

CAC-WEST ★ NEWS

Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2014

Southampton Town Citizens Advisory Committee
Westhampton-Speonk-Remsenburg Eastport-Quogue

PO Box 285 • Westhampton • NY • 11977

Next CAC-West Meeting (for December 4, 2014)

Location: Westhampton Beach Free Library

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This CAC-West meeting was held at the home of Zoe DiMele in Remsenburg. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Zoe DiMele, Hank Beck, Doug Adams, John Bouvier, Yulu Bouvier, Phil Smyth, Ruth Bruun,

Christian Bruun, Ed Pavlak, Carol Corcoran, Janet Beck, and Councilman Brad Bender

A very big thank-you to Zoe Dimile for so graciously hosting this meeting in her beautiful home in Remsenburg. She also prepared some exceptionally delicious snacks and home-cooked treats for us to enjoy before, during and after the meeting.

We reviewed two subdivisions applications that we received from the Planning Department. The first was one on Cedar Lane, Remsenburg. It is a two lot subdivision of a 4.07 acre parcel on an R-60 Zoning district located in an Archaeological Sensitive Area, southeasterly side of Cedar Lane, northwest of Fish Creek. The subdivision will allow for an additional building in front of and next to the present building. There were no objections or concerns to the project since it resulted in 2 “as of right“ lots.

The second project is a lot line modification on Dock Road, proposing to transfer 26,969 square feet from one lot to the other in R60 Zoning District. Again there were no objections to that project just a curiosity about why that particular amount of land was to be transferred.

A third project is at 89 North Phillips Avenue in Speonk. Hank discovered this listed in the Southampton Press Public Notices and found the address and name of the owner, We cannot

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recall receiving a copy of the project from the Planning Department. He recalled the owner's name, Chris Nichols (aka, Elliot Tash). The building had been the site of an illegal rental, with overcrowding and dangerous conditions of electric wires running between the house and garage and at the time was hit with 89 code viola-

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tions, a record no one in the Planning Department could recall being exceeded. Hank called the Planning Department to inquire about receiving a copy of the plans. This application had evidently been filed some years ago. The proposed plan is for building a second building on the site. It is in an archeological sensitive area. John Bouvier said he will see if the conservation board has looked at a copy of the plan. The result would be two legal building lots "as of right".

Councilman Brad Bender advised us that on November 20, 2014 there will be a presentation from the Southampton Town Sustainability Committee between Noon and 2:00 PM concerning the thin film plastic bag ban. Brad gave us a brief update. Southold has not signed on yet. Shawn Walters of Riverhead is not signing on but three Riverhead Council members have introduced the legislation on their own. East Hampton is on board as is Shelter Island. Brad said plastic bags are simply not recyclable.

He also spoke about the Brookhaven single stream recycling plan that may help to lower our costs of recycling. How we collect trash here will be a big issue. The private carters have different ways of sorting. Some do single stream and sort elsewhere, and some have presorting by the homeowners.

Phillip Smyth from the Remsenburg Association brought us up to date concerning the Deer hunt in Remsenburg. The Hunt has been successful (approximately 80 deer were taken). He reminded us that there is a 150 ft. minimum distance limit from a habitat for bow hunting. The deer are affecting other species as a result of their reduced numbers. The program provider is Deer Management Island

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Hunting Exchange. The exchange protocol is to reduce the herd over a period of time, rather than cutting them back quickly and risking a natural population rebound.

Hank heard a rumor that the Fordham Mill property may be in some sort of negotiation for its preservation. The building with the most value is the landmarked mill itself. The other building does not have as much value and is not landmarked.

The Town Board is working on the budget for 2015. Brad discussed a program of a 1.5% tax increase that would be returned directly to the tax payers by NYS. It can be used for debt service, capital improvements,

replacing police cars or IT. The town would have to raise taxes to let money come back. (This program has since been dropped from the 2015 Southampton Town budget)

The capital improvement budget is set up as a one time expense. Priorities are water quality, and personnel. The town has submitted a \$2 million research and development grant application committed to a business incubator project.

Councilman Bender has proposed legislation to provide for \$128,000 in new equipment for the Southampton Town Highway Department.

We asked Councilman Bender about the old Ponquogue Bridge project. It could be made safe for diving and would promote possible aquaculture projects on and under the old bridge. The Trustees had a meeting last week to discuss this project and whether the bridge should be repaired to make it safer. The new bridge is not useable for fishing, boating and aquaculture, since it is so high and the walkway is narrow. Many local people turned out for the meeting to express their views about keeping and repairing the old bridge.

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November 20th is the work session about the Thin Film Plastic Bag resolution. The public hearing has been scheduled for November 25th at 7:00 PM. Please write letters to the Town Board members expressing your wishes.

Councilman Bender was very pleased that the resolution permitting the exchange of property at the Flanders traffic circle passed with a very, very high number of positive votes (73+%).

He also mentioned that the Route 24 repaving project is moving along and he is hoping it will be completed soon and normal traffic can resume.

The old Westhampton Community Center is no longer fit for use and all new requests are being denied. Therefore we have No Community Center at all. This is quite a shame when you consider what was proposed and promised in 2005 or 2006. The project expanded to include the new (non-existent) swim-

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ming pool and/or to rebuild the building on its present site or move it to the new location on the (then) recently purchased Bauer property. The roof is in deplorable condition and there is no community nor senior center nor swimming pool in our area of the town. It's time to get things moving on this again since our town finances are now in excellent shape. It's the one major capital project that has been kicked and dragged around without real commitment for the concerned and deserving citizens of the Greater Westhampton area.

Respectfully submitted:



Hank Beck
Chair - CAC-West

P.S. Forest Markowitz has been a member of our CAC-West for some years but little did we know that he had a secret passion for a special horological machine. Take a look at this little video clip recently broadcast on CBS news.

<<http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/new-yorkers-want-to-save-clock-from-march-of-time/>> --

Hank