

Amagansett Citizens' Advisory Committee
February 14, 2022
Regular Meeting VIA Zoom

Members Present: Rona Klopman(Chair), Vicky Littman(Vice Chair), Dawn Brophy(Secretary), Jaine Mehring, Lisa Farbar, Amanda Merrow, Michael Diesenhaus, John Broderick, Michael Jordan, Gail Jordan, Elizabeth Hotchkiss, Deborah Wick, David Hillman, Britton Bistran, Shari Thompson, Bob Thompson, Seth Turner, Tina Piette, James MacMillan, Tom Field, Michael Cinque, Lisa Farbar

Guest Speaker: Jeremy Samuelson, Head of the East Hampton Planning Department

Guests: Michael Wright,EH Press reporter, John Whelan, Carolyn Logan, Chair of the Wainscott CAC

Liaison: Peter Van Scoyoc - absent

Call to Order

Approval of the Minutes-

Jaine Mehring, Michael Cinque seconds

Guest Speaker – Jeremy Samuelson

South Hampton College – Graduate, 1990's

Commercial Fisherman, Kayak Guy, Newspaper Reporter, 2005 worked for Planning Dept., Police Department Spokesperson,

Formal Training for Conservation and Land Planning, Group for the East End, Concern Citizens of Montauk, and Nature Conservatory. Director of EHT Planning Dept. in January 2022.

Focus Points for Leading Planning Dept.

Applicants requests currently handled with the same process as it had in 2005.

A. Internal Challenges

- 1) Need for better coordination with other departments and need to improve and enhance the towns use of electronic services.
- 2) Making full services of Planning Dept. available electronically to the general public. Including queries, and submission of applications.
- 3) Digitization of historical files.
- 4) Person to person communication, interaction, and coordination with other Town Departments. Departments are not presently communicating effectively. New organization structure needed for collaboration and coordination, for better outcomes.

B. External Challenges

- 1) Relationship to costal shoreline and the response to those shoreline changes. Need to look at coastal policy and costal management. EHT should take a leadership position.
- 2) View coastal changes as a connection between groundwater and sea level.

Guidelines need to be updated.

C) **Affordable Housing**

Affordable Housing is at a break point for basic core services provided by community. Town needs the ability to hire and obtain people. People are either leaving or living elsewhere. Need to move affordable housing to list of concerns – acute crisis. Need to look at allowing private sector to help solve housing problem.

Code Updates: A living document. Where do we need to give the code a fresh look. Asking departments where we need stronger and better code that enhances protections. What areas are code restrictions not servicing the town well with undesirable consequences?

D) **Conversation topics with ACAC**

Planning Department infrastructure – currently have 3 openings. Senior land planner and 2 administrative positions. Will be posting positions, but salaries and housing impedes hiring. Natural resources, land planning, geography, hard sciences are educational requirements.

Inter – departmental coordination is important. Code issues affect applications. Current Code sometime prevents denial of an applications that a dept. would like to deny, and/or sometimes they would like to approve. Code thoughts: Create separate entity for the review of wireless telecommunication applications which create huge workload on departments with administrative requirements.

Revised version of Accessory unit legislation within the code put strict number of units for each school district to control density. Limit is 20 units. This code hurts affordable housing initiatives. Need to look at bringing additional units on appropriate private property.

ACAC membership concerns:

Water, Septic and traffic congestion including the 50 Commercial units in Wainscot. Indian Wells Beach sidewalk converted to parking. Supporting Net Zero for future affordable housing. Procedure clarifications to help the community navigate process between planning and building department. Development not being thought of in a comprehensive way esp. where natural resources is concerned. Can these certain areas be designated right to the planning dept. for Natural Resource Special Permits.

Updates:

Mail Delivery:

Jim MacMillan reported that the Post Office is reviewing our petition.

Amagansett Lighting Sub - Committee

Rona Klopman
Michael Cinque
Dawn Brophy
Gail Jordon
David Hillman
John Broderick, Chair of Lighting Committee
James MacMillan
Susan Harder – Advisor

Sub-Committee members have gone out to community members asking about lighting. Concerns target area from Brents to Saint Michaels to Gansett Meadows. Safety is main concern. Library patrons complain about parking lot and drivers cannot see pedestrians. Ascetics are a concern as we would like consistency. Much bigger task than we first thought. Need to start from scratch. Need support from ACAC and guidance from our Liaison – Peter. Planning Dept. input will be essential.

Seth Turner –

Housing Committee forum– will be gathering data from where their employees are coming from and asking if they want to live locally etc.

Mid – Winter recess – coming up.

Covid-19 - hoping that we can begin to return to normal condition in March. Still many legal changes from NYS and CDC and accolades to the Amagansett School Board Volunteer members for the time that has been put into keeping up with changes.

Michael Cinque

Amagansett Fire Dept
EMS – no report

Zoning and ZBA

Jane Mehring – January 11th meeting. A new development on Bayview. New applications on 16 Dolphin Drive, in the White Sands Community, for next meeting. Asking for NRSP.

New Business:

New parking proposal for Indian Wells Beach area. Need more information to comment with recommendations.

March Guest Speakers: Carolyn Logan, Chair of Wainscott CAC and Sarah Davidson, Georgica Pond Foundation concerning Sand Pit Property and development of 50 lots.

Adjournment.

John Broderick approves and Jaine Mehring seconds.

Next Meeting of ACAC – Monday -April 11 @ 6:30pm (In-person or Virtual To be determined)