

MONTAUK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Montauk Playhouse

August 2, 2021

Attendance: 14 present (38 members)

Members Present: J. Allen, L. Barnds, R. Cortell, C. Cortese, L. Cortese, L. Creegan, T. Creel, J. Evans, D. Hausman, P. Monte, R. Silver, M. Waterman, R. Weiss, C. Yula

Members Absent: B. Akin, T. Berger, J. Buklad, D. Ceva, J. Chimples, S. Conway, H. D'Agostino, L. Daunt, D. Freudenthal, B. Grimes, A. Harris, B.J. Howard, J. James, S. Kalimnios, D. Monahan, J. Murtha, T. Ries, S. Sennefelder, L. Siedlick, E. Steck, K. Tyler, M. Tripp, K. Weiss, Z. Zweig

Guests: EHPD Chief M. Sarlo, Ken Walles, Dan Stavola, Julia Stavola (VP MVA), Theresa Eurell (President MVA), Bozena Krasnicki, Brian Harris (MBOA), Kate Rossi-Snook (CCOM), John Madere, Mary Marmurowski, Jane Bimson (EH Star), Laura Michaels

Board Liaison: David Lys

Minutes of July 7, 2021 meeting were tabled due to lack of quorum.

Community Organization - Montauk Village Association: MVA President Theresa Eurell stated that something has to be done about the garbage in Montauk. MVA was founded 60 years ago for beautification, tending to flowers and trees in the village. Clean up has become very expensive (\$30,000 in March) and MVA has not been able to conduct its annual fundraiser in 2020 and 2021. Mickey's crew has been doing volunteer weeding once a week because there are no funds to pay. Garbage is out of control; a long-standing chronic problem, it is an embarrassment to the community and business owners are not cleaning up around their property. A lengthy discussion followed with participants proposing more frequent pick up, outsourcing to a private garbage collector, initiatives to raise awareness of and enforce Code requirements that an owner of property fronting the street clean daily, and removal of garbage cans from beach entrances. D. Lys said that he has recognized the big garbage problem and has asked Enforcement Officer K. Cooper to start enforcing the Code requirements. There is now a weekend crew and Highway Department people can help. Special Events permits can add clean up requirements. Chamber outreach to businesses is important, as was done in the past. D. Lys agreed that the Town should do a PR campaign about garbage.

Despite a lack of quorum, a vote was taken on the following motion proposed by J. Allen and seconded by L. Barnds:

RESOLVED, that the Montauk CAC asks the Town to remove all garbage cans from 6 Town ocean-facing beaches and road ends, including Ditch, Kirk Park and South Edison. Signs telling people to carry in/carry out should be posted at these locations. P. Monte voted against the motion; all other members present voted in favor.

Chief M. Sarlo Presentation: Chief Sarlo reported that all Town safety and Code enforcement groups are short staffed right now due to retirements, disability and unavailability of new recruits (Suffolk County police academy had no graduates last year and the first class will graduate in October). The EDPD is down 11 officers. TCO's are down from 15 to 7 Town-wide. Weekend nights are manned by police on overtime pay. Calls for service are up year-over-year, many of which are noise complaints. Safety must come first; quality of life issues must take second place. The Town simply cannot manage the large day tripper volume in Montauk and gets no revenue as a result of all the visitors. Visitor behavior is bad, so many don't respect our community. There are too many people coming here. The Town is working hard to address noise and garbage.

In response to questions, Chief Sarlo acknowledged that the beach fire situation should be revisited; said it is not possible to recreate the 2015 joint task force because County and

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State law enforcement are also short staffed, so no one can help us; expressed frustration with the SLA regs and licensee turnover; and opined that the Town should opt out of permitting marijuana, in part because it is not possible to test for DWI, and should ban all smoking of any kind on Town streets and parks. He said the police are rotating through Montauk and people should call the police desk and ask for a supervisor if the police are not responsive.

Old Business:

Beach Subcommittee Report- R. Cortell said we clearly need more boots on the ground, but there are none. It has been suggested that the Town consider banning beach fires altogether or making motels responsible for them.

Liaison Report: D. Lys reported on the current state of COVID testing, positivity and vaccination in the Town. Hearings continue on the EH Airport. Vandalism at the Ditch comfort station continues to be a problem and it may be closed between 11pm and 4am. Some members agreed. The Town Board is aware that there is a need for more revenue to address quality of life issues created by overcrowding and is looking into options for generating non-taxable revenue.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm upon motion of J. Allen, seconded by L. Cortese.

The next meeting will be held on Zoom on September 13, 2021 at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Wilkov Waterman