

MONTAUK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 7, 2022

Via Zoom

Attendance: 26 present (40 members)

Members Present: T. Berger, F. Brooks, J. Buklad, T. Byrne, J. Chimples, R. Cortell, C. Cortese, L. Cortese, L. Creegan, T. Creel, J. Evans, D. Freudenthal, B. Grimes, A. Harris, D. Hausman, J. Iacono, J. James, S. Kalimnios, R. Monahan, T. Ries, S. Sennfelder, R. Silver, M. Tripp, M. Waterman, C. Yula, Z. Zweig

Members Absent: B. Akin, J. Allen, L. Barnds, S. Brooks, D. Ceva, S. Conway, H. D'Agostino, L. Daunt, B.J. Howard, P. Monte, L. Siedlick, K. Tyler, K. Weiss, R. Weiss

Guests: Michael Wright (Press)

Board Liaison: David Lys

Minutes of January meeting were tabled since there was not a quorum at the opening of the meeting.

Community Organizations: None

Old Business:

Downtown Parking Subcommittee: M. Waterman reported that the Subcommittee had met and considered the parking changes proposed by D. Lys with the stated goals of improving pedestrian safety and realizing non-tax revenue from parking fees. The Subcommittee would like to support the proposal to charge parking fees for 27 spots on S. Edison and S. Elmwood, but cannot do so unless there is a firm commitment to provide for meaningful enforcement and earmarking of revenues for incremental benefit to Montauk. Enforcement must be throughout the downtown area because visitors will try to avoid paying and will park wherever they can find a space, legal or not.

D. Lys said that the solar-powered kiosks will cost \$10-15,000 each (may need two) and can be removed easily during the off-season. Enforcement would take place using license plate readers ("LPR") enabling one person to do the work of several TCO's. D. Lys has been working with Chief Sarlo and Pete Powers on setting up the modernized automated system, which is like that used in many other resort communities.

Projected revenue from the parking kiosks covering the 27 spaces is roughly \$40,000. D. Lys said he would advocate for the creation of a dedicated fund ("Montauk Beautification Fund") into which parking fees would be deposited.

After extensive discussion, on motion by D. Hausman, seconded by R. Cortell, the following was adopted on a vote of 20 yeas, 1 nay and 5 abstentions:

Resolved that the MCAC supports a two year pilot of kiosk-based paid parking at 27 spots on S. Edison and S. Elmwood, to be assessed at the end of each year, provided that strong enforcement is put in place and revenues from the pilot be segregated into a dedicated fund for the benefit of Montauk.

D. Lys expects that, in order to have the new system in place for the summer season, public notice would take place in March, with a hearing in April and approval in late April/early May.

Airport Subcommittee: T Creel 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. In light of the letter received from the FAA on February 2, stating that it could take up to two years to conduct internal processes needed to reopen the new private use airport, the Subcommittee strongly opposes closing the airport on February 28 with the plan to reopen it on March 4, 2022.

D. Lys responded that meetings with the FAA continue, with another one set for this week. He said that the two year estimate was to bring the new airport up to current capacity with a tower, while the plan is

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to open on a much more limited basis. The FAA letter was not unexpected, but the Town Board has made its decision and will defend the position taken.

After extensive discussion, on motion by T. Creel, seconded by J. Chimples, the following was adopted on a vote of 13 yeas, 5 nays and 3 abstentions:

Resolved that the Town should delay its proposed February 28, 2022 closure of the East Hampton Airport for further consideration, including, without limitation, discussions with the FAA about items in the FAA letter of February 2, 2022.

Councilperson's Liaison Report:

Special Events has received applications from the Montauk Artists' Association to conduct their annual arts fairs on the Green from June 3-5 and August 19-21. The members had no objection, but a request was made that final clean up begin as soon as possible. **Smoking ban on beaches** is being considered by the Town Board - all smoking (including vaping and marijuana) would be banned at guarded beaches (Kirk Park, S. Edison, Gin and Ditch in Montauk) within 500 feet of the guarded areas and in the parking lots during guarded hours. The public hearing will be held in March. **Southern pine beetle infestation of pitch pines on Napeague** - The extent of damage is larger than originally thought and involves roughly 1400 trees. The Town is coordinating with NYS on the plan to fell affected trees; **Skate park** work will begin in March; **Star Island commercial dock** repair RFP has been issued; **PSEG road raising** is in early stage - no designs have been received yet; **Suffolk Water Authority** water main work is happening now; **Water Quality grant** applications are due on February 15; **ZBA** will be considering two large Montauk properties at a hearing tomorrow; **Seasonal Rental** changes will be considered at the Town Board meeting tomorrow. **Draft Capital Plan (\$3.2 million)** includes funding for pickle ball courts in Montauk, the new Senior Center, CPF management and stewardship. Changes will be made to **Special Events** procedures. **Affordable Housing** initiatives are moving ahead. An arrangement is being finalized with the Montauk Historical Society to run the **Carl Fisher House**. The **Montauk Hamlet Plan** implementation process is expected to begin in the fall.

New Business: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm upon motion by R. Cortell, seconded by B. Grimes.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Wilkov Waterman