

NEWS RELEASE

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Concerned Residents and Organizations Form Coalition to Protect Riverhead Neighborhoods and Countryside

Riverhead residents have banded together and joined forces with a growing number of environmental and civic organizations in an effort to help preserve the quality of life in residential neighborhoods throughout Riverhead—as well as the town’s rural atmosphere. The newly formed Riverhead Neighborhood Preservation Coalition (RNPC) will advocate for the protection of residential areas, open spaces and agricultural areas against uses and expansion that would negatively impact residences and businesses in these areas.

“Until now, we’ve been fighting our battles separately but we’ve recently realized that what we’re all facing is part of a larger, more complex problem, and that we need to come together to protect the people who live and work here like me ... and you,” said coalition spokesperson and organic farmer Phil Barbato of Jamesport.

The RNPC is a strong supporter of the Riverhead Master Plan, which balances economic growth and protection of the environment, and seeks to advocate for adherence to it through dialogue with the Town on a wide range of issues such as code revisions, code enforcement, and an enhanced site plan review process. The group will also weigh in publicly on expansion and development it feels is non-conforming, is in contradiction of intended zoning and otherwise infringes on the rights of local residents and businesses.

“The adoption of the Master Plan was an important step in preserving the quality of life in Riverhead but there’s still a lot of pressure to keep building out this town—and not always in the most appropriate places,” said coalition spokesperson Dominique Mendez of Wading River. “It’s broader than any single site plan or any one Civic group’s domain so we felt there was a definite need for a formal coalition.”

The Neighborhood Network and the first of what is anticipated to be several civic associations, the Wading River Civic Association, have already joined the Riverhead Neighborhood Preservation Coalition, who will also be working with the Group for the East End.

“I believe RNPC will significantly increase the effectiveness of community input in the critical planning and zoning issues that will shape the future of Riverhead Town,” noted Group for the East End President Bob DeLuca. “We look forward to working alongside the RNPC in pursuing our shared vision for a sustainable future.”

The Riverhead Neighborhood Preservation Coalition can be reached at RiverheadNPC@optonline.net or at RNPC, Box 984, Wading River, NY 11792.

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