

**MONTAUK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**JUNE 7, 2021**  
**Via Zoom**

**Attendance:** 28 present (38 members)

**Members Present:** B. Akin, J. Allen, T. Berger, J. Buklad, D. Ceva, J. Chimples, R. Cortell, C. Cortese, L. Cortese, L. Creegan, T. Creel, J. Evans, D. Freudenthal, B. Grimes, A. Harris, D. Hausman, J. James, R. Monahan, P. Monte, S. Sennefelder, L. Siedlick, R. Silver, E. Steck, M. Tripp, M. Waterman, K. Weiss, R. Weiss, C. Yula

**Members Absent:** L. Barnds, S. Conway, H. D'Agostino, L. Daunt, B.J. Howard, S. Kaliminios, J. Murtha, T. Ries, K. Tyler, Z. Zweig

**Guests:** Councilperson Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Laura Tooman (CCOM), Brian Harris (MBOA), Cate Rogers, Ken Walles, Michael White (The Press), Janet Van Sickle, Brad Fenton, Jasanna Britton (Montauk Skate Park Coalition)

**Board Liaison:** David Lys

**Minutes** of May 3, 2021 meeting were adopted on motion of L. Creegan, seconded by R. Cortell.

**Old Business:**

**Beach Subcommittee Report** - R. Cortell reported that the most recent meeting with D. Lys about the Subcommittee concerns was not positive because concerns were not adequately addressed and no alternative solutions were proposed. The Subcommittee has strongly recommended that the Kirk Park parking fee be reduced to \$35 from \$50. R. Monahan noted that the ACOE sand bags on the downtown beach have been exposed by the recent storm, and the Ditch beach has insufficient sand to support a lifeguard stand so the beach is now closed to swimming. Several members complained that Montauk was being treated as "second class citizens" by the Town. K. Weiss noted that the restrooms at Ditch are "disgusting" and need immediate attention. R. Cortell also asked about Beach Patrol schedules.

D. Lys responded as follows: He agrees that the parking fee should be reduced, he has taken that back to the Town Board and will do so again. There was a meeting with ACOE to discuss the bad condition of the downtown beach. The Town Board is looking into how much sand is needed at S. Edison and Ditch. Georgica white sand is available at a cost of around \$344K. The Ditch comfort station will be fixed - Buildings & Grounds staff will go tomorrow and temp potties have been ordered (it was noted that the last time the comfort station was fixed up, it was vandalized). D. Lys and P. Van Scoyoc have asked that debris be removed from Ditch. The Town is trying to find staff for Beach Patrol and other positions.

The Subcommittee will meet and summarize where things stand on the expressed concerns and will follow up with D. Lys.

The consensus was that sand must be replaced at Ditch immediately (in time for July 4 holiday) and lifeguards must be in place. After discussion, upon motion of J. Chimples, seconded by J. Allen, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

**Resolved, that the Montauk Citizens' Advisory Committee requests that the Town Board take immediate action to place appropriate high quality beach sand at Ditch Plain beach to enable Ditch Plain beach to return to a life guarded beach.**

**East Hampton Airport Subcommittee Report**- T. Creel reported on the Town Board work session of 5/11 devoted entirely to the airport at which presentations were made on legal and economic issues. Four options were identified: 1) status quo, 2) close the airport, 3) impose restrictions with FAA approval, or 4) close the airport for some time and then reopen it with new restrictions. A diversion study "will be done later". The Subcommittee (Creel, Grimes, Chimples and Cortell) has proposed two other options: 1) buy Montauk airport (privately-owned and supposedly for sale), or 2) build a heliport away from population, e.g., on Napeague.

D. Lys responded as follows: 1) a diversion study is a priority, but will not be done before the next Town Board meeting on 7/6 - that meeting will address environmental issues; 2) the Montauk airport owner has to be a "willing seller"; and 3) a heliport is not currently under consideration - K. Burke-Gonzalez said that that option had been explored 5 years ago.

The Subcommittee is not ready to recommend a motion to the MCAC at this time. They will revisit the issue at the July MCAC meeting.

# MONTAUK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUNE 7, 2021

Via Zoom

P. Monte email re: **Gazebo bushes**. MVA has asked the Town Board to clear the bushes around the gazebo because they are a potentially dangerous nuisance. D. Lys said that Buildings & Grounds can take care removal with the intent to replant. Discussion took place about the need for a plan to replant before anything is removed and to address any structural issues in the gazebo that may be revealed. K. Weiss clarified that MVA wants the bushes cut back but not removed at this time.

Various issues were raised regarding the following: Responsibility for new OMH sidewalk (D. Lys needs more information); Town garbage cans near bakery are overflowing and need to be removed or have second pickup; garbage on OMH; ongoing explosions at harbor (L. Creegan urged others to call 911 about this); flooding at Rough Riders (L. Cortese said that this problem was to have been addressed as part of the now-defunct Duryea's deal); leaf blower ban enforcement; mud hole at lifeguard stand at "Nick's beach" (D. Lys will check it out).

## **Councilman D. Lys Liaison Report:**

**FIMP** - Town Board will vote tomorrow on approval of Project Partnership Agreement to officially participate in FIMP.

**CPF** funds have been used to purchase 5.4 acres on East Lake Drive (#16).

**EH Airport** - next discussion will be on environmental issues and will take place at Town Board meeting on 7/6

**BOEM** - Comment period opened on 4/30 regarding Revolution Wind Project and will continue until 6/11.

**Town COVID update** - In person masked meetings are now permitted by the Town. After discussion, members agreed that MCAC meetings will continue via Zoom until September. **COVID Vaccine:** A POD at the Playhouse will be dispensing second dose Pfizer vaccines and first dose Moderna vaccines to walk ins.

**Special Events Committee** has received an assembly permit application from the Montauk Artists' Association to conduct an Arts Fair on 8/13-15 on the Green for a maximum of 55-60 vendors. Members are supportive, as is the Chamber. **Senior Programs Center** - in person programs are reopening.

**Montauk Skate Park - fundraiser** will take place Saturday, 6/12 from 1-5 pm. J. Britton reported that skate decks painted by children will be auctioned via an online charity auction.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm upon motion of J. Chimples, seconded by L. Creegan.

**The next meeting will be on July 12, 2021 at 6pm via Zoom.**