

# MONTAUK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 10, 2022

Via Zoom

**Attendance:** 35 present (40 members)

**Members Present:** B. Akin, J. Allen, L. Barnds, T. Berger, F. Brooks, S. Brooks, T. Byrne, D. Ceva, J. Chimples, S. Conway, R. Cortell, C. Cortese, L. Cortese, T. Creel, H. D'Agostino, L. Daunt, D. Freudenthal, B. Grimes, A. Harris, D. Hausman, J. Iacono, J. James, S. Kalimnios, R. Monahan, P. Monte, T. Ries, S. Sennefelder, R. Silver, M. Tripp, K. Tyler, M. Waterman, K. Weiss, R. Weiss, C. Yula, Z. Zweig

**Members Absent:** J. Buklad, L. Creegan, J. Evans, B.J. Howard, L. Siedlick

**Board Liaison:** David Lys

**Minutes** of December meeting were approved upon motion by R. Cortell, seconded by L. Barnds.

**Election of Officers:** Upon motion by R. Cortell, seconded by L. Barnds, Diane Hausman was unanimously re-elected Chair. Upon motion by J. Allen, seconded by R. Cortell, Marcy Wilkov Waterman was unanimously re-elected Recording Secretary.

**Community Organizations:** J. James reported that CCOM has been in touch with Fred Thiel regarding the pine beetle infestation on Napeague. (See further discussion below)

## **Old Business:**

**Airport Subcommittee:** B. Grimes reported that it is the consensus of the Subcommittee members to reiterate their request that the Town Board should seriously reconsider closing the EH Airport. It is their view that the Town Board is rushing to act before the season opening and that it is important that the Town Board fully explore all options and implications. The Subcommittee has requested information from the Supervisor and cannot recommend any action until it receives a response. Councilman Lys said he would ensure that the Subcommittee received a response and emphasized that the Town Board is very aware of the concerns of the Montauk community. He said that the Town Board is involved in a methodical (not rushed) process with the goal of controlling noise without harming any other part of the Town. An extended discussion took place, including questions regarding discussions with the FAA, the need for more clear communication from the Town, the potential use of CPF or general municipal funds to purchase the Montauk Airport, the timing of Town Board action,

**Councilperson's Liaison Report:** D. Lys reported on his proposals for a pilot of **parking changes in downtown Montauk**, including metered parking using a kiosk, to ensure pedestrian safety while accessing the beach. He has consulted with Chief Sarlo and Steve Lynch of the Highway Department, as well as a Town attorney about Code issues and changes needed to implement the proposals. It was noted by several members that without enforcement, there is no point in imposing new rules. Several members said that it was important that any revenue generated by parking meters and fines be reserved solely for use to benefit Montauk (e.g., to pay for new sidewalks). D. Lys said he agreed with that sentiment. D. Hausman reactivated the former Traffic Subcommittee to consider the proposals. Subcommittee members continuing are M. Waterman, J. Allen, T. Berger, C. Cortese plus new members, D. Hausman and S. Kalimnios. Action must be quick so that any changes can be implemented for the 2022 season.

**COVID** testing at CDCH shows 33% positivity; **Southern pine beetle infestation of pitch pines on Napeague** - Town is coordinating with NYS and Tom Dess of the NYS Parks Department to develop an action plan to fell affected trees; thanks to Laura Tooman of CCOM and the MCAC resolution in support of quick action; **West Lake comfort station** will be installed in June at a cost of \$550,000 (a savings of \$300,000 using a new approach); **skate park** bid will be accepted by the end of the month; **West Lake commercial dock** repair RFP will be issued by the end of the month; **EHPD** has hired four new officers, but five are out on disability leave and one left to work for the Village; invasives are being removed to clear the view at **Stepping Stones**.

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**Housing Initiative** ("All Hands on Housing") has been adopted by the Town Board with each councilperson now responsible for a specific initiative: D. Lys will work on development of affordable housing at the 7 acre 395 Pantigo property (he hopes there will be shovels in the ground by the end of 2022); C. Rogers will work on locating parcels for new housing, including in Montauk; S. Overby will work on changes to the Code so that seasonal worker housing can be located. J. James noted that the MCAC had a Housing Subcommittee several years ago that made recommendations for seasonal worker housing.

**Beach Operations:** D. Lys will present the Beach Operations Report for 2021 at tomorrow's Town Board meeting. The summer was very busy for lifeguards, the junior lifeguarding program continued, parking lots at Kirk Park and Atlantic Beach took in \$150,000 in fees, and staffing was inadequate for garbage collection. Staffing was a problem generally. The Plan for 2022 includes ban on smoking and vaping near lifeguard stands, test of pack in/pack out for garbage, hiring of a Beach Manager, a new guarded beach at Napeague. Improvement needs include better ADA beach mats, more staffing for night time enforcement, survey of beach parking lots to reclaim spaces from the sand, uniform signage (some existing signs are fake). Beach Fires - There are 7 potential recommendation options, including permit apps, a licensee to manage beach fires, a vendor to handle ash collection or a complete ban on beach fires.

**Gazebo renovation** - P. Monte asked that the Chamber be included in discussions regarding work to be done. D. Lys has been working with the MVA on a planting schedule.

**Q&A:** Establishment of a COVID testing site in Montauk requires identification of a new vendor. Retail sale of cannabis will not be addressed in the near term, except for use on beaches. Pedestrian safety - whatever happened with the plan to build a sidewalk to connect the LIRR station with downtown Montauk? County Exec. Bellone had promised the Town \$400,000, but that is not even enough for an engineering study and no money has been received. D. Lys will ask new Planning Director, Jeremy Samuelson, to look into this.

**New Business:** None

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm upon motion of K. Weiss, seconded by S. Sennefelder.

The next meeting will be held on Zoom on February 7, 2022 at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcy Wilkov Waterman