

MONTAUK CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VIA ZOOM
APRIL 5, 2021

Attendance: 32 present (38 members)

Members Present: B. Akin, J. Allen, L. Barnds, T. Berger, J. Buklad, J. Chimples, S. Conway, R. Cortell, C. Cortese, L. Cortese, T. Creel, L. Daunt, J. Evans, D. Freudenthal, B. Grimes, A. Harris, D. Hausman, B.J. Howard, J. James, R. Monahan, T. Ries, S. Sennefelder, L. Siedlick, R. Silver, E. Steck, M. Tripp, K. Tyler, M. Waterman, K. Weiss, R. Weiss, C Yula, Z. Zweig

Members Absent: D. Ceva, L. Creegan, H. D'Agostino, S. Kalimnios, P. Monte, J. Murtha. We were saddened to learn of the passing of B. Mulligan.

Guests: Rona Klopman, M. Wright (EH Press)

Board Liaison: David Lys

Minutes of March 1, 2021 meeting adopted on motion of R. Cortell, seconded by S. Sennefelder.

Community Activities: The Montauk Library budget and Trustee election will take place at the temporary library on April 6 from 2pm to 8pm.

Old Business:

East Hampton Airport Subcommittee Report- J. Chimples reported that the Subcommittee (T. Creel, J. Chimples, B. Grimes, R. Cortell), are monitoring activity and there has, so far, been none. B. Grimes and R. Cortell listened to the Press webinar on the future of the airport, in which the consensus was that closure would shift traffic to Montauk. The Subcommittee shares that belief and recommended that the MCAC go on record to oppose closure. After discussion, a quorum being present, the following resolution, moved by J. Chimples and seconded by E. Steck, was approved with 27 votes in favor, 3 abstentions and 2 members present but not voting:

The Montauk Citizens' Advisory Committee hereby requests that the East Hampton Town Board take no action to close the East Hampton Airport.

Beach Subcommittee Report/FIMP Delay - R. Cortell led the discussion of the Army Corps (ACOE) announcement that the Montauk portion of FIMP would be delayed from the original commitment of late 2021 to late 2023. Apparently, they are seeking economies of scale for equipment and tying Montauk to Southampton where there are delays due to challenges in securing easements. The consensus is that this delay is unacceptable. It will cost the Town \$1 million per year of delay which is a burden on the entire Town. K. Tyler said that the Chamber is writing letters, encouraging its members to do the same, and supporting the CCOM petition; D. Freudenthal urged MCAC members to sign the online CCOM petition (so far more than 500 signatories). After discussion, a quorum being present, the following resolution, moved by R. Cortell, seconded by J. Chimples, was unanimously adopted:

The Montauk Citizens' Advisory Committee hereby urges the East Hampton Town Board to request the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), as promised, to adhere to their Fire Island to Montauk Point (FIMP) project original schedule for pumping 450,000 cubic yards of ocean-dredged sand onto 6,000 feet of downtown beach in Montauk in late 2021/early 2022.

Councilman D. Lys Liaison Report:

Beach Sand Replenishment - The Town will proceed to replenish beach sand for this season. Beach profiles have been surveyed, the RFP responses are due 4/8, and work will be completed by 5/15 at a cost of about \$1 million. In response to a question about where the sand will come from, D. Lys said that some may come from dredging Georgica Pond, some may come from a quarry or from western Long Island. **Beach Stairs** - are getting washed out. The easternmost stairs are in the capital budget and the Town will restore safe access to the beach.

Lighthouse Work by ACOE - The contract has been awarded to HL Contracting, the same contractor that did the sandbag project. Stones will be transported over land with one truckload per day. Work has begun on this multi-year project. **Highway work** - Shore Road/Navy Road work is expected to be done by PSEG late this year; D. Lys is looking into this. OMH sidewalk paving continues. Eddie Ecker Pier pilings have been fixed and the pier is now open. Entrance to Montauk Recycling Center is being shifted east and tree work is being done for the new cell tower. Roadwork on 27 east from S. Essex will happen in the Fall. **Recreation** - Little League field work is starting to fix fields and fencing; basketball hoops will be replaced. **Second House** - septic is being upgraded and outdoor site work is being done. **Other** - boat fueling service safety measures, commercial fishing changes as of 3/27, fisheries assistance funding from NOAA to NYS (\$5.6 million), DEC in-person hunter education with COVID safety measures will be held on 4/1.

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Town COVID update - Testing: The Town-sponsored Montauk testing site is now open Monday - Friday 7am to 9pm and Saturday-Sunday from 7 am to 5 pm. Appointments are available and walk ins are accepted. Visit testbeforeyougo.com. **COVID Vaccine:** The East Hampton site at CDCH continues to operate, with more than 500 doses administered last week. The State site at SH College has been administering 1,000 per day and physicians are beginning to receive doses. All those aged 16 and above will be eligible as of 4/6. D. Lys thanked all the volunteers who have been working at the PODs, and specifically mentioned R. Monahan and the EMTs standing by. The Town will be doing outreach to homebound residents and East End Cares is providing transportation according to K. Tyler. **Performing Arts/Events:** The Town Board is developing guidance consistent with applicable State guidelines. The State's Excelsior Pass is being developed to prove vaccination/negative testing for event attendance.

Beach Capacity Restrictions /Parking - The Town is working on how to implement whatever restrictions are imposed by the State; focus is on beach cleanliness, outreach to hotels, more street parking and possibility of kiosks in Montauk.

Legislative Initiatives: Leaf Blower Ban - was passed and will take effect on May 20. It includes a ban on Sunday for both commercial and residential use. **Outdoor Dining** - legislation for a pilot program, expiring in September, was passed to continue what was in effect last year. Restaurants can only use their own property, not the State right of way.

New Business:

Summer of '21 Concerns - were expressed by various members. D. Lys said that the Town is aware of concerns and planning for what is expected. Beach Patrol hours are being extended and most departments are "adequately staffed".

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm upon motion of R. Cortell, seconded by C. Cortese.

The next meeting will be on May 3, 2021 at 6pm via Zoom.