



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, New York 11937

PETER VAN SCOYOC
Supervisor

(631) 324-4140
pvanscoyoc@eamptonny.gov

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EAST HAMPTON TOWN FORMS COMMUNITY HOUSING OPPORTUNITY FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee will make recommendations to Town Board on use of dedicated affordable housing funds raised through new half-percent real estate transfer tax, effective April 1

The East Hampton Town Board by unanimous vote today appointed a seven-member advisory committee that will review potential affordable housing initiatives and make recommendations to the Town Board, guided by the Town's recently adopted Community Housing Opportunity Fund Project Plan.

The Plan outlines the various housing creation strategies and Housing Fund expenditures allowable under state law and envisioned as initiatives the town might undertake to insure a diverse and sustainable community by providing affordable community housing. These include, for example, purchase of land or buildings to create affordable housing, down payment or other financial assistance to home buyers, and public/private partnerships for the creation of employee housing.

Read the adopted Housing Plan here:

<https://eamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16515/Community-Housing-Fund-Plan-January-19-2023>

For more information on community housing in East Hampton:

<https://eamptonny.gov/823/Community-Housing>

The committee members are town residents who represent various sectors of the community and economy, per New York State law requirements.

The appointed committee members and their affiliations are:

Andrew Garvey – Mr. Garvey a resident of Amagansett, is a board member of Enterprise Community Investment, a subsidiary of Enterprise Community Partners, a national affordable housing not-for-profit. He is a former senior level finance executive specializing in real estate, municipal, and infrastructure.

Patricia Wadzinski – Ms. Wadzinski is a real estate broker at Sotheby's International Realty.

Alice Houseknecht – A Montauk resident and volunteer director of the Montauk Food Pantry, Ms. Houseknecht is a former Montauk business owner and Montauk School teacher.

Adam Miller – As a real estate attorney and founder in 2007 of the Adam Miller Group, a real estate law firm, Adam Miller has focused on housing advocacy issues. He began his career as in-house real estate counsel for a Miami lender/developer, and later worked at Proskauer Rose, a large NYC firm.

Ray Harden – Mr. Harden, an owner and principal at Ben Krupinski Builder, has been with the East Hampton construction firm for more than three decades. He serves on the EH Town License Review Board, as a Fire Coordinator for Suffolk County, president of the EH Fire Department Benevolent organization, and as a member of the EH Fire Department, where he is an ex-chief.

Emma Barrientos – Ms. Barrientos is a customer service representative at Dime Bank in East Hampton, formerly Bridgehampton National Bank, and has been there for 18 years. She previously worked for five years at Bank of New York.

Sarah Brooks Minardi – Ms. Minardi, a lifelong resident of East Hampton, is the East Hampton Village representative on the committee. She is a licensed associate real estate broker at Saunders & Associates, a member of the East Hampton UFSD Board of Education, chair of the Ladies Village Improvement Society's Student Awards Committee, and a mother of two.

Serving as ex-officio members of the Community Housing Opportunity Fund Advisory Committee will be a town board liaison, and representatives of the Town's Planning, Housing and Community Development, and Land Acquisition and Management Departments.

Voters in East Hampton approved a ballot proposition last November authorizing the new half-percent housing tax in addition to the existing two-percent Community Preservation Fund real estate transfer tax, which is dedicated solely to open space and historic preservation, and water quality projects.

An initial meeting of the Community Housing Opportunity Fund Committee is expected to take place shortly.