

MONTAUK CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 10, 2023

**Attendance:** 17 present (32 members)

**Members Present:** L. Barnds, T. Berger, T. Byrne, J. Chimples, R. Cortell, C. Cortese, L. Cortese, T. Creel, B. Grimes, D. Hausman, J. Iacono, L. Michaels, S. Sennfelder, L. Siedlick, R. Silver, M. Tripp, M. Waterman

**Members Absent:** D. Ceva, L. Creegan, L. Daunt, T. Flight, J. Fowkes, D. Freudenthal, A. Harris, J. James, S. Kalimnios, D. Monahan, P. Monte, K. Tyler, K. Weiss, R. Weiss, C. Yula

**Guests:** Dr. Todd Griffin (Stony Brook Medicine), Tim Brown (Stony Brook Medicine), Barbara Jo Howard (Stony Brook Medicine), Dermot Hickey, Richard Whalen, Robert Whalen, Tom Ruhle, Sarah Ludicone (Playhouse Foundation), Tom Bodgan, Denise DiPaolo (Director, Montauk Library)

**Board Liaison:** David Lys

The meeting was called to order and the **Minutes** of the June meeting were adopted, upon motion by L. Barnds, seconded by J. Chimples.

**Stony Brook Medicine Presentation: Dr. Todd Griffin, Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs and VP for Clinical Services for Stony Brook Medicine**, provided an update on physician hiring efforts for the East End. He said they had recently recruited a total of 34 physicians (for North and South Fork), including a Primary Care physician for Montauk/Amagansett who will start in September. A new person has just started at the “EH Walk In”. Search for medical care professionals is nationwide using head hunters. The pay here is in the 90th percentile for Primary Care. They recognize key challenges in staffing for the East End: they need to create a pipeline of health care professionals who can deal with the “summer surge”; and they need people “from the area”. Therefore, they are looking at SB Med School and focusing on recruiting local students, including SH and SB Family Medicine and Emergency Department residents, in November/December when they commit for their next jobs. The offers include immediate housing for the three-month summer surge. They are looking at Nurse Practitioner graduates who need two years of supervised work (“NP Fellowships”) and try to pair them with doctors. Lack of housing is acknowledged as the main obstacle to hiring. To address that, they are offering a stipend for the first two years, access to a no-money-down house loan from a partner bank, and a “landed program” with investor assistance for home purchase. They need help from the Town of East Hampton for lower paid health care workers (other than MD, DO and NP). For each doctor, 4-5 staff is needed. SH College campus is a potential housing site.

**Montauk health care** - The plan is to have three doctors for Montauk/Amagansett with a primary care provider in Montauk every day. They also plan for a surgeon to visit Montauk once a week to consult on post-op care and a cardiologist. Asked about quality of care at SBSH (historically not good), Dr. Griffin responded that there are more full time faculty and oversight capability now and they are able to send patients to SB, as needed. He acknowledged that communications with the community is lacking and they plan to meet with locals in fora like this one. He introduced Tim Brown, the new Chief Communications and Marketing Officer, and closed by saying that “we are committed to the North and South Fork”.

Dr. Griffin can be reached at [Todd.griffin@stonybrookmedicine.edu](mailto:Todd.griffin@stonybrookmedicine.edu)

**Community Organizations:**

**Playhouse:** J. Iacono invited all to participate in “Ocean Swim” on 7/23 at 6:30 am at Ditch. Sarah Ludicone invited all to attend the pool groundbreaking on 8/2 at 10:30 am and announced that D. Lys has joined the Building Committee.

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**Montauk United:** T. Bogdan announced that Montauk United will be sponsoring a Meet the Candidates event at the Fire House on Sunday, 10/1 3-4:30 pm with three moderators to ask questions that are submitted in advance. No questions from the floor will be entertained.

### Old Business:

**Airport Subcommittee Report:** T. Creel reported that the Town appeal of the TRO and the contempt ruling are ongoing. D. Lys reported that, to date, no fines have been levied against the Town. Note: T. Bogdan (a named plaintiff in the litigation) withdrew from the room before this discussion.

**Beach Subcommittee** - R. Cortell reported that raking is taking place twice a week at the guarded beach areas. D. Hausman said that Navy Beach has been raked and is beautiful. J. Chimples thanked D. Lys for the sand at Ditch, to which D. Lys responded that the Town has stockpiled sand for use as needed at Ditch. **FIMP update:** The Town was unable to get the needed 19 property owners at Surfside to agree to easements. ACOE said no sand at Benson Reserve. **Litter:** R. Silver asked for more "carry in/carry out" signs at beach entrances and at the overlook. D. Lys said they didn't want to remove bins now. He said the matter should be handled by the Litter Committee and probably need to wait until Spring to make changes.

### Councilperson's Liaison Report:

**Beach Safety** - D. Lys called attention to the Town press release regarding sharks and rip currents. Lifeguards are trained to handle these. There have been sightings of Portuguese Man o' War and sharks, but no medical assistance has been needed yet, although there were two rescues this week, and drones have been requested (\$1 million) to spot these.

EHPD handled 925 events between 6/30 and 7/10, including 27 arrests and one terrorist driving an Uber with outstanding Federal warrant. Two weeks ago, there was a hearing re: change to real property tax code to reduce taxes for first responders after 2 years versus the current 5 years.

**Upcoming Town Board Agenda Items:** Agenda items for this week include discussion of Benson Reserve habitat restoration to native species with mechanical removal of some and potentially goats; Underwater lease sites being examined; Shellfish poaching fines to be increased. This week's Town Board Work Session (11am) will cover HVAC for the Senior Center, food scraps pilot program, Land Management Plans, Forests of EH (losing beach forest due to deer browse). Chapter 255-111 of Zoning Code changes discussion of what has happened since the Comprehensive Plan (which drives all zoning per State law), CARP and Hamlet Plans. All of these must be integrated and in sync. C. Rogers will attend September MCAC meeting to discuss this.

**Napeague Southern Pine Beetle Update:** D. Lys has been in touch with the State officials. There is concern about the impact on long eared bats (endangered species) who live there. Trees won't be removed - they are quarantined. But there is a risk that the dead trees will fall and injure walkers, cyclists, motorists or obstruct the narrow roadway - this is a safety issue. The area is under the jurisdiction of the DOT, MTA and State Forests. L. Michaels noted that some in MFD believe a controlled burn is appropriate.

**Q&A:** L Michaels asked that there be a stop work order imposed on the second house being built on East Deck property since there is no survey on file showing a house. L. Cortese emphasized the importance of action to prevent overdevelopment we are seeing that is "eating away at our hamlet." He urged members to support Zoning Code changes. T. Creel asked that the Town lawyers argue against imposition of contempt fees by judge in airport litigation. There is no Wastewater update.

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**New Business:** None

The meeting adjourned upon motion by L. Barnds, seconded by J. Chimples.

The next meeting will be on Monday, August 7 at 6pm. Location TBA.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcy Wilkov Waterman