

MONTAUK CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 4, 2022

Via Zoom

Attendance: 29 present (41 members)

Members Present: J. Allen, L. Barnds, T. Berger, D. Ceva, J. Chimples, S. Conway, R. Cortell, C. Cortese, L. Cortese, L. Creegan, T. Creel, L. Daunt, J. Fowkes (new member), D. Freudenthal, B. Grimes, A. Harris, D. Hausman, J. James, S. Kalimnios, P. Monte, T. Ries, S. Sennefelder, L. Siedlick, R. Silver, K. Tyler, M. Waterman, K. Weiss, R. Weiss, C. Yula

Members Absent: B. Akin, F. Brooks, S. Brooks, J. Buklad, T. Byrne, J. Evans, H. D'Agostino, B.J. Howard, J. Iacono, D. Monahan, M. Tripp, Z. Zweig

Guests: Michael Wright (The Press), Laura Tooman (CCOM), Kim Shaw (Town of East Hampton), Mellissa Winslow (Town of East Hampton), Steven Baumgarten (Wastewater Committee), Ed Johann (Third House Nature Center)

Board Liaison: David Lys

Minutes of the March meeting were adopted upon motion by D. Freudenthal, seconded by R. Cortell.

Letters: Received from B. Grimes, to be discussed later in the meeting.

Community Organizations: P. Monte and J. Fowkes reported for the **Chamber** that the Eggstravanza will take place on the Green on Saturday, 4/9 starting at 11am. Laura Tooman reported for **CCOM** that the Montauk School Science Fair took place on 4/1 and several of the judges are present at this meeting. The winners will be announced shortly. In April, CCOM events are as follows: 4/14 the third "Montauk on My Mind"; 4/28 Press Sessions panel about coastal erosion (Montauk 2042 - Changing Landscape) at Gurneys; 4/30 Great Montauk Clean Up 10am to 1pm with bucket pick up and dumpster at CCOM office. The **Library** budget vote will take place on 4/5 2pm-8pm at the Library.

Special Presentation: Downtown Montauk Wastewater Feasibility Analysis and Land Swap Update by Kim Shaw, Town Environmental Protection Director, and Mellissa Winslow, Senior Environmental Analyst

Recognizing the very serious wastewater problem, especially in downtown Montauk where septic systems are antiquated, the Montauk Wastewater Advisory Committee was formed 8 years ago and is made up of business owners, residents, and non profits (including several MCAC members). Leo Daunt is currently the Chair. The Town has worked since 2014 to size the problem (which has been extended to include Ditch, LIRR/Industrial Road area and the dock area) and seek solutions, looking to Westhampton Beach as a model. The next phase of this project is to look at feasibility of potential solutions. In 2020, the Town retained H2M engineering consultants to map and plan for a wastewater management district in downtown Montauk. There has been an exhaustive review of potential sites for a treatment facility and no Town-owned land is appropriate. The only potentially feasible sites are one just west of the landfill site and another, less desirable, just east of the landfill. Securing these sites will require a land swap of 7 acres with Suffolk County. Public communication and engagement are required to move forward.

After a great deal of discussion regarding logistics, what land in Montauk could be swapped for the desired site, parkland alienation, costs, and timing, there was general support for moving forward quickly to address this very serious source of groundwater pollution. D. Lys and L. Daunt asked the MCAC to express its support by way of a resolution.

Upon motion by L. Siedlick, seconded by J. Allen, the following was adopted by a vote of 23 in favor, 4 opposed and 2 abstaining:

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Resolved, that the Montauk Citizens' Advisory Committee ("MCAC") supports moving ahead as expeditiously as possible with the process of initiating a land swap with Suffolk County in order to site a wastewater treatment facility.

Those wishing more information should contact L. Daunt or D. Lys.

Old Business:

Downtown Parking Update: D. Lys is working with the Highways Department to determine the cost of permeable surfacing. The Town Board has made no decision - perhaps they will by the end of April/early May, otherwise it is unlikely changes can be made before June.

Airport Update: D. Lys reported that FAA discussions have been fruitful and plans are on schedule to change the airport status on 5/17-19. Town Board meetings on 4/7 and 4/12 will address Code changes and PPR restrictions, respectively. There was discussion about potential Town acquisition of the Montauk Airport.

Councilperson's Liaison Report: At **upcoming Town Board meetings** the following will be discussed: over clearing, peddling (including on beaches), littering and dump control. A public hearing on extending outdoor dining will be held on Thursday, 4/7. **Recycling permits** have expired and there is a one month grace period to get new ones. They are available at the Playhouse from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and 1 pm to 3:30 pm. **Skate park** construction has begun and completion is projected to be by mid-summer. **Junior Lifeguard program** will return to Ditch this year. **Beach nourishment in downtown Montauk** is moving along - beaches have been surveyed and bid award is pending. **Highways** - many projects are ongoing at various locations in Montauk causing disruption. The County has studied **Flamingo Road** and the possibility of banning parking on the east side of the road. **Benson Preserve** - looking at privately funded plan to remove invasive plants to open up the view of the ocean from OMH; goats may be used. **Road Improvement District** (Rough Riders) should be approved in the next two months. **STOP** (toxic clean up) will take place on 6/25 in Springs and 11/5 in Montauk. D. Lys thanks the Friends of Erin and Mrs. Behan for a great St. Patrick's Day Parade. In response to a request for an update on Code Enforcement staffing, D. Lys acknowledged that there are issues.

New Business: P. Monte noted that a committee had been formed for the housing tax referendum and no one from Montauk or the Business Committee was on the committee. D. Lys said Jonathan Yellen is on the committee. B. Grimes raised concerns about the GATR light poles near East Lake which are highly illuminated night and day, posing a problem for many avian species. D. Lys agreed and noted there were many complaints and that Bridget Fleming's office had been contacted (Suffolk County owns the GATRs). Ed Johann said that Third House Nature Preserve had concerns about the impact on avian nocturnals.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm upon motion by B. Grimes, seconded by C. Yula.

The next meeting will be held **in person** at the Montauk School on May 2, 2022 at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Wilkov Waterman

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