

WAINSCOTT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Meeting of May 6, 2023

Members of the committee:

Lori Anne Czepiel
Dennis D'Andrea
Hersey Egginton
Barry Frankel
Anthony Liberatore
Pamela Mahoney
Barry Raebeck
Bruce Solomon
Sally Sunshine
Phillip Young

Excused Absence:

Carolyn Logan Gluck, Chair
Jose Arandia

Elected Official:

Sylvia Overby, Town Councilwoman, Liaison

Members of the Public:

Rosemarie Arnold
Mary Luster Carpenter
Tracy Coyle
John Cullen
Jim Daigle
Sara Davison, Friends of Georgia Pond Foundation, Executive Director
David Doty, East Hampton CPF Citizens Committee. Commissioner, Suffolk
County Planning Commission
David Fink
John Finley
Abigail Fleming
Ron Franklin

Alex Gertsen, Director, Airports and Ground Infrastructure, National Business Aviation Association
John and Annie Hall
Melanie Hayward, Wainscott School Board Candidate
Rona Klopman, Chair, Amagansett CAC
Jaine Mehring, Founder, Build.In.Kind
Tanya and Richard Nevins
Carole Slater, WCAC Chair Emeritus
Daniel Spelman
Jen Tanzmann
Jon and Candace Wainwright
Christopher Walsh, East Hampton Star
Lori Weinstein

The meeting was opened at 9:06 a.m. by Hersey Egginton.

Melanie Hayward, running for a position on the Wainscott school board, addressed the attendees. She has two children, one currently attending the Wainscott School, has worked in the non-profit educational sector for years and supports community housing. When asked about her plan for the school, Melanie stated that she doesn't think any changes are necessary right now. There would be conversations when needed. Member Barry Frankel asked what her ranked priorities would be if there are any issues or challenges. Melanie indicated that she would engage the broader community for an inclusive approach. Member Barry Raebeck indicated that she had a lot of skin in the game and experience which would be a benefit. He has concerns that there is a "clubbish" sense at the school without a concern for parental conversation.

The minutes from the April 1, 2023, WCAC meeting were approved.

Town Board Liaison Sylvia Overby gave an update on East Hampton Airport. She described the three routes as Echo, November and Sierra with Sierra being the most used. November could be the least used for safety reasons during the summer. There isn't much new information. David Fink asked if Sylvia would explain the three routes. Sierra runs over Georgica Pond and is heavily used by helicopters, November runs over the North Fork and carries the jet traffic and Echo is the northeasterly directional for both takeoff and landing. Weather and safety are the reasons for choosing a particular route, but the bottom line is that all routes are voluntary. Member Anthony Liberatore is disturbed by what he has heard and wonders who is driving the bus. Shouldn't helicopters come in on one route and leave on another? He does not buy what he hears from Jim Brundige and asks why the town does not tell Mr. Brundige what is fairer for Wainscott. The airport operations are not equitable or safe and running the airport should be dictated by the issues and safety concerns. Mention was made of the Eastern Region Helicopter Council. Sylvia indicated that the judge and those suing are driving the bus, with the judge stating that the airport is still public.

Barry Raebeck says that the sky over his house is like an airshow, or the wild west and safety is a myth. The routes are only recommended, and he has a graphic from 2019 that looks like spaghetti, mayhem. In the past, the routes have been shifted around to share the pain. There are too many operations at the airport. He wondered if the appeal was this week but Sylvia wasn't sure.

The Maidstone Gun Club has been shut down for several months, there has been one meeting with the Gun Club and the attorneys are talking. Any lease agreement would need to be made in view of the public. The police would like their area open, so they do not have to travel to Calverton. Barry Raebeck indicated that it's amazingly quiet with the club closed for five months and it should not be necessary for the police to train locally.

Sylvia suggested that the WCAC write a letter about extending the temporary ban on gas leaf blowers. Barry Raebeck thought that was a great idea and stated that other communities have total bans anyway. Jennifer Tanzmann mentioned that she uses both gas and electric blowers and is not in favor of a year-round ban. Member Lori Anne Czepiel offered that updating to electric is expensive, time consuming and wondered about a grant for consequent upgrades to make the electric option affordable. Sylvia wondered if Energize East Hampton might help assist. The septic program was helped by CPF funds.

Sylvia reported that Cate Rogers is pulling together a committee concerning Chapter 255 (zoning) code. The committee would comprise of Denise Savarese, John Whelan, Kevin Cooper, Jaine Mehring as well as the head of the Planning Department, the Building Department, and the Fire Marshall. Jaine Mehring offered that there will be a need for public engagement and wants to draw in the community. Her letter to the Town will remain open throughout the process.

There is a 40+ page letter regarding the Wainscott Commercial Center posted under the Planning Department. There should be more opportunity for public engagement and any changes to that document will need to go before the public.

Anthony Liberatore spoke to the Pickleball court controversy, stating that the sound of pickleball play is very annoying and there is a need for regulation sooner rather than later. He feels that the town needs to follow the village's lead. Sylvia agreed, not sure about the effectiveness of four-foot sunken courts. Anthony Liberatore indicated that requires that tennis courts be sunken, and the village has lot size requirements. Sara Davison spoke about the Wainscott Commercial Center Supplemental DEIS, saying that many deficiencies were pointed out. She praised the new zoning committee, saying that CI properties would benefit. She posted in Chat the following link to the new Planning Department memo regarding the WCC DEIS: <http://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17680/Wainscott-Commercial-Center-DEIS-Comments-04-28-23>

Four trees were planted for Arbor Day thanks to the great efforts of Carolyn Logan Gluck and the Tree Society. This marks the second Arbor Day planting, the first occurring at the Rick Del Mastro Memorial Park a year ago. Sylvia indicated that two people are being trained to be arborists.

Sylvia announced the free film screening of "Underwater Dreams" on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 2:30 at the East Hampton Library in the Baldwin Room. It tells the story of the development of a robot by students at an underprivileged high school and their successful competition against MIT.

South Fork Wind has had the last construction meeting with Cate Rogers. There is a new parking scheme and signage at the Beach Lane beach. The repaving was done as a gift. Adequate drainage is still a problem. Hersey acknowledged the parking committee and stated that parking would be an ongoing project. Lori Anne Czepiel reported that there is significant ponding in the area of new construction on Sayre's Path. The new left turn from Wainscott Northwest onto 27 is an issue, too.

Sylvia reported that the ballfield opening was successful, and that the town recognized Robert Chaloner and Robert Ross from Stony Brook Southampton Hospital with proclamations for their involvement with the new emergency building and relocation of the Little League ballfield.

David Doty reported on the Community Preservation Fund, stating that nothing affects Wainscott at this time.

Sylvia reported on a building violation on Sayre's Path and indicated that two inspectors are now working every day.

Hersey Egginton reminded us that contractors should be aware of litter spilling from open vehicles and informed us of "No Fling Spring", a dance to be held Saturday night, May 13, 2023, at the Springs Community Church from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Anthony Liberatore reported that the speed signs are back out on Wainscott Northwest Rd., a good job was done on the westerly catch basin and the paving helped. The catch basin on Sayre's Path still needs clearing. He indicated that speed limits can be lowered and that most roads, including cut through roads, do not have limit signage. Also, he would like to see a reduction in the speed limit on Rt. 27 from 40 mph to 30 mph., from Sayre's Path (on the east) to Hedges (on the west) with 25 mph on Wainscott Northwest and everywhere south of the highway, ideally before the summer season begins. Lori Anne offered that the speed limit near the Sagaponack School is 15 mph with signage and suggested that we do the same, saying that signage is important for compliance. The WCAC agreed. Anthony recommended that signage remain as is with the addition of a few more signs.

Barry Raebeck stated that Wainscott Northwest Rd. is in bad shape and needs repaving. It's dangerous and tough on cars. He contacted Steve Lynch, but nothing was done. Anthony Liberatore agreed that the road is winding, people speed and suggested that some sections could have a lower posted speed limit and paving would also help. Lori Anne Czepiel agreed that certain curves and turns might require lower limits.

Bruce Solomon discussed the Wainscott welcome signs and indicated that some would like to see the signs redesigned. The price for each sign would run about \$4500.00 and asked if there should be a sign subcommittee. Sylvia thought that would be a good idea so no one person is responsible. Funding would come from the public and right now, \$1500.00 has been pledged. It was asked if the town could fund the signs, particularly from the South Fork Wind money. Lori Anne Czepiel asked if the signs could be simpler and constructed to survive longer. A resolution was passed to form a sign subcommittee.

Hersey Egginton reported on the progress of the Chapel bathroom. The windows are in, and shingling is being done. The ice cream social at the chapel is scheduled for May 12, 2023, and the Wainscott Sewing Society quilt is almost done. Raffle tickets will be sold at the strawberry festival on Sunday, June 18, 2023.

The next meeting of the WCAC will be held on June 3, 2023, and there was a question about having an in-person meeting or a hybrid one. Bruce Solomon feels that there is more community engagement in the Zoom meetings and that hybrid meetings would need to be recorded. Lori Anne feels that this should be discussed with Carolyn Logan Gluck first.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

