

Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee(WCAC)
Meeting of September 9, 2017

Member Attendance:

Jose Arandia, Co-Chair
Dennis D'Andrea, WCAC Chair Emeritus
Virginia Edwards
Carolyn Logan Gluck
Susan Macy
Rick Del Mastro, WCAC Chair Emeritus
Phil Young

Excused Absences:

Kathleen Begala
Frank Dalene
Barry Frankel, Co-Chair
Simon Kinsella
Bruce Solomon
Sally Sunshine
Cindy Tuma

Elected Official:

Kathe Burke-Gonzalez, Town Councilwoman, Liaison to WCAC

Members of the Public:

Lynn Cronin
Sara Davison
Howard Fine
Michael Hansen
Francine Lembo
Joan Schlank
Holly Thomas Whitmore

Housekeeping:

The next meeting will be held on October 7, 2017

Minutes:

The August 5, 2017 minutes were seconded and approved.

Liaison Report:

Water Quality Project

The Board adopted legislation for low nitrogen systems rebates. Applications were opened on Sept 1 and 9 applications were received that first day. To get an application, go to the Natural Resources Dept. or call them. \$200,000 has been earmarked for the start of the program.

Gov. Cuomo recently held a press conference in Hauppaugue to announce a \$10.4 million dollar grant to improve Long Island water quality, restore shellfish populations and bolster resilience of coastal communities. The shellfish hatchery is getting a \$400,000 grant. We also

now have a community oyster garden and are doing a micro algae project on Accabonac Harbor.

Airport

EH Town Supervisor Larry Cantwell and Town Councilwoman Kathee Burke-Gonzalez met with 7 high ranking members of the FAA and Congressman Lee Zeldin, who set up the meeting, two weeks ago in an effort to introduce legislation to uphold the 2005 settlement agreement so that East Hampton can have local control of the airport and have that included in the FAA's reauthorization bill. The FAA is not going to reauthorize but extend the bill that is already in place so there is no opportunity for new legislation.

The problems surrounding the East Hampton airport were discussed and Supervisor Cantwell and Councilwoman Burke-Gonzalez informed the group that the Town Board is exploring a 161 Study and asked for their cooperation. There will be a work session on September 19 at Town Hall at 10am. The new attorney from Morrison Foerster will be presenting a power point to explain the 161 process. He will discuss the components, what criteria have to be met, the timeline and the cost. Noise consultants from HMMH will also be there to give a report on complaints and operations through July 31, 2017 with comparisons from the past 3 years.

East Hampton Town News

East Hampton Town received Moody's Triple A rating which is their highest and also the highest the town has ever received.

The town is considering special historic landmark designation for 2 houses in Wainscott; the Thomas Strong House at 100 Wainscott Hollow Road and the Nathan Sanford House at 6 Main Street. Member Edwards asked about having the Kennedy House in the Georgica Association also added to the list.

A deer fence is being built around a 15.25 acre field at 75 Wainscott Main Street which is on the corner of Town Line Road and Wainscott Main Street. It was approved by the ARB and received a permit on March 30. There is concern among the committee members about the loss of open space vistas in Wainscott. Member Del Mastro recommended adding to the agenda for the October meeting a discussion of the possibility of forming a committee to focus on preserving open space vistas and over clearing of old woods. He also would like to discuss the idea of having a moratorium put in place until we can come up with recommendations on how we can retain Wainscott's open spaces.

Committee Topics of Discussion:

Hamlet Study Sub-Committee

Member Logan Gluck presented the draft WCAC response to the Wainscott hamlet study that had been distributed to members of the committee via email. She explained that the sub-committee had identified 4 priorities: Health and safety; Character; Functionality and vitality; and Aesthetics as a framework for responding to the 7 Objectives set forth by the consultants, Dodson and Flinker. In so doing, the sub-committee would expand the scope of the response to include issues concerning Wainscott as a whole, not simply the business district, namely, backroad traffic, water quality, and scenic vistas. It was stressed that this draft was still a work in progress and input from all members of the WCAC was welcome.

Member Del Mastro suggested we not include the area outside the Wainscott Business Corridor in our comments because it is outside the scope of what Dodson and Flinker were

hired to do. He further suggested that the Hamlet Study Sub-Committee take a separate look at what we can do outside the Hamlet Study to reach our goals for Wainscott as a whole.

It was unanimously agreed that the response be divided in two parts, one focusing on the Dodson and Flinker report, the other dealing with broader issues concerning the hamlet. The WCAC response is due to the Town by September 30th. Councilwoman Burke-Gonzalez pointed out that it is possible to request an extension if necessary.

Environmental Sub-committee

An update will be presented at the October meeting.

A lot of discussion about the possible Beach Lane access for the wind farm arose including comments from the public and the need to move quickly in order to have input. Therefore, the committee agreed to incorporate the wind farm into the ESC and to address it as a priority.

As an aside, member Young asked whether or not the affordable housing project which was proposed for Wainscott, but which was taken off the table, could be raised again if a new town board is elected. Councilwoman Burke-Gonzalez said that it could. It had been rejected because Windmill would not scale back the project in order to address the concerns of water issues and the student capacity of Wainscott School. Should the issue of affordable housing in Wainscott arise again, Member D'Andrea suggested alternative models to the Windmill proposal be considered.

Traffic Sub-Committee

20 MPH suggested speed limit signs were installed in Wainscott in an attempt to slow the traffic in Wainscott, especially trucks and those who use Wainscott Main Street as a by pass for Rt. 27. It is only a suggested speed limit because the Town speed limit can not be under 30 MPH as per State law. Councilwoman Burke-Gonzalez said that the town has tried to get state legislation so that we can have 25 MPH speed limits placed on certain roads but it was rejected by the state legislature. Assemblyman Thiele and Senator LaValle, who are supportive, came back and said to give them 10 roads throughout the town and they would try to get special legislation to make those 25 MPH. In Wainscott, Wainscott Stone Road and Wainscott Main Street were included in those 10 roads. The legislation has not been adopted in 2 legislative sessions. Councilwoman Burke-Gonzales said the Town Board would lobby Thiele and LaValle to bring it up again in January of 2018 for the next meeting of the legislature to see if they can get it passed.

It was suggested that the possible purchase of electronic speed monitoring signs for next season go back on the November agenda for discussion. The cost would be \$4500 per sign.

Town and Committee Updates:

Code Enforcement

Sale signs along Route 27 in Wainscott have been removed.

Highway Department

Update covered under Traffic Sub-Committee

Community Preservation Fund

N/A

Planning Department

2 new houses are being built on East Gate Road, but neither require any variances.

Building Department

N/A

Energy Sustainability

N/A

ZBA

N/A

Other Business

It was determined that the WCAC would be giving out two awards this year. One will be the Business Community Award for outstanding commitment to the visual landscape of the Wainscott business district. The second will be the Community Service Award for commitment in providing goods and services that make Wainscott and our surrounding communities a better place for all.

Approval of the winners of the 2 awards will be voted on during the October meeting.