

Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC)
Meeting of June 4, 2016

The next meeting will be held on July 9, 2016, followed by the annual WCAC BBQ at 12 pm

Member Attendance:

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

Excused Absences:

Kathleen Begala
Barry Frankel, Co-Chair

Elected Official:

Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Town Councilwoman, Liaison to WCAC

Invited Guest Speakers:

Sara Davison, Executive Director, Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation

Members of the Public:

Howard Fine
Roz Block
Julie Burmeister, Bridgehampton Citizens Advisory Committee
Lynn Cronin
Jim Dagle
Tom Hexner
Annie Hall, Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation
Richard Meyers, Chairman, Architectural Review Board (ARB), Chair Emeritus of WCAC
Mary Petrie
Carole Slater, WCAC Chair Emeritus
Jeffery Smith, President, Eastern Region Helicopter Council
Reine Turner
Candy Wainwright
Jonathan Wainwright

Minutes

The May 7, 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

Court date scheduled for this Monday, June 6 at 12:30 pm.

Airport

Oral arguments before the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit are scheduled for Monday, June 20 at 10:00 am. Paid parking will cost \$10/day, and should be up and running in a few weeks once the machines are delivered.

Hamlet Study

The two-day Wainscott Hamlet Charrette was successful. The consultants expect to have a draft report by the end of the year. The data presented on the first night is going to be posted by the consultants for circulation.

Home Rule Resolutions

Home Rule Resolutions are when the senate and assembly write legislation that the community supports. Home Rule Resolutions discussed during today's meeting include:

- Lower the speed limit to 25 mph on Wainscott Main St and Wainscott Stone Rd
- No longer taking FAA funds to enact the 3 flight restrictions
- Anytime East Hampton Town proposes a resolution to accept either Federal or NY State money for airport or aviation projects, such resolution would be subject to a 'permissive resolution' which allows the community to participate via referendum within 30 days.
- Create Peconic Bay Transportation Council
- Create Underground Utility District Funded whereby the community may fund projects to bury overhead powerlines.

Rental registry

The rental registry has been in effect since February 1, has been enforced since May 1, and to date close to 2,500 permits have been issued. The rental registry has been used to issue fines. Funds collected as part of the rental registry have not been earmarked, and will therefore go into surplus.

Wainscott Speaker Presentation:

Sara Davison, Executive Director, Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation

Founded a 501(c)(3) organization in 2015 by members of community (incl. Annie Hall and John Wainwright) to respond to the water crisis in Georgica Pond. The Foundation hired Dr. Christopher Gobler to carry out extensive research on macro, and blue-green microalgae blooms that produce toxins that can kill animals, and get into the tissue of crabs creating environmental hazards in the Pond. A groundwater crisis exists on Long Island. Wainscott has the largest drinking water wells in East Hampton. Everything we do on land goes into the watershed and ends up in Georgica Pond. Too much of two key elements found in fertilizer, nitrogen and phosphorous are causing microalgae, therefore, Dr. Gobler is trying to figure out where the nitrogen and phosphorous are coming from. Dr. Gobler recommends that we treat the symptoms and the sources.

Treat the symptoms:

- Open the Pond - If a certain threshold of blue-green algae has been met, there is an agreement with the Town that the Pond will be opened. Given that there are competing interests, this is a highly charged issue.
- Harvest macro algae - Remove the macro algae and take it to the Town compost facility to see if it can be used elsewhere.

Treat the source:

- Septic system upgrade – Traditional septic systems do not remove nitrogen from wastewater. It would be ideal to get a wastewater management system in conjunction with the Town and Suffolk County Health Dept. Alternate technologies will hopefully be approved this year, along with recommendations about when they will be installed.
- Vote for Reauthorization of the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) program this November – If this passes, 20% of funds could be allocated for water improvement (including septic system upgrades).
- Gardening – use organic compounds.

Car Wash – The proposed car wash is right in the watershed that feeds Georgica Pond. Chemicals and phosphates present in the cleaners would have lasting impacts on environment. Members of the WCAC and public believe the applicants should address groundwater and that this information should be shared with the planning board.

Wainscott Properties – Davison advises that monitoring wells would have to be put on site to determine potential runoff into the watershed. Councilwoman Burke-Gonzalez questions whether this would be premature given that the Town still does not have a cite plan, and once one is received, they will have a better idea of what is going on there. At the committee's request, Councilwoman Burke-Gonzalez will ask the Town attorneys about testing the soil at Wainscott Properties.

Committee Topics for Discussion:

Wainscott Hamlet Subcommittee Report Update

Town and Committee Updates:

Planning Department

Members of the public expressed concern that the Town Planning Board has not received letters in opposition to the car wash and suggest hand delivery. Member D'Andrea circulated the EH Planning Board contact information to ensure that letters are addressed correctly (see attached). The application is considered withdrawn by July 26th, so the community is urged to bring their concerns regarding groundwater to the attention of the Planning Board now. Richard Meyers, Member Simon Kinsella, and Chair Emeritus Del Mastro read their letters to the Planning Board into the record (see attached). Councilwoman Burke-Gonzalez advises that the Town is discussing a moratorium. Member Dalene makes a motion that the WCAC recommend the Town Board impose a moratorium on all planning decisions for applications already submitted which are pending and for applications yet to be submitted within the Wainscott Business District until the Wainscott Hamlet Study has been completed and adopted by the Town of East Hampton. This motion was seconded by Member Kinsella and approved unanimously. Members of the public second and approve this motion, with the exception of 1. The WCAC asks that anyone who already sent a letter to Planning Board, please send a copy to the WCAC as well.

Having briefly met with Mr. James Golden by happenstance (at East Hampton Gym), Member Young said that Golden was very determined and was buying the property for the carwash. Golden mentioned to Member Young that he had commissioned a traffic study which shows that traffic can avoid East Gate Road, although Member Young does not see how this is possible. Member Young reiterated the strong points against the carwash, which are: traffic, ground water, architecture and noise.

Other Business:

Energy Sustainability – Member Dalene mentioned that there is a tiny house touring the USA and it will be visiting PSEG June 25/26 to demonstrate energy saving methods.

Nominations - Dennis D'Andrea expressed concerns about succession planning and requested that Co-Chairs Arandia & Frankel serve for another year. Co-Chair Arandia said that he happy to serve at the committee's pleasure (Co-Chair Frankel was not in attendance). After next year, two people have been suggested (one of whom is on the nominating committee).

Community Business Award discussion – Dennis D'Andrea

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Board Member
Kathleen Cunningham
Board Member
Diana Weir,
Board Member

[Planning Board Email](#)

[Jodi Walker](#),
Secretary

[John Jilnicki](#),
Assistant Town
Attorney

Phone:

631-324-2696

Fax:

631-324-1476

PLANNING BOARD

Planning Board Agendas

January 13, 2016	January 27, 2016
February 3, 2016	February 10, 2016
February 24, 2016	March 9, 2016
March 23, 2016	April 6, 2016
April 13, 2016	April 27, 2016
May 11, 2016	May 18, 2016
June 1, 2016	



Town of East Hampton
159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, New York
11937
631-324-4141