well as Beth Young, owner and reporter for the East End Beacon providing especially beneficial outreach to further inform the Community.
 - A conservation update on the importance of proactive management through preventative thinning and prescribed fire at the Long Island Natural History Conference, which was attended by over 300 individuals from across the region.
 - Two additional educational presentations (one in person and one via Zoom) to have been scheduled with the Westhampton library and the larger long Island library network to further increase the public's awareness of the pending operations.
- **Prescribed Fire Preparation and Implementation:**
 - The prescribed fire squad assisted in the implementation of 17 prescribed fires on NYSDEC lands during the months of March and April. The crew filled a variety of roles in implementing 300 acres of grassland fire on the ground for the state. A total of 112 person days were dedicated to these operations to achieve team building, training and ecological restoration.

CPBC Prescribed Fire Record								
#	Burn Name (Code)	Burn Date	Management Type/Complexit	Fuel Type/Model	Fire Size (In Acre)	Burn Boss	# of CPBC Personnel	# of non-CPBC Personnel
1	Fresh Pond Central (NYS-2023-009)	3/20/2023	T4/low	Grass Shrub	27	B. Gallagher RXB2	6	
2	Whiskey Field (NYS-2023-0010)	3/21/2023	T4/low	Grass/sparse shrub	32	B. Gallagher RXB2	7	
3	Big Field South (NYS-2023-0012)	3/22/2023	T4/low	Grass/sparse shrub	9	B. Gallagher RXB2	7	
4	Sarnoff Block G (NYS-2023-0013)	3/23/2023	T4/low	Timber slash piles	1	B. Woffinden RXB2	7	
5	Clover (NYS-2023-0014)	3/27/2023	T4/low	Grass	3.3	B. Gallagher RXB2	7	
6	Southern Twin (NYS-2023-0015)	3/27/2023	T4/low	Grass	2.3	B. Gallagher RXB2	7	
7	Currans Field (NYS-2023-0017)	3/29/2023	T4/low	Grass	81	B. Gallagher RXB2	7	
8	Big Field North (NYS-2023-0018)	3/30/2023	T4/low	Grass	12	B. Gallagher RXB2	7	
9	Fresh Pond South (NYS-2023-0019)	3/30/2023	T4/low	Heavy grass	55	B. Gallagher RXB2	7	
10	Rib Eye (NYS-2023-0020)	4/3/2023	T4/low	Heavy grass	2.1	B. Gallagher RXB2	6	
11	The Hub (NYS-2023-0021)	4/3/2023	T4/low	Light grass	1	B. Gallagher RXB2	6	
12	Line Road West (NYS-2023-0032)	4/10/2023	T4/low	Grass	15	B. Gallagher RXB2	5	
13	Wellhead Pond (NYS- 2023-0049)	4/13/2023	T4/low	Grass	16	B. Gallagher RXB2	6	
14	Prestons Pond (NYS-2023-0050)	4/13/2023	T4/low	Grass	5.4	B. Gallagher RXB2	6	
15	Line Road East (NYS-2023-0085)	4/18/2023	T5/Moderate	Grass	10	B. Gallagher RXB2	7	
16	Linus Pond (NYS-2023-0086)	4/18/2023	T5/Moderate	Grass	1.5	B. Gallagher RXB2	7	
17	River Road North (NYS-2023-0088)	4/20/2023	T5/Moderate	Grass	27.5	B. Gallagher RXB2	7	
				Total	301.1	Commission staff days	112	



- *Northern Long Eared Bat*: The uplisting of the Northern Long Eared Bat to an endangered species has initiated a tactical pause in implementing prescribed fire in woodland units that were planned this spring on state lands. Brookhaven has received approval from USFWS to advance with prescribed fire and forest management activities, providing the potential to assist Brookhaven National Laboratory with woodland burn units in May.
- *Preventative Thinning and Burn Pile Construction*: When not conducting prescribed fire operations, the seasonal crew has been dedicated to cutting, limbing and piling trees cut as part of preventative thinning within Sarnoff and Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest prescribed fire units. The total time spent in this type of unit preparation has exceeded 60 person days thus far for the season with over 265 piles created to facilitate future pile burning and consumption of residual woody material from thinning activities. This effort will go a long way in making the burn units safer and more manageable in the implementation and mop up of fire and help achieve better overall resource objectives by reducing fuels and organic matter accumulations.



- *Fire Break Maintenance*: Over 3000 feet of unrooted down trees associated with the fire line installed in the south side of South of Currans Woodland Burn Unit was bucked and piled to ensure safety, access and future treatment of heavy materials in the unit.
- **Staff Training**: Under the mentorship of Brent Woffinden Fire Management Specialist, staff development has been a focus this spring to help bolster qualifications and skills.
 - Four members of the fire crew-initiated Fire Effects Monitor (FEMO) task books and are well on their way to having them completed. They performed relevant tasks and training while working on prescribed fire projects this spring and provided the state with post burn reports.
 - A Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1) S-131 course will be held this month by Mr. Woffinden, and Single Resource Bosses Brian Bagozzi and John Leavitt. To help support development of staff and volunteers, an invitation has been extended to the wider Long Island fire community. The skills taught during this course will further the crew members' ability to fill key supervisory roles necessary to commence prescribed fire operations.
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service staff provided required UTV operation training for two division staff members at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. All staff using this equipment is required to pass this course to ensure safe operation and personal safety. Appreciation is extended to USFWS for providing this training in place of the spring NYWIMA academy.
- *Fuels, Weather and Vegetation Monitoring*:
 - Vegetation, SPB, and Composite Burn Index monitoring has been conducted in Sarnoff West, South of Currans and BNL units to track changes in vegetation and determine the effects of this management and evaluate if goals are being achieved.

Ecological Research Initiatives:

- Sharon Pepenella, of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; John Turner Town of Brookhaven/Seatuck; Massapequa High School and the Division are collectively advancing a new student research project on DNA barcoding of rare Atlantic white cedar populations within the Central Pine Barrens region. On April 5th, Ms. Acampora helped lead the students in data collection at Sears Bellows County Park, alongside Mr. John Turner and Ms. Sharon Pepenella. Through a research permit, characteristics of the short statured cedars and normal sized cedars were documented, including height, diameter at breast height, soil depth, water pH, etc. The research day allowed high school students to experience true field work and research project method development as they proceed with a wet lab and conclude if there is in fact genetic variability between two sub-species. Going further with the project, Ms. Acampora will be helping Mr. John Turner collect additional tree samples in Cranberry Bog.
- Ms. Acampora and Ms. Cohn have set up three funnel traps north of River Road in Calverton on state land for this season's Early Detection Rapid Response Non-native Bark Beetle Monitoring. Every two weeks, the traps have been checked and emptied of all beetles that have been captured and reset for the next two weeks, with lures being changed every four weeks. The traps are to be monitored until mid-June. Species will be identified and reported on by USFS.
- The Division continues to assist Kathleen Stutzman, graduate student at UVM with site selection and housing assistance for US Forest Service Special Technology Development Program pitch pine regeneration study. This is the second year of data collection for this master's thesis study that will help identify if pitch pine is naturally regenerating, how SPB infestation is influencing recruitment and if there are differences to recruitment with management type.

Southern Pine Beetle

- Statewide SPB Incident Command System staff, coordinated by NYSDEC's Forest Health Unit in support by the Division has been focused on thinning and mastication to reduce stand basal areas and prepare units for prescribed fire. Limited overwintering mortality of SPB caused by cold temperatures is of concern as the National Weather Service reports that the month of January was 10 degrees warmer than ever documented. The short cold spell in March may have been beneficial to killing less than 30% of SPB but not to a significant degree to have a suppressive effect. Of equal concern for continued SPB spread is that it is expected that suppression will not advance this year due to Northern Long Eared Bat restrictions on tree felling/suppression activities. Commission will be active in monitoring the outbreaks and dispersion of SPB through the growing season in the absence of cut and leave suppression.

Invasive Species Management:

- Significant progress has been made in the eradication of Caper spurge (*Euphorbia lathrus*) at the Town of Hampton Bays Transfer Station and in East Quogue. At the start the growing season, only a couple of plants were found at Hampton Bays Transfer Station and none at East Quogue. Monitoring will continue to ensure any additional individuals recruited from the seed bank are removed.
- On non-burn days, the fire crew has been working to suppress invasive species along Currans Road, as well as, within the South of Currans Burn Units. The primary focus area is around the Lupine population occurring the south entrance of Currans Field. The fire crew remains focused on buckthorn that is in the area and along the dozer line that is south of the burn units.

Encroachment Restoration:

- Restoration the Eastport encroachment (being represented by the NYS Attorney General's office) has commenced with seeding and site stabilization expected the week of May 8th. Surveys to document the progress including drone surveys have been conducted as part of the monitoring of this work.
- A draft Request for Proposal (RFP) is in review to solicit, vet and secure contractors for performing restoration work at existing (Middle Island) and future encroachment and violation.
- Assistance continues in surveillance Hampton Bays/Flanders to help abate the frequent dumping that has been occurring in that location.

Education and Outreach Division

May 2022 Update

Submitted by Melissa Griffiths Parrott, Education and Outreach Coordinator

1. School Programs

- Virtual and in person outreach programs (Climate Change, Pine Barrens Ecology, Biodiversity, Barrens to Bay, and A Day in the Life:

Schools/Libraries/Groups:

- Bay Avenue Elementary- 100
- Woodhull Elementary-125
- Sayville HS - 21
- Seatuck Association - 30
- Setauket Elementary – 65

2. Barrens to Bay Summer Camp @ Wertheim Wildlife Refuge

- June 28th -August 11th
- **Camp 100% booked up!**
- New programming and activities planned this year.

3. A Day in the Life 2023

- Spring Teacher training scheduled and sprit events planned for May.
- Summer Training is scheduled for mid-August. To train on data collection and Data retrieval, including Survey 123 and Arc GIS.
- Working with Save the Great South Bay to create a Great South Bay ecological report card using ADITL citizen Science data.
- 2023 fall dates TBD.

4. Cooperators Lunch

- **CPBC video** - Filming, editing, and co-creating content for short 15-minute ***A 30 Year Journey into Preservation*** video to celebrate the signing of the Pine Barrens Act.
- We are interviewing several elected officials and stakeholders who helped champion the passing of this bill.
- Working in coordination with Tim Motz, writer, and director of video.
- Identifying partner groups to bring exhibits on organization/agencies and our partnership programs.
- Assisting with overall coordination of event.

5. Long Island Natural History Conference.

- A very successful event, filled to capacity with 300 attendees
- Event took place at Seatuck Environmental Association
- Looking for new venues for next year.



Robert Calarco
Chair

Yvette Aguiar
Member

Steven Bellone
Member

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Jay H. Schneiderman
Member

Compliance and Enforcement Division Report January - February 2023 Prepared by CAED Chief Enforcement Officer Frank Carbone

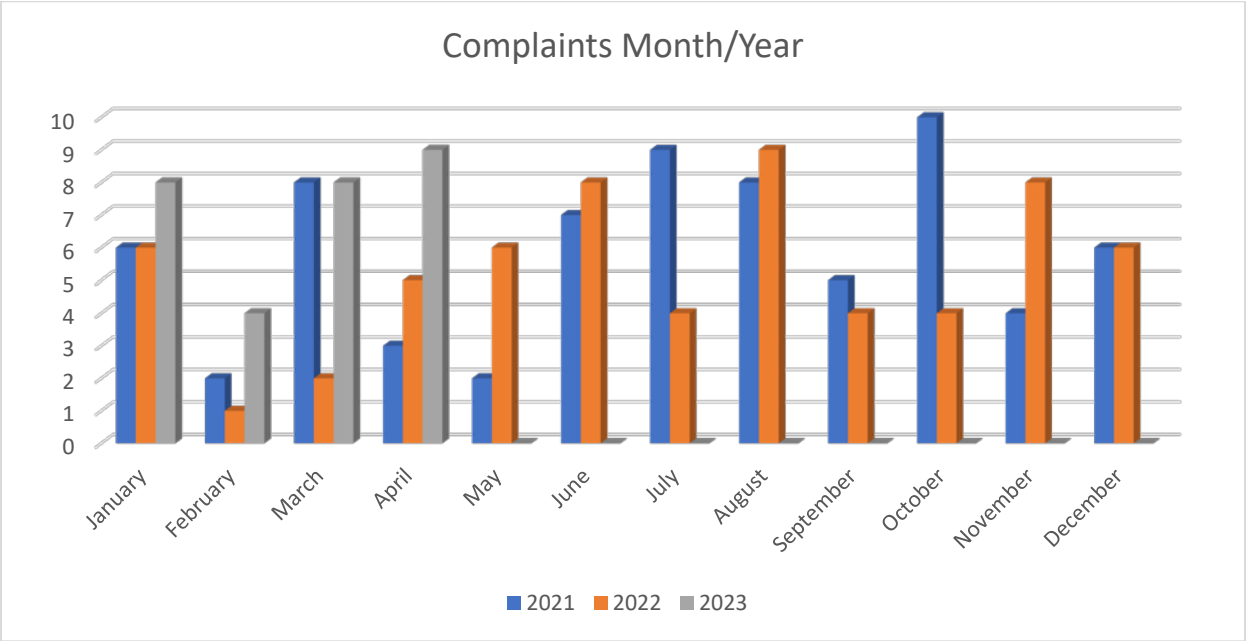
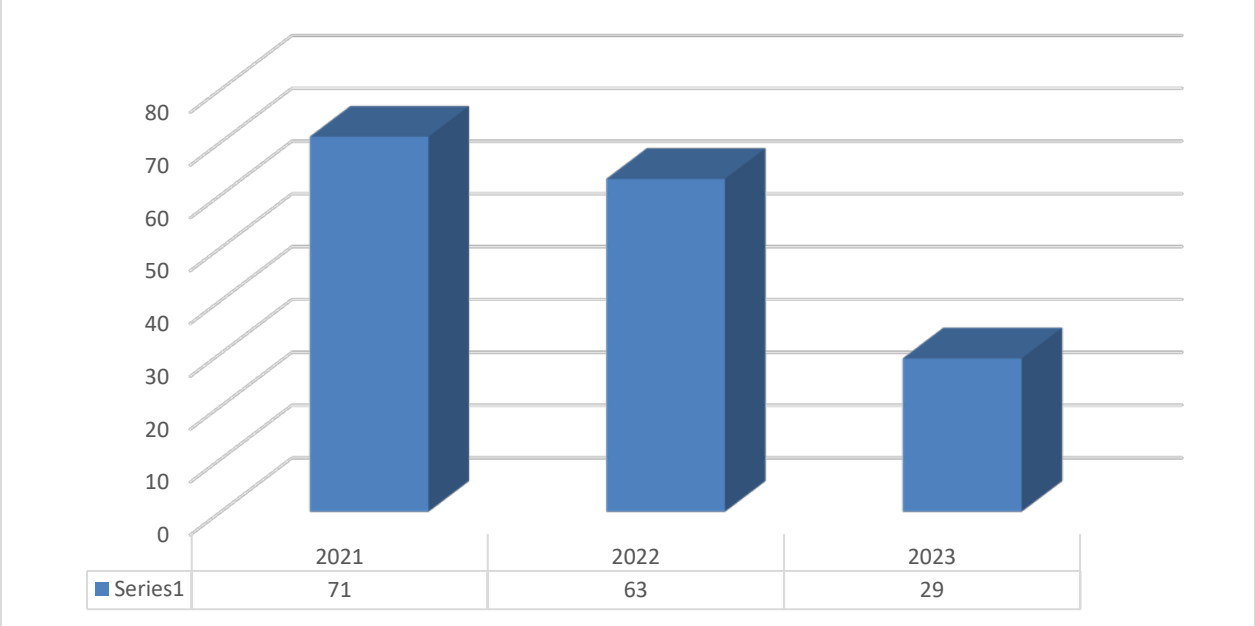
- Two cellular LPC (License Plate Capture) surveillance cameras were deployed and 3 additional LPC cameras replaced older models – Currently we have 18 cameras at 10 locations.
- Twenty-nine total complaints were documented this period (clearing & dumping)
- North Street animal sacrifice violators paid \$500 with a cleanup and a second minor violator paid a minimal fine spent hours doing a deep clean of the site.
- Fifteen confirmed dumping violations documented on surveillance cameras, two settlements totaling \$550 have been paid, many settlements are pending.
- Continuing to use the GIS complaint tracking system and exported data to insure proper documentation of violation and inspections.
- Provided videos for the Annual Cooperators Meeting and videoed a pending violation on Mill Road
- Assisted Science and Stewardship with the restoration project inspections at the Affatato site.
- UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) training has been postponed because of the prescribed burn season. One new EO and Ecologist will start their UAS part 107 training shortly.



624 Old Riverhead Road
Westhampton Beach, NY
11978

Phone (631) 288-1079
Fax (631) 288-1367
www.pb.state.ny.us

Incident Statistics - Reporting Period 03/01/21 - 05/2/23			
Year	2021	2022	2023
Intake			
Sent by Agency to Commission	11	14	8
Discovered by Commission Staff	48	41	19
Called in by Individual to Commission	12	8	2
Total Incidents Reported	71	63	29
Location of Incident			
Brookhaven	54	46	18
Southampton	10	17	11
Riverhead	6	0	0
Occurring on Public Land	26	21	13
Occurring on Private Land	35	22	6
Occurring on Public & Private Land	10	20	10
Core	35	38	18
Compatible Growth Area (CGA)	18	13	8
Core & CGA	0	1	1
Outside CPBA	18	12	2
Nature of Incident*			
Clearing/Encroachment	24	24	5
Structures	0	1	1
Dumping	35	35	23
Mining	1	0	0
Hunting	1	0	0
ATV	2	1	0
Other	8	4	2
<i>*Note-some incidents involve more than one land use issue</i>			
Referrals*			
Sent to Town	17	20	4
Sent to County	17	12	5
Sent to State	16	22	6
Commission	21	15	7
Sent to AG	0	1	0
Other	0	5	1
<i>*Note-some incidents are sent to multiple agencies</i>			
Status			
Founded	60	50	29
Unfounded	11	13	0
Open	39	18	19
Closed	32	45	10
Inspections			
Conservation Easement Inspections		1	1
Development project inspections		2	0



Item 3.c. Pine Barrens Credit Program Report for May 17, 2023:

Activities in the Credit Program for 2023 included review of applications for Letters of Interpretation, Conservation Easements, Credit Program and FOIL requests management. Some specific work items include:

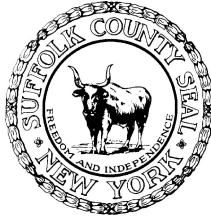
- Letters of Interpretation: 11 LOIs were issued and one parcel was inspected in the Town of Riverhead. Staff is following up on past LOIs for interest in the Program.
- Conservation Easements: Review and Monitoring
 - Two easements were recently recorded, which generated 1.4 credits.
 - Five easements are currently in progress.
 - Research and review of activities on three easement properties for consistency with easement terms including reserved rights and covenants.
 - 12 easement properties were recently inspected, including the Nassau County Boy Scouts property in the Town of Riverhead.



- Pine Barrens Credits
 - Redeemed: 1.3 Credits have been redeemed in the Town of Brookhaven and Southampton.
 - Conveyed: 8.61 Credits have been conveyed in the in the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton, the average price is \$95,308 per credit.
- Pine Barrens Credits Auction update: 143 letters were sent to the potential LOI holders. The mailing to LOI and Credit holders should be completed by June 23, 2023.

Pine Barrens Credit Program Statistics Table: represents figures for the total and annual summary of 2023.

Easement Protected Lands and Pine Barrens Credits As of May 9, 2023								
	Brookhaven	2023	Riverhead	2023	Southampton	2023	Total	2023
Parcels	516	1	37	-	459	1	1012	2
Acreage	828.03	1.32	516.78	-	878.76	1.98	2223.57	3.3
Average parcel size	1.60	1.32	13.97	-	1.91	1.98	2.20	1.65
Credits generated	546.46	1	172.39	-	338.57	0.40	1057.42	1.4
Credits redeemed	418.65	0.29	142.25	-	180.83	1.01	741.73	1.3
Credits not redeemed	127.81	0.71	30.14	-	157.74	-0.61	315.69	0.1
Credits sold	597.04	2.05	238.29	0.20	289.38	6.36	1124.71	8.61
Total value of PBC transaction through this date	\$33,307,519	\$225,000	\$9,251,447	\$17,300	\$20,501,382	\$578,300	\$63,060,348	\$820,600
Average Credits value		\$109,756		\$86,500		\$90,928		\$95,308
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	0.54		-		-		0.54	
# of Inspected CE Parcels	-	11	-	1	-	-	-	12
# of Installed CE Signs	134	-	18	-	92	-	244	0



SUFFOLK COUNTY COMPTROLLER

330 CENTER DRIVE RIVERHEAD, N.Y. 11901-3311

Telephone: (631) 852-1501 FAX (631) 852-1507

JOHN M. KENNEDY, JR.
COUNTY COMPTROLLER

May 2nd, 2023

**Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and
Policy Commission
P.O. Box 587
Great River, N.Y. 11739-0587**

**Dear Pine Barrens Credit Clearinghouse
Board of Advisors:**

Attached please find our financial report on the Pine Barrens Credit Program for the month of April 2023. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina M. Withers

**Christina M. Withers, CIA, CPFO
Executive Director of Finance & Taxation**

**Suffolk County Comptroller's Office
The Pine Barrens Credit Program**

Balance as of December 31st, 2022	\$2,554,546.05
Additional Deposits	0.00
Interest (see below for details)	832.99
Disbursements	0.00
Balance as of April 30th, 2023	\$2,555,379.04

**Interest Earnings & Disbursements
For the Months of January - December 2023**

Interest Earnings

Premier MMA - Public Fund

January	223.97
February	195.99
March	217.01
April	196.02
May	0.00
June	0.00
July	0.00
August	0.00
September	0.00
October	0.00
November	0.00
December	0.00
	\$832.99

<u>Interest Period</u>	<u>APR</u>
01/01/23- 01/31/23	0.1000%
02/01/23- 02/28/23	0.1000%
03/01/23- 03/31/23	0.1000%
04/01/23- 04/30/23	0.1000%
05/01/23- 05/31/23	0.0000%
06/01/23- 06/30/23	0.0000%
07/01/23- 07/31/23	0.0000%
08/01/23- 08/31/23	0.0000%
09/01/23- 09/30/23	0.0000%
10/01/23- 10/31/23	0.0000%
11/01/23- 11/30/23	0.0000%
12/01/23- 12/31/23	0.0000%

Disbursements

None	\$ -
	\$ -

Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission
 Land Use Division Bi-Monthly Update for the Meeting of Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Action	Central Pine Barrens Location			
	Municipality	Town of Brookhaven	Town of Riverhead	Town of Southampton
Applications and Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction		NY Cancer & Blood Specialists Core Hardship Waiver Application, Ridge. Development of 0.27 acres to expand the parking lot on a 5 acres site. Public hearing 2/15/23. Decision deadline 7/19/23.	Venezia Square CGA Development of Regional Significance, Wading River, 600-73-1-1.4 et al. Development of commercial center including 37,000 square feet of commercial buildings (retail, restaurants, bank) on 6.3 acres. Public hearing 4/19/23. Decision deadline 6/21/23.	---
SEQRA Coordination, referrals, inquiries and activities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Eleven Shirley material on DRS classification. • PSEG-LI at Wildflower (Expressway Drive North) electric utility installation (CGA). • Vineyards at Selden revised plans for a zone change and site plan to develop a 90 unit Planned Retirement Community (CGA). 	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYSDEC SEQRA Lead Agency coordination 4 Old Country Road LLC at 76 Summit Boulevard, formerly Westhampton Mining Aggregates, solid waste facility and redevelopment of 44 acres (Core). • Southampton Town Board SEQRA Lead Agency coordination Riverside Community Sewage Treatment Plant (CGA).
Division Activity, Regional Projects and Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Planning Manager involving staff management, budget, voucher and other responsibilities. • Development project review, Core and CGA hardship waivers, SEQRA Coordination, interagency referrals, information requests, inquiries, requests for determination of jurisdiction review and research. Projects include site plans (commercial/industrial, mixed use), residential and non-residential subdivisions, Developments of Regional Significance, Assertions of Jurisdiction, zone changes and other land use development activity. • Pre-construction development project site inspections to protect open space • FOIL Requests. Research and assist with FOIL requests and litigation on development projects. • Technical support to the Compliance and Enforcement Division on land use related matters including property information research on unauthorized development, clearing, encroachments on credit program conservation easements and incidents on project site areas that are protected. • Collaborate and coordinate with other Commission divisions. • Completion of the SEQRA process and adoption of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Amendments with an effective date of 4/19/24. 			



Venezia Square at Wading River



New York Cancer & Blood Specialists, Ridge



Vineyards at Selden