



Central Pine Barrens Commission Meeting Summary
Wednesday, February 5, 2025 (Approved 3/19/25)
Camp Sobaco
229 German Blvd
Yaphank, NY 11980

Special Meeting

2:00 pm

Commission members present: Ms. DiBrita (for Brookhaven), Ms. Juengst (for Suffolk County), Mr. Charters (for Riverhead), Ms. Moore and Ms. Scherer (Southampton).

Others present: Commission and other agency staff members included Ms. Jakobsen, Mr. Milazzo, Ms. Hargrave, and Ms. Brown-Walton.

The meeting started with the pledge to the flag and Ms. Jakobsen noted with four Commission members present, there is a quorum.

Timothy C. Hubbard
Member

Maria Z. Moore
Member

Daniel J. Panico
Member

Edward P. Romaine
Member

1. Public Comment
Summary: No public comments
2. Administrative
 - a. Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan Implementation
Summary: Ms. Jakobsen discussed the County Executive requests that the State Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission use its own due diligence to select a Town Representative and provide the name on or before February 14, 2025 to participate on the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act 21-member Board of Trustees to serve for two years. It is necessary to present an Introductory resolution on March 4, 2025 containing the names of the 21 representatives that will serve on the Board. Ms. Moore volunteered to be the Commission representative.

The motion was made by Ms. Juengst and seconded by Mr. Charters to approve Supervisor Maria Moore as the Commission representative for the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act Board of Trustees. The motion was approved by 4:0 vote.

3. Pine Barrens Nature Center Feasibility Study
Summary: Ms. Jakobsen provided a document to discuss the Central Pine Barrens Nature Center which included the meaning of the purpose of the feasibility study. Camp Sobaco is under consideration for the Central Pine Barrens Nature Center and Commission Headquarters. Camp Sobaco is under potential acquisition by the County from the Girl Scouts. The County has offered a five-acre portion of the 40 acre parcel for the Nature Center under different scenarios. The site is one to two miles away from the expressway and right on the Carmans River. The Suffolk County Water Authority has indicated potential interest in purchasing five acres of the property for a well field. Ms. Jakobsen discussed several options for the feasibility study which are to have the planning group include Camp Sobaco along with other potential locations or have the Feasibility Study evaluate only Camp Sobaco as the site location. Ms. Scherer asked if we know how much space the Pine Barrens require. The required space needed is not known at this time it will be part of the study. There were discussions about the process and the best way to move forward. The Commission agreed to include Camp Sobaco in the planning process along with other locations.

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4. Public Comment
Summary: No public comments

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Charters and seconded by Ms. Juengst at approximately 2:34 pm. The motion was approved by a 4:0 vote.

Attachments (in order of discussion)

1. Chapter C. Charter Article XII Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program and Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Fund dated February 3, 2025; Email from the Office of the County Executive regarding Central Pine Barrens Town Representative for the new Suffolk County Board of Trustees dated February 3, 2025.
2. Memo from Executive Director regarding the Discussion of the Nature Center Feasibility Study and Location dated January 29, 2025.