

MONTAUK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 7, 2022

Via Zoom

Attendance: 30 present (40 members)

Members Present: B. Akin, L. Barnds, T. Berger, J. Buklad, J. Chimples, S. Conway, 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, P. Monte, S. Sennfelder, L. Siedlick, R. Silver, M. Tripp, K. Tyler, M. Waterman, K. Weiss, R. Weiss, C. Yula

Members Absent: J. Allen, F. Brooks, S. Brooks, T. Byrne, D. Ceva, H. D'Agostino, L. Daunt, B.J. Howard, T. Ries, Z. Zweig

Guests: Michael Wright (Press), Laura Tooman (CCOM)

Board Liaison: David Lys

Minutes of January and February meetings were adopted upon motion by L. Barnds, seconded by R. Cortell.

Community Organizations: L. Barnds reported that the newly renovated **Library** has reopened and that there will be a vote on the budget on April 5. K. Tyler reported that **Gurney's** is interested in hosting a swimming program for children at Star Island in the off-season. Laura Tooman invited all to attend **CCOM's** "Montauk on my Mind" open house on March 17 at 5pm via Zoom.

Old Business:

Beach Subcommittee: R. Cortell reported that the Subcommittee has met and identified several concerns, previously expressed, that have still not be satisfactorily addressed by the Town. The full list of issues will be sent to D. Lys in an email. The primary concern is that Montauk contributes a great deal of revenue to the Town as a result of the attractiveness of its beaches, but we are told there are no funds to address our concerns. Revenue sources include parking fees at Kirk Park, beach passes purchased by individuals and motels (these two generated \$92,000), and vendor fees. The Subcommittee believes that revenue should be applied to fund much needed services on the Montauk beaches, such as garbage collection, police and marine patrol resources to enforce beach regulations, purchase of additional Beach Quad vehicles to patrol the beaches, beach raking and coverage, beach fire regulation enforcement, and a return of the Junior Life Guard program at Ditch.

Downtown Parking Subcommittee: The Subcommittee had no report, however, D. Lys reported that he had presented the plan to the Town Board. They have not yet taken any action, but work is in progress to identify vendors to do whatever work is needed.

Airport Subcommittee: J. Chimples reported that the Town Board had changed the airport closing date to May 17, with reopening on May 19. The Subcommittee remains concerned about the impact on Montauk.

Upon motion by J. Chimples, seconded by T. Creel, and following extensive discussion, the following was adopted by a vote of 19 in favor, 4 opposed and 3 abstaining:

The Montauk Citizens' Advisory Committee ("MCAC") recommends that the Town Board aggressively pursue the purchase of the Montauk Airport with the aim of giving the Town Board the same control over its operations as they will have when the East Hampton Airport reopens as a private airport. However, if the Town Board cannot successfully negotiate the purchase of the Montauk Airport, the MCAC requests that the Town make every possible effort to engage the owners in negotiations to ensure that the Montauk

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Airport is operated in a manner no less restrictive than the new private East Hampton Airport will be, including, but not limited to, working with the owners to maintain the same operating hours as those of the East Hampton Airport.

D. Lys reported that the Town Board is now engaged in public scoping required by SEQRA and wants public comment on that process. Written comments are due on March 18. It is expected that the impact of changes at the airport will be studied over the next year.

As for the Montauk Airport, there are three options to change the status quo: (1) CPF purchase, (2) municipal funds purchase, or (3) condemnation.

New Business: R. Silver reported on activities of the Town Energy and Sustainability Committee, on which he serves. On March 15 at 6:30pm there will be a webinar on green heating and cooling. The goal is to encourage citizens to improve home energy efficiency and to reduce costs. He encouraged members to refer to the website Energize East Hampton for recordings of past webinars. Rooftop solar installations are increasing with 165 installations since 2018 and 21 so far in 2022.

Councilperson's Liaison Report: D. Lys reported that **public hearings** will take place on March 17 at 11am on (1) road improvements at the **entrance to Rough Riders** - the condo owners will pay taxes to cover the costs, and (2) changes to **Rental Registry** to redefine seasonal rentals to allow prepayment of rent. **Infrastructure** work will include **paving Route 27** from downtown to the Lighthouse in April and the Town has requested installation of "rustic" **guide rails** from the Library to the Lighthouse. **PSEG** is developing designs for the intersection of Second House and North Shore. The "**Gateway**" **Project** to remove the poles at the entrance to Montauk is expected to take place in the fourth quarter of 2022. **Southern pine beetle infestation of pitch pines on Napeague** - Roughly 1200 trees have been felled. **Skate park** work is starting this Friday. **Pickle ball** courts are scheduled to be installed for Spring 2023 at a projected capital cost of \$400,000. **Beaches** - new signs are coming in May; ADA compliant beach mats are being redesigned for Gin Beach; a survey of the downtown beach has been requested for sand replenishment by May 15; \$1.4 million is being spent on Montauk beaches. **Affordable Housing** - changes will be made to allow greater density at the 6.7 acre property on Route 114. **Open Meetings** - the executive order expires March 15; it is likely that in person meetings will resume in April. **March 8 Town Board meeting agenda** covers rule changes for the airport, a report on 2021 Code Enforcement activities and extension of the successful outdoor dining pilot.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm upon motion by R. Cortell, seconded by R. Silver.

The next meeting will be held on April 4, 2022 at 6pm. Location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Wilkov Waterman