

Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC)
Meeting of July 9, 2016

The next meeting will be held on August 6, 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
Bruce Solomon
Sally Sunshine
Cindy Tuma
Phil Young

Excused Absences:

Kathleen Begala

Elected Official:

Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Town Councilwoman, Liaison to WCAC

Members of the Public:

Nick Beech
Michael Crecco
Lori Anne Czepiel
Jim Dagle
Sara Davison, Executive Director, Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation
Virginia Edwards
Carolyn Logan Gluck
Richard Meyers, Chairman, Architectural Review Board (ARB), Chair Emeritus of WCAC
Carole Slater, WCAC Chair Emeritus
Michael Wooton

Minutes

The June 4, 2016 minutes were seconded and approved.

Liaison Report:

Status of Guest Speakers at Upcoming Meetings

September invitation - Water quality presentation by Dan Gulizio, Peconic Baykeeper

Wainscott Properties

During the June 6th court date, Wainscott Properties challenged the timeliness of Declaration of Delinquency and we are now awaiting the court's decision. Code enforcement is currently investigating filing new charges to potentially open a new case.

Concerns were raised by members of the WCAC and public regarding potential chemical runoff from the Pitt into the watershed that feeds Georgica Pond. Burke-Gonzalez agreed to discuss what options exist to address the same with the Town Trustees. She will also ask the Town Attorney's office what businesses currently exist in the Pitt.

Airport

At the June 20 oral argument before the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit the 3 judge panel comprised of senior judges asked many questions. A decision should be rendered by the end of the year. Runway 422 is being used for taxiing aircraft. Chairs Arandia and Frankel reported low, loud and frequent seaplane departures and landings. Member Tuma has observed that seaplanes do seem to be taking off and turning early. The WCAC urges its members and the public to continue to call and report all complaints. The Town's website offers a "airport flight tracking" page which is in real time on a 10 minute delay, and provides a direct link to the complaint form. Member Dalene asks whether there is a voluntary noise abatement guideline in the airport manual. Member Tuma clarifies that there is signage posted around the airport and runways regarding the same, however, it is voluntary.

Paid parking at \$10/day will go into effect this week. The Airport has entered into agreements with Hertz for 30 spots with 10% of their revenue going to the Town, and Enterprise for 20 spots. They will be paying \$2,000 per space annually which will be a gross revenue of \$100,000. Hertz and Enterprise will stage their vehicles along the grass to the left and right.

The revenue collected from the properties leased along Industrial Road will go into the Airport Fund. One property is being leased to Landscape Details at \$156,000/yr, and another to Summerhill for \$120,000/yr. Though there is no condition in their leases that these entities discontinue operations out of Wainscott Properties, Councilwoman Burke-Gonzalez believes that to be their intent.

Committee Topics for Discussion:

Hamlet Study

The consultants will carry out new workshops for business owners in mid-September since many were unable to attend the two-day Wainscott Hamlet Charrette in May. Member Kinsella has reviewed about 25% of the response to his DOT FOIA request, and what stands out is that there is no information regarding Wainscott so far.

Burke-Gonzalez met with Town Planners and the Town Attorney's office to discuss the possible development moratorium while the hamlet study is underway. No one wants a rush to development and there is a lot to consider before imposing a moratorium, however

Chair Emeritus Del Mastro strongly recommends that this needs to be a priority, and be addressed in a timely manner.

Traffic

A motion for the WCAC to draft a letter to the Town requesting a traffic study to address the backup at the traffic light on 27 and Wainscott NW Road was seconded and approved. Councilwoman Burke-Gonzalez said she would be happy to draft a letter to the State to address the same.

Members of the public Slater and Crecco expressed concern about traffic and speeding south of the highway, especially on Town Line Road and Sayres Path, and expressed interest in the possibility of automatic ticketing or local delivery signage. The board has made clear that these concerns will be addressed in the hamlet study, and will follow up with Chief Sarlo regarding purchasing speed trailers.

Email Addresses

Chair Emeritus Del Mastro and member Sunshine will work together to merge their contact information for circulation to the WCAC Co-Chairs for future communication to the public.

Golden Carwash

There has been no official transfer of property found, so it is assumed that the property is still for sale. During the April 22 Planning Board meeting, the purchaser was given a list of requirements needed in order to go forward with the sale, including a detailed narrative, traffic study, landscaping plan, noise study, and queuing lanes turning radius. If this information is not received by July 26th, the application will be withdrawn. Member of the public Sara Davison inquired as to whether the Suffolk County Planning Commission would be looking into the environmental impact of the car wash. The matter has been referred to them, but a completed application must first be received.

The WCAC reiterates the importance of raising and bringing concerns to the Town by hand delivering letters to the Planning Board at 300 Pantigo Rd. prior to July 26 to ensure they are part of the record. Member Kinsella plans to check the file later this week, and has committed to submitting Co-chair Frankel and member Solomon's letters. Chair emeritus Meyers directs people to email Reed Jones at Rjones@amadengay.com

Jose has been appointed liaison to the Planning Board.

Wainscott Pond

The threshold for algae is 25 micrograms/liter. On May 31 that algae read very high at 299 mcg/l. The problem is there are no remediation plans, and no pressure valve unless the pond is let. Dr. Goble and member Kinsella are currently investigating whether permission can be obtained from property owners, or whether there is public land to let the Pond. Though there is no recreational use of the Pond, the people who will be most affected if something goes wrong with the Pond are those around the Pond, therefore it is not in their benefit to ignore. This issue will be addressed during the Town Hall meeting on Monday, July 11 at 7pm, which will be airing live on LTV.

Update on Georgica Pond (Sara Davison)

The harvester has collected 4 loads of macro algae, which were taken to the town compost for study by Dr. Gobler for potential use as fertilizer. Very low levels of blue-green algae were detected a week ago, reaching the DEC threshold in some areas; therefore the Pond is closed to crabbing. The Association will be hosting a workshop in early October to teach low impact landscaping.

Town and Committee Updates:

Building Department

Nothing to report

Code Enforcement

Nothing to report

Community Preservation Fund

The Town authorized the purchase of 10.6 acres on 6 Pole Hwy for 1.4 million.

Energy Sustainability

The South Fork Energy Forum was very well attended. The Proof is Possible tour visited both East Hampton and Montauk during which energy audits were discussed. In response to PSEG's RFP for new local energy, it is the hope that PSEG chooses Deepwater Wind's offshore wind farm to make the South Fork 100% renewable in electricity.

Planning Department

Nothing to report

ZBA

Wainscott Wombles II - The ZBA upheld its decision maintaining that when merging two properties it is illegal to continue pre-existing nonconforming use.

Nominating Committee

Nothing to report

Other Business:

CDCH Property

The Springs School and Southampton Hospital ER are interested in the property previously leased by the Town to CDCH.

Property Cleanup

Member Soloman spoke to Maria, the manager of Speedway regarding the trash on its property. She reported that she does not have the manpower to deal with it. Chair Emeritus

Del Mastro suggested reaching out to Speedway Management to see what could be done to address the issue.

Member of the public Crecco would like someone to address and clean up the property surrounding the well across from Town Line BBQ. Chair Emeritus Del Mastro will reach out to Steven Lynch to address the same.