



**CENTRAL
PINE
BARRENS**

**JOINT
PLANNING
&
POLICY
COMMISSION**

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Member

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Member

**Commission Meeting Summary (FINAL)
for Wednesday, April 7, 1999 (Approved 5/19/99)
Commission Office
3525 Sunrise Highway, 2nd Floor; Great River, NY
2:00 pm**

Commission members present: Mr. Gaffney and Proios (for Suffolk County; Mr. Gaffney voting when present), Mr. Girandola (for Brookhaven), Mr. Hanley (for Riverhead), Mr. Murphree (for Southampton) and Mr. Cowen (for New York State).

Others present: General counsel was Mr. Rigano. Staff members and cooperators from the Commission and other agencies included Mr. Corwin, Ms. Trezza, Ms. Plunkett, Mr. Milazzo, Ms. Jakobsen, and Mr. Rizzo (from the Commission), Mr. Spitz (from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation), Capt. Conklin (from the NYS Forest Rangers, Co-Vice Chair of the Wildfire Task Force, and member of the Law Enforcement Council), Mr. Hynes (from the Suffolk County Department of Parks and Chair of the Law Enforcement Council), Capt. Otterstedt (of the NYS Environmental Conservation Police and Vice Chair of the Law Enforcement Council), Mr. Drower (of the Wading River Fire District and Chair of the Wildfire task Force), and Mr. Urevich (of the Southampton Town Fire Chiefs Council and Co-Vice Chair of the Wildfire Task Force. Additional attendees are shown on the attached sign-in sheet.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:15 pm by Mr. Gaffney, with a four member quorum consisting of Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Cowen, Mr. Girandola, and Mr. Murphree.

Public Comment

Summary: *There were no speakers at this time.*

Administrative

! Draft meeting summaries for 2/24, 3/1, and 3/17

Summary: **A motion was made by Mr. Girandola and seconded by Mr. Cowen to approve the summaries of the 2/24/99, 3/1/99, and 3/17/99 meetings as drafted. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.**

Mr. Corwin gave a brief overview of today's agenda, and especially the presentations and topics immediately following.

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Plan Implementation

- ! NY Army National Guard presentation to the Commission (*Col. Frank P. Intini, Jr., NY Army National Guard*)
Summary: *Col. Intini, Facility Commander of the NY Army National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility #1 in Ronkonkoma, and a member of the Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council, introduced himself and Capt. Richard Settino. Col. Intini then briefly described the history of the Army Guard's involvement with the pine barrens, the Law Enforcement Council, and the Commission. He expressed appreciation to the Commission for its strong support of both the Law Enforcement Council and the NY Army National Guard. He also described many of the community efforts that his Guard unit has become involved in as a result of the cooperative work with the Commission.*

Col. Intini then presented to the Commission an engraved plaque in commemoration of, and thanking the Commission for, the cooperative work between the two organizations. Mr. Gaffney accepted the plaque on behalf of the Commission, and noted that it is the first time that he recalls accepting an award from someone who really should be receiving thanks instead. The plaque will be placed on permanent display in the Commission library.

- ! Law Enforcement Council: summary of activities and Law Enforcement Handbook (*Mr. Lawrence Hynes, Chair, and Capt. Richard Otterstedt, Vice Chair*)
Summary: *Mr. Corwin then introduced Mr. Hynes by briefly describing the origin of the Law Enforcement Council during the development of the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan in 1994-95. Mr. Hynes then described the recent work of the Council, and thanked the Commission for their support.*

Capt. Otterstedt then went through the newly produced trial version of the Central Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Handbook (attached), which the Commissioners received today. He also thanked the Commission staff for the many hours of work that went into this version. Mr. Corwin then noted that Capt. Otterstedt and the other Council members had also contributed many hours to this project.

- ! Formal adoption of Central Pine Barrens Fire Management Plan (draft adoption resolution previously distributed by counsel)
Summary: *Mr. Larry Tuthill, representing the Suffolk County Fire District Officers' Association, addressed the Commission to request that a positive declaration be issued for the Fire Plan, and that an environmental impact statement be prepared. He stated that the fire districts are spending money to fight brush fires, that there has been continued growth of the trees, and that the costs to the districts should be totaled. Mr. Gaffney explained that those concerns are economic and, while they should be addressed, they are not environmental issues.*

Mr. Corwin then stated that the Commission staff and the Wildfire Task Force members have discussed the issue of finances with Mr. Tuthill and others, and

that there is a need to both accurately account for the expenses to which Mr. Tuthill referred, as well as to find a mechanism for reimbursement of operating expenses that is acceptable and affordable to those legislative or other bodies that would provide it. Mr. Corwin noted that the executive board of the Wildfire Task Force, along with members of the Commission staff, met with Senator LaValle regarding this issue, and that one outcome of the meeting was that it would be extremely difficult to simply pass a bill which reimburses fire districts only for lost taxes. Mr. Corwin also noted that the prescribed burning program, which reduces the fuel loads discussed by Mr. Tuthill, has so far been borne almost entirely by the NYS DEC.

A motion was then made by Mr. Cowen and seconded by Mr. Girandola to adopt the Central Pine Barrens Fire Management Plan as per the attached resolution. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote, and the resolution was signed by the Commission members.

- ! NY Wildfire and Incident Management Academy: inclusion of Academy within Wildfire Task Force's responsibilities

Summary: Mr. Corwin summarized the 1998 New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy, coordinated by Mr. Charles Hamilton of the NYS DEC Region 1 office. Mr. Corwin explained that a recommendation has been made by the involved parties that the Academy should be permanently included within the Commission's, and the Wildfire Task Force's, responsibilities. He distributed the attached resolution prepared by Ms. Jakobsen which summarizes the details, and went through its provisions.

A motion was then made by Mr. Cowen and seconded by Mr. Girandola to approve the attached resolution making the Academy a responsibility of the Commission and the Wildfire Task Force, and authorizing the use of the monies remaining from the 1998 Academy for future Academy activities and costs. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

A short break and informal reception was held at this point. At the resumption of the meeting, Mr. Gaffney departed and Mr. Hanley arrived. A five member quorum was present from this point forward, with Mr. Proios chairing the meeting.

- ! Fire weather station: approval of agreement with SC Water Authority siting the fire weather station

Summary: The attached draft agreement recently approved by the SC Water Authority (SCWA) Board was discussed, and the question arose as to whether there should be an upper limit placed on the cost of the electricity, labor or phone service to be provided to the site. It was agreed that this will be deferred until later today in order to permit the Commission staff to speak with the appropriate SCWA staff re this.

Pine Barrens Credit Program

- ! Program status and results of 3/19 Clearinghouse Board meeting
Summary: Mr. Milazzo reported that Mr. Jack Hanley, who represented Riverhead Town on the Clearinghouse Board, has resigned from the Board. He noted that a letter thanking Mr. Hanley for his fine service has been forwarded on behalf of both the Commission and the Clearinghouse.

He reported that some of the Riverhead credits held by the Clearinghouse have recently been sold; that the reverse auction has been kept open for an additional 30 days; and then reported the recent statistics for the credit program. Approximately 270 parcels totaling approximately 240 acres have been protected through easements. The next Clearinghouse Board meeting is scheduled for 4/30/99 at 10:00 am at the Commission office.

- ! Appointment of Vice Chair for the Clearinghouse Board
Summary: After a brief discussion, it was agreed that a recommendation will be sought from the Clearinghouse Board before the Commission acts.

Plan Implementation

- ! Formal adoption of *Central Pine Barrens Fire Management Plan*
Summary: Mr. Hanley requested that his affirmative vote be added to the approval resolution passed earlier by the Commission prior to his arrival. That was agreed, and Mr. Hanley signed the resolution adopting the Fire Management Plan, making the final vote 5-0.

Core Preservation Area

- ! Salmon / Ridge (Brookhaven) / new hardship: set hearing
 - ! Navratil / Manorville (Brookhaven) / new hardship: set hearing
 - ! Bilek / Calverton (Brookhaven) / new hardship: set hearing
 - ! Migliore / Middle Island (Brookhaven) / new hardship: set hearing
 - ! Gazza / Westhampton (Southampton) / new hardship: set hearing
- Summary: Ms. Jakobsen distributed the applications received for each of the above items, and she and Ms. Plunkett summarized them. The Salmon application is for a single family home on a 0.46 acre parcel in an A Residence 1 district on the west side of William Floyd Parkway, east of Sally Lane, in Ridge, Brookhaven Town.*

The Navratil application is for a single family home on a 0.46 acre parcel in an A Residence 5 district north of North Street, on the east side of Center Moriches Road, in Manorville, Brookhaven Town.

The Bilek application is for a single family home on a 0.22 acre parcel in an A Residence 5 district north of Nugent Drive, east of Pinehurst Boulevard, south of Cedar Street, in Calverton, Brookhaven Town.

The Migliore application is for a single family home on a proposed new 15 acre parcel to be comprised of three existing and adjacent 5 acre parcels in an A Residence 1 district on the east side of Bartlett Road, in Middle Island, Brookhaven Town.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the layout of the current lots and the proposed new lot, the desire of the owner to obtain Pine Barrens Credits on the portion of the new lot that would remain undeveloped, the existence of a current Letter of Interpretation for a total of 12 credits for the three current lots, and the existence of a pending Pine Barrens Credit Certificate application for the existing three lots. No easement has yet been placed on any of the three lots. The owner is represented by Mr. Nicolazzi, who was present and spoke briefly on the application.

The Gazza application is for a 988 square foot industrial building for use by one tenant's wholesale business on a 0.14 acre parcel in a Light Industrial 40 (one acre) district on the west side of County Road 31 (Riverhead-Westhampton Road), across from Gabreski Airport, south of Stewart Avenue, in Westhampton, Southampton Town. A discussion ensued regarding the required State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) review of this unlisted action, and the Commission advised the staff to proceed with an uncoordinated review.

*A brief discussion followed regarding the scheduling of these hearings, and **a motion was then made by Mr. Proios and seconded by Mr. Cowen to hold hearings (1) on the Navratil application at 4:00 pm at the 4/28/99 Commission meeting; (2) on the Salmon, Bilek and Migliore applications at 4:00 pm at the 5/19/99 Commission; and (3) on the Gazza application at 4:00 pm at the 6/9/99 Commission meeting. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.***

Public Comment

Summary: *Mr. Proios asked for public comment prior to the closed advisory session, but there were no speakers.*

Mr. Proios stated that there may be additional public business following the closed advisory session.

Advisory Session

Summary: ***A motion was made by Mr. Cowen and seconded by Mr. Murphree to enter into a closed advisory session for the purpose of receiving legal advice from counsel. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote. The Commission entered into a closed advisory session from approximately 4:27 pm through 4:53 pm.***

Plan Implementation

- ! Fire weather station: approval of agreement with SC Water Authority *(continued)*
Summary: After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the attached agreement should be approved as drafted. A motion was then made by Mr. Cowen and seconded by Mr. Hanley to approve the attached agreement with the SCWA for the use of the County Road 51 SCWA site for the fire weather station, and to authorize the Commission Chair or his designated representative to sign the agreement on behalf of the Commission. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote. A final copy (without the DRAFT label) will be prepared by the Commission staff and the required SCWA and Commission signatures will be obtained.

Attachments (in order of discussion):

1. Attendance list (2 pages)
2. Speaker list (1 page)
3. *Draft Central Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Handbook* (3/23/99; 29 pages)
4. Resolution adopting the *Fire Management Plan* and attachment (4/7/99; 15 pages)
5. Resolution re NY Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (4/7/99; 1 page)
6. License agreement with SC Water Authority for fire weather site (4/7/99; 4 pages)