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Minutes of a Scoping Hearing held by the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead at Riverhead Town Hall, Howell Avenue, Riverhead, New York on Wednesday, November 16, 2005, at 3:17 p.m.

Present:

Philip Cardinale,	Supervisor
George Bartunek,	Councilman
Barbara Blass,	Councilwoman

Also Present:

Melissa Giguere,	Deputy Town Clerk
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Absent:

Rose Sanders,	Councilwoman
Edward Densieski,	Councilman
Barbara Grattan,	Town Clerk

Supervisor Cardinale called the meeting to order.

Supervisor Cardinale: "November 16th scoping hearing for the F-1 project which is proposed for Edwards Avenue just south of the Federal Express building. I'm told by my Planning Director who is right here in the third row that it might help to read the following paragraphs from the SEQRA procedures' manual.

Scoping means the process by which the lead agency which I guess is us here, the town of Riverhead, identifies the significant adverse impacts related to the proposed action that are to be addressed in the draft environmental impact statement including the content and level of detail of the analysis, the range of alternatives, the mitigation measures needed, and identification of non-relevant issues.

Scoping provides a project sponsor with guidance on matters which much be considered and provides an opportunity for early participation by involved agencies and the public in the review of the proposal.

And in general terms the regulations provide that the lead agency, in this instance the town of Riverhead, should try to identify all relevant issues for inclusion in the draft environmental impact statement as well as to eliminate consideration of those impacts which are irrelevant or non-significant.

Which is a long way of saying we want to know at the end of this what issues the public needs studied and the town needs studied in the draft environmental impact statement which we're going to ask the project sponsor to prepare.

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That being said, do you want to make an initial comment, Rick, and then we can take comment from the public."

Rick Hanley: "Just in this instance we're departing from our typical procedure with respect to preparation of an EIS at this point. The town board is preparing it through a consultant at this point. That may change depending upon what happens.

Because of that, my department prepared a draft scope of issues as opposed to the applicant. I think the applicant has seen these. Yes, Bob?"

Robert Kozakiewicz: "Yes."

Rick Hanley: "And I think Barbara has a copy and they were at the town clerk's for quite some time for the public and there are copies up front if the public would like to look at our draft scope."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Could the Deputy Town Clerk grab a couple of those for the board members, George and I? You have one? Okay. I don't have one. Just one will do then.

Maybe take one for yourself, keep you busy that way, you can read it."

Rick Hanley: "Just to start, what I think I'll do is just summarize what these draft scope- the draft scope of issues that we've prepared and then the public can add to that."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Before you do that, Rick, we had a discussion yesterday, yourself, me, and Bob Kozakiewicz, the attorney for the applicant. There was a letter received that you're aware of that suggests that the option of whether we prepare the report or the sponsor prepares the report, the draft, okay, is a discretionary decision in the purview of the applicant. Okay?"

Rick Hanley: "Correct."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Now I don't have a request by the applicant to be preparing scoping for a draft environmental impact statement to be prepared by the town- "

Rick Hanley: "Right."

Supervisor Cardinale: "--that I'm aware of. Do we?"

Rick Hanley: "No, we don't. I think that this hearing could suffice for either path."

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Supervisor Cardinale: "All right. But at this moment not having had a request from the applicant to prepare- to have the town prepare the draft environmental impact statement- "

Rick Hanley: "Yes."

Supervisor Cardinale: "-- we don't have the authority under the SEQRA law to prepare the draft environmental impact statement."

Rick Hanley: "That's correct."

Supervisor Cardinale: "So I believe that you stated that at this moment we are preparing it. It is my understanding that at this moment we are not preparing it. It's the applicant's obligation to prepare the draft environmental impact statement- "

Rick Hanley: "Okay."

Supervisor Cardinale: "-- is that your understanding, Bob? In other words, there was that issue that we haven't yet resolved but we are not in a position under the law as you're interpreted it and we've confirmed it to prepare a draft environmental impact statement unless you ask us to. And since- "

Robert Kozakiewicz: "It's been done and we consent to the hearing taking place today."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. But when you say it's been done-"

Robert Kozakiewicz: "The draft scoping has been accomplished. It's been prepared, the document exists- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah, but that's- that has- that's not- anybody can do the draft scope. You could do the draft scope- "

Rick Hanley: "Typically the draft scope is prepared by the applicant."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay."

Rick Hanley: "We were proceeding under the thought that we would, the town board, the lead agency, would- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "That's fine."

Rick Hanley: "So I think, Phil, this hearing will suffice for either option depending upon- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "But when are we going to find out who's preparing the draft?"

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Rick Hanley: "I guess we could get something in writing shortly."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Do we know that yet? Do we know who's preparing the draft? That's my only question."

Rick Hanley: "The only way we can legally prepare it is if the project sponsor opts for that."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. And that hasn't happened yet?"

Rick Hanley: "Not formally."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. So if it— since it hasn't happened, this is a scoping hearing in which the public can offer their scope of issues, we can offer ours which you are about to do, and Bob can offer his as he will do and we don't even have to— and after that, absent any statement from the applicant that they want us to prepare at their expense, the draft environmental impact statement, they will proceed to prepare it and proceed from there."

Rick Hanley: "That's correct."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. Then tell us what you think the scope—"

Councilwoman Blass: "Question."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Go ahead."

Councilwoman Blass: "Who will be responsible for assembling the entire scope as a result of today's comments? Will the town be assembling the respective comments?"

Rick Hanley: "If the applicant opts for us to prepare the draft, it will be our obligation to collect all of the commentary. This is a hearing that will be transcribed, correct? So we would be doing that."

Also, it's important to note that even when the applicant prepares a draft scope, the final scope is issued by the lead agency so really it's six and one, half a dozen of the other."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. Well, I'll ask Bob when he comes up when we're going to have that answer but we can certainly proceed. Give us your version of the scope then."

Rick Hanley: "What we had identified were potentially significant adverse impacts to land and water resulting from the development with respect to potential runoff and erosion affecting the subject site and adjacent properties, especially given the extent and

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severity of slopes present. We identified potential adverse impacts to a freshwater wetland within the vicinity.

There are always potential adverse impacts to the aquifer in hydro-geologic zone 3 with respect to the public water supply.

We identified potential impacts to Edwards Avenue with respect to motor vehicle movements, specifically the intersection of Edwards and Route 25 with respect to how that particular intersection functions today and after the project was built.

Most notable are impacts to noise with respect to the operation of the F-1 track and how the noise would affect neighboring properties and impacts to growth and community character, i.e., the recently adopted master plan and some of the uses that were proposed. We agree that the principal use is a permitted use in this Industrial C district. However, there were some accessory uses that were proposed in the site plan and we want to see how those conform with our master plan and zoning ordinance.

So that's what my department saw as the potentially adverse impacts associated with this project."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you. Does the applicant want to sound in before we hear from the public as to what they believe that the issues include, if they're any different from what was just stated?"

Did you want to add- I assume you wouldn't want to add issues to study, but you might. But do you object to any of those issues as being included? Yes, Bob."

Robert Kozakiewicz: "I'm sorry, I missed the question."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. He just laid out the- that the draft scope of issues should include land and water runoff, erosion, and freshwater wetlands, impact aquifer, hydro-geologic Zone 3, Edwards Avenue traffic moving including the intersection at 25, noise, impacts to the growth and character of the community and accessory uses, whether they're in conformity. Is there any other that you believe should be studied or do any of those- do you want to- are you going to argue for the deletion of any of those?"

Robert Kozakiewicz: "No. We- I've had a chance to discuss the draft document dated November 4, 2005 as prepared by Mr. Hanley with our consultant. He believes that the issues that have been identified are reasonable and certainly within the confines of the SEQRA. So we would have no objections to same nor do we have anything to add at this time."

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Supervisor Cardinale: "Great, thank you."

Robert Kozakiewicz: "Thank you."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Public that is here and interested. It's relatively- it's an optional hearing I might add but we want to be very careful with this project because there's some public interest, particular public interest.

You've heard that there are those issues. I can repeat them if anybody cares for me to do so, that Planning is suggesting be studied. They're confirming those are issues that should be studied.

Does the public think that we're missing anything? That we should be studying something else? I'd like to hear from them. Please come forward."

Ann Miloski: "My name is Ann Miloski and I live in Calverton. And I think it will have a very adverse effect on the businesses in the area especially the two that are very close by. And this is what I wanted to say.

Number one, Suffolk County and Riverhead town bought the development rights from Mill Ridge Farm which is just south and adjacent to the proposed go cart racetrack. It is an actively run horse farm, including boarding of horses and giving riding lessons. The noise from the engines of the go cart would significantly cause problems with the horses.

Number two, the golf course of Calverton Links is nearby and the noise level will not be conducive with golfing.

Number three, the Charter School is only .03 miles from the site and the noise also would not be conducive.

There is not enough parking on the site and you cannot rely on adjoining property owners leasing your property. Leases can be broken. So that is not very dependable. Parking is limited.

The other thing I wanted to state was I was reading this part about the water and public health, it's in a hydro-geological zone 3 zone and it definitely will affect our ground water. Thank you."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you. This is a 12 acre parcel, right, Bob?"

Robert Kozakiewicz: "Yes."

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Supervisor Cardinale: "Do you anticipate any difficulty with meeting all of the parking requirements as stated in our code? Are you going to be seeking variances or anything?"

Robert Kozakiewicz: "With respect to the parking?"

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah."

Robert Kozakiewicz: "We do meet the parking schedule in the code as far as parking is concerned."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah. Your proposed site plan is not going to require variances?"

Robert Kozakiewicz: "Not from parking. No."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay."

Robert Kozakiewicz: "Not for parking, I should say."

Supervisor Cardinale: "That's what I'm asking you."

Councilwoman Blass: (Inaudible)

Robert Kozakiewicz: "There's one that we have to obtain an interpretation on. It would be the height of the building. That's the one that we would need to have addressed and that would require us to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. Here's an interesting- I wish I had an attorney here, I would ask- well, I'll ask it anyway. I know that we're going to study noise carefully. We've already had an initial rendition of it, you know, when they made their first proposal for human beings."

Now in view of the fact- Bob you will want to research this question because I talked-- at the EDZ meeting I met with- I talked to Ann about this, you are going to study human beings- the impact on- of noise. But she just told you that Mill Ridge Farm, just south and adjacent is a horse farm and a boarding and riding farm.

Assume for the moment that horses are more sensitive than human beings. Do you need- under the SEQRA process, do you need to study the impact on the adjacent horse farm because the impact is going to be actually more significant because of the sensitivity of these animals. You may have to. And if that's the case, that is an additional issue we should scope and you should study. And I don't know the law on it but I throw it out to you to research with- Dawn is away so that's why she's not here. But that I think is, you know, a legitimate question. It's pretty close, too, isn't it, Mill Ridge?

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It's adjacent. Okay. So you may have to study- you may have to get into equine impacts on noise as well as human impacts.

Anybody else for a comment? Yes."

Bill Shulman: "I am Bill Shulman and my wife, Jean, and I are the owners of Calverton Links. I am here to voice my strong objections to this car racing development which would be located three-tenths of a mile from our golf course.

I need not repeat the SEQRA issues for the DEIS. The planning department has done an outstanding job. I hear there's a question of who's supposed to do it. I don't get involved with that.

I am here to point out the effects this facility would have on our golf operation. Golfers area strange breed. Much of their success depends on the conditions under which they are playing. Fortunately we have succeeded in providing excellent grass. And just as an aside our green superintendent who I believe most people know is undoubtedly the best green superintendent in Suffolk County."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Undoubtedly."

Bill Shulman: "Okay. The other ingredient is the quiet atmosphere which makes for a relaxing swing. I'm not a good golfer but I've been playing for 50 years so I understand that.

Our beverage cart drivers are trained to stop driving when they approach golfers who are hitting their T shots or putting so that nobody has an excuse somebody disturbed them. If this situation changes, there will be serious consequences.

Car racing must have noise. It is a part of the thrill that the driver seeks. Being able to eliminate this noise from a distance of three-tenths of a mile when six or eight or ten drivers are racing at speeds of up to 100 miles an hour.

Jean and I have invested our lives and millions of dollars to make Calverton Links a success. We pride ourselves on the results. We have groups of golfers who come from as far away as Queens. If this development is approved, we believe we will lose customers with the result that profits will turn to losses. If this should take place, we will have to close down. It will not only be a sad event in our lives but also to the employees who have given us their best.

Thank you."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you. I always say that I shouldn't be taking my legal advice from my director of planning but

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since you're the only one here that has any idea and I don't have a lawyer, same issue on this.

We're here as everyone knows to scope issues, to identify issues that need to be studied. So it's really a legal issue just like the equine one. If you've got a- if you're adjacent to a golf course or very close to adjacent, now do you have to study the impact of this particular use on not just generally, but on a person who's trying to putt on a green a short distance away? And that- do the mitigation factors that we might at the end of the road here, this is a zoned use, it appears, and even the accessories presumably are- do we- the impacts- the mitigation that we may require at the end of this, is it addressed to the neighboring putter- "

Rick Hanley: "Right."

Supervisor Cardinale: "In which case, it's going to be more significant than otherwise. Do you know from your experience?"

Rick Hanley: "The way I would answer that is the regulations state that any adverse impact to either the natural or social environment must be studied and mitigated. One can make the case that a neighboring horse farm is the natural environment. One can make the case that a golf course is a natural environment and there's community character issues. So I think that it would probably be worthwhile in our obligation to study those impacts to the natural environment that are adverse."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Right. And the natural environment as you just defined it which is a legal issue which I'm sure Bob and Dawn will look at- "

Rick Hanley: "Right."

Supervisor Cardinale: "-- is the environment as it exists when the sponsor- "

Rick Hanley: "Correct."

Supervisor Cardinale: "-- comes to propose the project- "

Rick Hanley: "Right."

Supervisor Cardinale: "-- not simply (inaudible) natural environment, the natural environment. So that we have horse farm and a golf course."

Rick Hanley: "And community character, Phil, is talked about. Impacts to community character and growth."

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Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay."

Rick Hanley: "So I think either of those two subjects would cover it."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Then think about how you want to amend the scope of issues to address the last two comments."

Rick Hanley: "We'll do that in the final."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. Yes."

Councilwoman Blass: "I have a question for you, Rick. On the section E under potential significant impacts, the one that does discuss noise and growth and community character, the second to last paragraph- "

Rick Hanley: "Page 2, Barbara?"

Councilwoman Blass: "Page 2, I'm sorry, yes. Page 2. The second to last paragraph in subsection E, the last sentence I don't understand it. If you could possibly explain what that means."

Rick Hanley: "Chief noise mitigation?"

Councilwoman Blass: "The projects previously discussed potentially adverse impacts wetlands and surface water- that sentence."

Rick Hanley: "It's in the last paragraph?"

Councilwoman Blass: "Section E."

Rick Hanley: "First paragraph."

Supervisor Cardinale: "No. The Section E- "

Councilwoman Blass: "E, the last sentence at that paragraph."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Five lines up from the bottom of the first paragraph."

Councilwoman Blass: "It begins the project's previously discussed potential."

Rick Hanley: "To adversely impact wetlands and surface waters?"

Councilwoman Blass: "Yes."

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Rick Hanley: "This is a comment from Mr. Hall (phonetic) probably having to do with a site plan issue, i.e., the freshwater wetland that's there and whether or not he conforms to our obligations under storm water management."

Councilwoman Blass: "I understand the first part of the sentence, it's the last part-- I don't understand we're talking about intersections and traffic mitigation and capital expenditures in connection with storm water management."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah, let's look at the sentence. It says the project's previously discussed potential to adversely impact wetlands and surface waters amounts to a conflict with the town's adopted storm water management plan. That I get.

But I don't understand the rest either. Even though it's subject to the state's regulation for prevention and the necessity to condemn land and expand the nearby intersection of traffic mitigation-- for traffic mitigation, involves considerable-- that isn't even a sentence."

Rick Hanley: "It doesn't seem to relate."

Supervisor Cardinale: "That's not only nonsensical from a substantive-- structural standpoint--"

Rick Hanley: "I'll speak with Joe Hall about that--"

Supervisor Cardinale: "-- it doesn't make sense."

Rick Hanley: "I think the (inaudible) relates to the project. I think he's putting-- he's dealing with community character, having to do with the highway and-- in this section. But really I think it's confusing because the storm water management issue is more of a freshwater than it is community character."

Councilwoman Blass: "I actually don't see the reference to the capital expenditures for traffic mitigation at an intersection any other place. So it may be that it was pasted-- "

Rick Hanley: "It could be. That's possible. We'll fix that in the final."

Councilwoman Blass: "Thank you."

Rick Hanley: "Yes."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. Any-- yes, we have a third comment-- or a fourth or whatever we're up to."

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Kenneth Granieri: "Hi. My name is Kenneth Granieri. I'm a life long resident of Long Island. I've also been involved in carting personally as a sport for the last 20 years.

Addressing the sound issue. Keep in mind these aren't cars—there aren't eight cars out on a race track—cars that you normally see on TV and think about as really loud. They're go carts and there are many different go cart motors and ranging in sizes from tiny to big. So as far as muffling the sounds, they can be muffled and what decibel levels they're at depends on what type of a motor there is. So it's not just one clear cut case about a certain kind of noise involved.

And also as far as the benefits go, I know this is probably not the place to talk about benefits because we seem to talk about all the negative issues, but the benefits of this track the way I see it, been involved in carting for all time, are many as far as kids and families being involved in racing which my family was and we had great experiences with it, all the way down to girls being able to be involved in a sport that they can participate in from an early, early age onto age 18, compete with boys on the same level. Which there's very few sports that you can actually do that in.

A girl can become a national champion in carting where you can't say that in baseball or football, so there are very many positive features to this track and I just don't want to see, you know, the board overlook some of the positive things. Thank you."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you."

Melissa Giguere: "Would you spell your last name, please?"

Kenneth Granieri: "Yes."

Melissa Giguere: "Thank you."

Kenneth Granieri: "It's G-R-A-N-I-E-R-I."

Melissa Giguere: "Thank you."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Any other comments on the scope of issues that we should be including or the issues we should include in the scope of issues."

Robin Gibbs: "My name is Robin Gibbs. I'm here with the co-landowner Jeff Miloski. I'd like to read the letter that he sent to the town board."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Sure."

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Robin Gibbs: "We are the property owners of a 40 acre horse farm that's located on the west side of Edwards Avenue in Calverton, New York. And we're writing this letter to express our concern regarding the application before the board.

We purchased this 40 acre property together with the pre-existing horse facility located upon the property approximately four years ago. Pursuant to the Riverhead town farmland preservation program initiated in November, 1997, and Peconic Land Trust's goals for preservation of farmland and open space, this board purchased the development rights on the farm.

Since our purchase of the property and the horse farm, we have dedicated our time and our efforts to building a successful boarding and breeding facility. We have invested considerable time and money to improve the existing structures, pastures and riding rings. In addition we have improved the aesthetic quality of the open space by maintenance and (inaudible) all land areas, fields, pastures, paddocks and paths.

The application before the board proposes to develop a 12 acre site into a go cart race track, clubhouse and restaurant catering facility. This 12 acre site abuts our paddocks and breeding barns located on the north side of our property.

As will be outlined below, this project will have potential devastating impacts upon our horse farm, destroy the open space and farmland quality of the area, threaten our groundwater supply and harm our wildlife.

Our business Mill Ridge Farm boards horses, provides riding rings and instruction, and breeds horses. The proposed go cart operation threatens the safety and welfare of the horses in our care and more importantly the riders at our farm.

Horses are creatures of flight. The flight is an inherent behavior that allowed equine ancestors to survive. Horses have extremely quick reflexes and will take into flight when confronted with noise, commotion, or clamor of any sort. This flight with or without a rider creates a risk of severe energy- injury from a running, bolting, bucking horse and potential hazard to the rider.

The noise generated by the proposed racetrack with dozens or motorized go carts speeding around and around a one mile track would prohibit the use of all the paddocks located on the north side of our property, disrupt our breeding operation and prevent riders from using outdoor riding spaces.

The risk to the health and safety of the horses and riders, the seriously injury created by the zooming, revving and racing a

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motorized go cart is great. In addition to the noise generated by the motorized go carts, the noise generated by increased traffic along Edwards Avenue would add to the risk.

As this board is aware, Edwards Avenue is a main access route between the LIE and all points of northern eastern Long Island. The increase in potentially overburdened traffic flow on Edwards Avenue will not only create noise, but add pollutants to our air and groundwater supply due to the congestion of cars along this roadway.

As stated above, in November of 1997, this board together with the not for profit Peconic Land Trust initiated a program to preserve farmland and open space. The development of the adjacent 12 acre parcel is inconsistent with this goals of this township. The 12 acre site is landscaped with trees and plants and harbors several species of wildlife native to this region of Long Island. A pond of fresh water- a pond that provides fresh water to host a variety of wildlife species is located immediately to the west of the proposed racetrack.

During our four years of ownership, we've have witnessed deer, eagles, wild turkeys, turtles and foxes traversing from the proposed site onto our property and neighboring properties. It is clear that this proposed use will alter the natural landscape and negatively affect the natural wildlife and threaten their water source.

It is certain that any change, substantial or otherwise, (inaudible) existing air quality, ground or surface water quality or quantity a substantial increase in solid waste production affecting erosion, flooding, leaching or drainage, water runoff during and after construction which would have a potential negative impact on groundwater and natural pond water.

There's also the storage of petroleum and chemical products at the proposed property.

We acknowledge the town's need and desire to diversify its economic base and the competing need to regulate development of agricultural land and to preserve irreplaceable environment in the town of Riverhead.

We respectfully request the board require the applicants to address all the issues outlined and scrutinize all the negative impacts upon the adjacent property owner, local businesses and the town residents."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you. Can I ask a question before you sit down? Appro pros of my earlier question about- noise is going to be a big issue here and I need to know whether we're going to study the issue noise as it affects a horse farm and putting golfers. And I wanted to ask- I know what noise level can disrupt a horse that you're

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riding, but what about breeding? Is there an impact of noise— because you said that you have a breeding farm as well."

Robin Gibbs: "Brood mares when you breed them, they need to stay stress free or they will absorb their pregnancy. And as far as the foals as they're growing, horses are very easily subject to ulcers under any type of stressful situation and especially newborns and young horses. Noise and commotion are a constant threat for them. Naturally they see that as a threat and they are very prone to ulcers and that inhibits their development."

Supervisor Cardinale: "This is going to be one interesting draft environmental impact statement if we're going to study— because we— it strikes me we should study those impacts."

Robin Gibbs: "They know because one day they were on the property line between us and all of a sudden all the horses starting taking off and running in my paddocks. And I walked over and found I believe Mark (phonetic) - I don't remember the two gentlemen's names that were walking the property line, and just their walking in the woods, the horses went ballistic. So there is a big impact."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay. Thank you. As we try to get this— the issues scoped so we can read about what it is that the applicant prepares in answer to them, the question— I'm curious because this is legal as well as practical, assuming that a horse farm or a putting golfer requires a lower decibel level— requires mitigation in a greater degree than human ears, we have to define what diminution— what sound level is acceptable at the boundary line of the property and I just don't know and I wish I had an attorney to ask, whether when you scope those issues, if it turns out that breeding horses and riding horses are more sensitive than human beings, and we say, well, you've got to mitigate the sound to such and such decibel level if you want to do the project, whether that's the way we legally approach this.

But I need to know— I need to know what we're going to be studying and you need to know at what level— what level is acceptable. Because you'll know, you as the applicant, will— I think you know now what level you're going to produce at the lines, absent mitigation factors other than the ones you're planning. So this is going to be a very interesting draft environmental impact statement if we study the effect on brook mares and the effect on putting golfers but I think logic compels that we do so unless I'm missing something which happens.

Any other comments? Yes."

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Vicki Tawg: "My name is Vicky Tawg and I am a horse owner and I do have a horse boarded at Mill Ridge Farm. He's actually a show horse and he is a quite valuable animal.

My concern is a safety issue. My daughter is 16. She's been riding at Mill Ridge I would say since she was about 10 years old and horses like Robin Gibbs stated, do spook, not always easily but from foreign noises that are now new to the environment that they have been living in and used to for how many years.

Now the horse spooks, my daughter is on this horse, and there's a chance she can be hurt. This is also a negative impact for her business because why would I want to put- subject my daughter to a safety issue that she could possibly be hurt enjoying a sport that she's been enjoying over six years at the same facility.

I also know that with the traffic on the road there's a safety issue, but at least everything is set far enough back that we haven't ran into any problems with that. Now with it being next door in woods and animals can't actually see what's causing the noise, I've seen it at horse shows numerous times where the horses spook and now your rider cannot control this animal who, you know, outweighs them unbelievably and so now you have, you know, young children that now are going to be at risk of being injured and now property owner's liability issue arises.

And I'm sure it will be the same case, you know, with the golf course. They're going to be losing income and business. Mill Ridge Farm is going to be losing income and business. And there are horses at that facility that are out overnight and she has- the back acreage on her property is all trails and children and adults alike trail ride their horses back there.

They're used to what is already existing and has been existing in that area for how long. Now all of a sudden there's going to be foreign noises and now once again, like I said, it's a safety issue. You're going to have horses that could possibly spook, run loose, and now they're running up onto Edwards Avenue. This is another issue that they really need to address.

I think it's a facility that Riverhead needs. I don't object to the facility. I think the location needs to be revisited. Thank you very much."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you. I wonder if people know at what decibel level horses spook and brooding mares don't breed. Imagine, we'll get that- we're going to have to get that answer, if there is an answer."

Ann Miloski: (Inaudible)

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Supervisor Cardinale: "Yeah, but remember. What we're trying to do here is figure out what the applicant needs to do to mitigate the impacts. He- this is a zoned use, so they have a right to use the property for this, but they also have an obligation to mitigate the impacts adequately for the natural environment surrounding. Am I wrong here, Jeff, correct me if I am, including breeding mares, spooking horses and putting golfers."

Jeff Seaman: "Well, just for the record, Jeff Seaman, environment consultant from East Quogue.

Yes, because in part anyway, that's correct, because you're evaluating impact level against existing conditions and those conditions do indeed exist. However, and again not to minimize the concerns and I'm pleased to recognize the people that have horses and are concerned about the impacts there and I think it's an intelligent question but you know all animals are skittish when you walk up to them. I do a lot of field work and it's very difficult to even get close to even identify some of them so it's not just horses, it's turtles and birds and rabbits and fox and you know it's part of the wildlife ecology and part of the their own natural tendency.

I don't know- we'll certainly take a look or someone will take a look at impacts of noise on breeding. I think probably some universities, Ohio State comes to mind. I've done some work on agricultural- livestock agricultural projects and impact levels and they're a usually pretty good source.

One of my concerns is because you don't want to do pseudo science out here if you're going to do this study, that somewhere in the final scope which includes the level of effort that's required here, perhaps with the cooperation of people who are neighboring the property, if sound or sound receptors to monitor sounds are installed within their site limits, that might be helpful.

And certainly some recognition of well documented previous studies and, again, I apologize in advance, I don't mean to be insulting, but certainly if people were to walk through a site and a horse were to become skittish, I don't think that legitimately, that's something that in the EIS one would be able to really mitigate with any kind of certainty because I live near a horse farm and they have a burro in the back yard and that thing never seems to move when you go near it so it kind of depends upon what's out that and how sensitive it is.

But I think those are very good points and I think that there is some validity to really examine that for site specific impacts this is going to have."

11/16/2005 minutes

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you. One other thing that was mentioned in one of the comments was the storage of petroleum products at the site because there's going to be gasoline based fuel. I don't see that in your scope unless you're going to include it in one of the ones I'm missing."

(Inaudible comment)

Supervisor Cardinale: "Hydro-geologic zone 3 (inaudible) aquifer and that necessarily-- that implies you're saying to me, study of petroleum products on the site."

(Inaudible comment)

Supervisor Cardinale: "So we're going to study that. Okay, good. Good. Any other comments from the public, from the applicant, from the members of the board present?"

Jeff Seaman: "One more and what I was really coming up to before I was asked that question, just that the public will fully understand that this is scoping and identifying areas of study. Once the impact statement is assembled, it needs to be accepted to the level of legitimacy that the reviewing agency, that would be the town board, will accept so that it's thorough enough, it's covered all the bases that's been outlined in the scoping session."

But then it's circulated for comment. So if for example with regard to impacts on putting and things like that that need to be commented on further, everybody gets that opportunity to comment and then the prepares get to flesh out additional studies or answer questions relating to that, come up with mitigation, that type of thing. So just-- so that we don't get too far ahead of ourselves, we really have to see if there is indeed an impact and if it can be corrected by some method."

Supervisor Cardinale: "You know, Bob, come on up."

Robert Kozakiewicz: "I want to address one thing."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Yes."

Robert Kozakiewicz: "You asked earlier when you expected the applicant to have an answer on the question of assembly of the EIS and I think the answer is we're waiting for a number from--"

Supervisor Cardinale: "You're kidding. You didn't get that yet?"

Robert Kozakiewicz: "No. No."

11/16/2005 minutes

Supervisor Cardinale: "What does this guy want work or not?"

Robert Kozakiewicz: "So- "

Rick Hanley: (Inaudible)

Supervisor Cardinale: "I (inaudible) from a phone call from my law office. They can't- "

Robert Kozakiewicz: "I think the answer is as soon as we know that. It's going to be dependent on what he sees here and what he's going to make a judgment call shortly."

Supervisor Cardinale: "He needs to see the scope before he gives us a number."

Robert Kozakiewicz: "Right. So based upon that, the answer is as soon as we have a number, we'll certainly immediately- "

Supervisor Cardinale: "Okay."

Robert Kozakiewicz: "-- advise you on that issue."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you."

Robert Kozakiewicz: "We want to cooperate. We have no reason to believe their, you know, their reputation is a good one. We understand they have a lot of expertise, they have the ability to do the study so we're just waiting for that number."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Thank you."

Robert Kozakiewicz: "Okay."

Supervisor Cardinale: "Further comment from the public, further comment from the board members, further comment from- from who else, did I miss somebody? The applicant, the board members or the public. That's it."

If not, let me leave it open--what's today, Wednesday? A couple days, 'til Monday, say, for written comment if anybody gets an inspiration. Then, close of business Monday, we'll scope it Tuesday and, hopefully, get this study done. Thank you all for attending. Thank you for coming from Florida to attend and I hope you don't suffer too much in the cold weather."

Scoping hearing closed - left open for
written comment to November 21, 2005