

Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC)
Meeting of April 2, 2016

The next meeting will be held on May 7, 2016

Member Attendance:

Jose Arandia, Co-Chair
Frank Dalene
Dennis D'Andrea
Barry Frankel, Co-Chair
Simon Kinsella
Susan Macy
Rick Del Mastro, WCAC Chair Emeritus
Sally Sunshine
Cindy Tuma

Excused Absences:

Kathleen Begala
Bruce Solomon
Phil Young

Elected Official:

Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Town Councilwoman, Liaison to WCAC

Invited Guest Speakers:

Rick Drew, on behalf of the East Hampton Town Trustees

Members of the Public:

Roz Block
Liam O'Brien
Michael Wootton

Minutes:

The March 5, 2016 minutes were seconded and approved.

Wainscott Speaker Presentation:

Georgica Pond Discussion with Rick Drew of behalf of the East Hampton Town Trustees ("Trustees")

The Pond is suffering from masses of decomposing matter from macro algae blooms and toxic blue-green micro algae which are harmful to children and pets, and which have prohibited people from sailing on the Pond. This situation is a result of phosphates, fertilizers, pesticides and many other inputs ending up in the Pond. There is a "robust collaboration of groups trying to get Georgica Pond healthy again." Friends of Georgica Pond have raised community awareness, and partnered with the East Hampton Town

Trustees in an effort to clean up the Pond. Currently, the Trustees are brainstorming remediation possibilities including harvesting of macro algae, nitrogen barriers, dredging sediment (potentially toxic), dredging the sand shoal in the south end of the Pond to increase waterflow, and removal of Phragmites (an invasive species). Right now there are 35 Phragmites removal projects in play on Georgica Pond. At the request of Friends of Georgica Pond, Dr. Christopher J. Gobler of the Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences has been testing 17 bodies of water on the East End, and plans to do so again this year. Dr. Gobler will be presenting his findings from the 2015 study during the Trustees Meeting on April 18 at 6pm. LTV will be recording this meeting. The Trustees hope to bring awareness to the community, and encourage residents to remove Phragmites (for which a Trustee permit is required) and to put in natural buffers, which are now required in the Village. Member Kinsella asked whether there was a similar natural buffer requirement in the Town (the Wainscott side of Georgica Pond). Rich Drew said that he is not aware of such a requirement, and that he will bring up this point at an upcoming meeting between The Nature Conservancy, East Hampton Town & Village, New York State, and the East Hampton Town Trustees. Rick Drew said that he will get back to Member Kinsella to let him know when this meeting is and whether it is open to the public. Updating the septic systems would be highly beneficial as well. Rick Drew mentioned that he was on The Georgica Pond Committee. There are opportunities for similar remediation with Wainscott Pond, which suffers the same challenges as Georgica. One option would be to flush Wainscott Pond twice a year like Georgica Pond and to remove Phragmites to improve the health of water. Member Dalene suggests that Drew look into de-nitrification pilot projects funded with grants from the Suffolk County Health Department. The Nature Conservancy has been working hard to getting a pathway for upgrading old septic systems to cost-effective nitrogen-processing septic systems. Chair Emeritus Del Mastro mentioned that the water-flow in the north end of Georgica Pond is severely restricted and that it would be a good idea to test for toxins in that area, especially considering water flows directly from the 71-acre Tintle-owned former sand mine ("The Pitt") into the northern end of the Pond. Rick Drew said that he will look into the degree of water testing on the northern end of the Pond and bring it up with Dr. Gobler. Member Dalene voiced his great concern about potential water running directly from The Pitt into the water aquifer. Rick Drew confirmed that he is the Town Trustees' contact person to whom we should raise our concerns regarding both Georgica and Wainscott Ponds (telephone # 631-267-8688). Member of the public Roz Block pointed out that Mill Pond has been successfully cleaned, and will provide Drew with a contact number to discuss this remediation. Despite formerly containing a body of water, Wainscott Properties has not been tested, however down flow from this location has been tested. Drew will discuss the possibility of testing Wainscott Properties with Dr. Gobler. The Town Trustees board is made up of 9 trustees. Jim Grimes and Rick Drew service on the Georgica & Other Ponds Committee which is supervised by Trustee Bill Taylor (Deputy Clerk), who also sits on this committee. The Town Trustees board comprise 9 trustees, 1 clerk (Francis Bock), 2 deputy clerks (Jim Grimes & Trustee Bill Taylor), with 9 committees that report to these clerks. The board receives funds from the Town and earns revenue from dock fees, mooring fees, leasing property at Lazy Point, selling sand that is dredged, and regulating shell fishing permits. The committees are broken down by waterway locations. Member Kinsella will serve as WCAC liaison to the Town Trustees. All WCAC members and members of the public can report any concerns to

Rick Drew at rpdrew@hotmail.com or mobile 631-903-0751, or contact the Trustees office at 631-267-8688.

Liaison Report:

Status of Guest Speakers at Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, May 7 – 2016-17 School Budget with Superintendent Stuart Rachlin.

Enforcement plans with Chief Michael Sarlo.

Saturday, June 4 – Water quality presentation by Dan Gulizio, the Peconic Baykeeper

Wainscott Properties

In court on March 21, the Judge granted Wainscott Properties request for 60 days to file a new site plan. The Judge noted that he was concerned with the ongoing violations of the gate time restrictions, and asked for strict compliance of the same. Member Del Mastro reports a continued lack of compliance, and adds that Wainscott Properties repeatedly creates a mess that they do not clean up.

Rental Registry

The building department has received over 1000 applications, almost 700 of which have been issued (which is good for two years). If applications have not been issued by May 1, action can be taken against a homeowner. Complaints can be issued through the website. Member Dalene inquired as to whether there would be a public database, and several members expressed their concern that such a database would be a violation of privacy.

Town wide mailing

A letter from the Town Board containing both safety and Q&A brochures discussed at the March WCAC meeting should be arriving this week.

Airport

On March 18, HMMH, the aviation attorney and Town officials met to discuss 2015 operations. Operations changed in compliance with time and sound restrictions. Changes in complaints paralleled changes in operations during the implementation period from July 2, 2015 through Sept 29 compared to 2014. Overall activity increased by 4%, and complaints increased by 4%. During the mandatory curfew, operations dropped to essentially zero, therefore the curfew was found to be successful. The attorneys said that the Town can consider minor refinements, but they must await the courts pending decision expected by 2017 after reply briefs are submitted. Member Dalene expressed his concern that the frequency (MHz) of aircraft noise was not considered within the decibel criteria. Member Kinsella raised a concern that the HMMH report indicated a potential misalignment of complaints and the criteria for targeting those complaints. He pointed out that in 2015, the reported indicated there were 2.7 complaints (8,210/3,018) for each “Noisy Helicopter”, but 3.3 complaints (2,972/898) for each “Other Helicopter” operation. If the sole aim is to reduce “Noisy Helicopters” (a criteria defined as >91.0 EPNdB), the criteria which receives the greater number of complaints per operation – namely “Other Helicopters” – will be ignored. Similarly, there were 0.5 complaints for each “Noisy Land Planes” operation, but 0.8 complaints for each “Seaplane” operation. Again, if the sole aim

is to reduce “Noisy Land Planes”, the criteria which receives the greater number of complaints per operation – namely “Seaplanes” – will be ignored. Member Kinsella believes that the report highlights the need for the revision of the criteria that defines an annoying aircraft. The Town is confident that the airport can be self-sustaining by charging \$10/day for parking, discussing new revenue with Blade, leasing land to Landscape Details, and negotiating other land lease contracts. www.HTOPlanning.com

Proposed parking at Bathgate Rd.

The final draft includes additional parallel parking on each side of Bathgate Road. This draft will be presented during a public hearing tentatively scheduled for May 5.

Hamlet Study

The hamlet study consulting team held 4 workshops where community members came out to discuss the needs and ideas for the hamlet study. Dodson & Flinker Inc. will be summarizing these meetings. The Wainscott meetings will be held on May 20 and 21, location and time TBD. RKG associates will be carrying out the business study, and will be planning and studying business focus groups. General thoughts, or interest in participating in the business focus groups should be directed to EHhamletstudy@gmail.com. Co-chair Frankel will send the original hamlet study recommendations from 2 years ago. Chair Emeritus Del Mastro proposed sending a letter from the WCAC welcoming Goldberg’s (pending approval by EH Town Attorney Michael Sendlenski). Committee members brainstormed how best to engage the business community going forward. Member Dalene suggests getting in touch with Barry Brown, who purchased the former Twice Upon a Bagel property. Member of the public O’Brien inquired as to whether there will be a moratorium on current building permits until completion of the hamlet study. He was assured that there would be no moratorium.

Deer Sign

The proposed deer sign will not be going up on Wainscott. The committee would like the hamlet study consultants to look at signs along the corridor and do away with those that are superfluous.

Speed limit reductions

A resolution has been adopted authorizing the Town to regulate speed limits. WCAC members are asked to come to the May meeting with recommendations for where within Wainscott they would like to see speed limit reductions.

Note: Add to May agenda that speed limits will be discussed as part of the Wainscott Hamlet Study.

ZBA

Member Dalene –

Property – 15 Wainscott Hollow Road – after a public hearing the application for a tennis court was denied.

Property – 31 Georgica Association Road (Anita Gratwick & Thomas Hayes property) – After a public hearing, no determination as to the demolition of the current house whilst a neighborly dispute is being resolved.

Public hearings are coming up for –

Property - 29 Geoorgica Association Road & 7 Piersons Way on April 5 – Challenging the determination by building inspector that the two properties are not merged.

Property - 405 & 407 Montauk Highway (Wainscott Wombles) – Public hearing on April 19. Member Dalene believes that WCAC members (as individuals) should speak out out against the application at the hearing and to write letters (from individual WCAC members). Member Dalene is to draft letter. The current residential zoning may be threatened by a potential merging of the two properties. Such a change in use would be contrary to the Hamlet Study Business Corridor.

Energy Sustainability

Member Dalene – Renewable Energy Long Island held a community outreach event and invited Deep Water Wind to make a presentation on the off-shore wind project which is an approval stage with the PSCG. The project has minimum impact on land and the wind turbines cannot be seen [from land]. PSCG should be making a decision in May whether it plans to move ahead with the off shore wind project. We have been offered to take a trip to see four wind turbines being built off Block Island (in collaboration with Rhode Island State). Europe has 3,000 off shore wind turbines.