

WAINSCOTT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Meeting of August 6, 2022

Members of the committee:

Jose Arandia
Dennis D'Andrea
Hersey Egginton
Barry Frankel
Pamela Mahoney
Barry Raebeck
Bruce Solomon
Sally Sunshine

Excused Absence:

Carolyn Logan Gluck, Chair
Lori Anne Czepiel
Anthony Liberatore
Philip Young

Invited Speaker: Daniel Osborn, Update on Water Hook-up Litigation

Members of the Public:

Deirdre Daly
Barbara D'Andrea, Wainscott Sewing Society
Sara Davison, Friends of Georgica Pond
David Fink, WCAC Chair Emeritus
Leonard and Fleur Harlan
Si Kinsella
Susan Macy, WCAC Co-chair Emeritus
Michael Mahoney
Lois Sachs
Christine Sampson, EH Star

Barry Frankel, substituting for Carolyn Logan Gluck as chairperson, called the in-person meeting to order at 9:10. Introductions of WCAC and attendees.

The July Meeting Minutes were approved.

Dan Osborn, a local attorney who initiated a class action law suit on behalf of Wainscott residents who incurred expenses connecting to the Suffolk County Water Authority water mains on March 2018, updated the Committee on the progress of the suit.

- The case was initially filed by Mr. Osborn in Riverhead County Court against the Town of East Hampton, 3M and DuPont, then transferred to NC as part of a multi-district litigation totaling 291 cases. The Court has identified three “bell weather” cases to be heard in 2023, which will be used as examples to lead to negotiations in the remaining cases.
- Regarding damages, the DEC issued a consent decree to East Hampton Town to clean up the contamination. The Town subsequently brought an action against the fire fighting foam manufacturers and East Hampton Village whose fire department used the foam repeatedly in training exercises. These actions can continue during and post any judgement against EHT regarding payments. Monitoring wells need to be installed at the Superfund site and monitored before remediation can commence. A question was raised whether Authority water is able to filter out PFOAs and PFOSs found in the ground water. No clear answer. Authority itself doesn't test wells for PFAS. The Committee will bring it up with our Town Board liaison Councilwoman Sylvia Overby in September.

Mr. Frankel gave Ms. Overby's monthly report to the Committee. On the pending airport litigation, he reported that there are multiple law suits and motions waiting on Judge Baisley or the FAA to rule.

- There is an indeterminate time frame. A question was raised about the validity of the FAA and Town proceedings being superseded by these restraining orders. It was reported by Barry Raebeck that Peter Wolf, an attorney with the Committee to Stop met with Supervisor Van Scoyac and reported that there was no apparent path forward. Given the outstanding questions, it was recommended that the Town Attorney be asked to appear before WCAC.
- It was reported that all airport operations in all categories are down versus '21. Helicopter traffic was down by the smallest margin of all aircraft categories. It was asked if these statistics are valid? Given the outstanding questions, it was recommended that Airport Manager Brundige be asked to appear before the WCAC.

Mr. Frankel noted from Ms. Overby's monthly report that there is an increase in Covid hospitalizations in Southampton and Stony Brook. It was noted by the residents attending that there are limited sites for COVID vaccinations. This question was posed to Ms. Overby post the meeting and will be explored at the September meeting in person.

Mr. Frankel noted from Ms. Overby's monthly report the Town Planning Department's proposal to add stop signs at the north/south intersections on Town Line Road as well as proposed new regulations on parking at the beach terminus of the road. The proposal recommends 3-way stops at each intersection. The Committee was in favor of the stop signs, with the exception of one on the northbound side of Town Line Rd. at Hedges Ln. due to its proximity to the stop at the Main St. intersection, and the turn-around. An additional one way stop sign was suggested by a resident at Wainscott Hollow Rd. where it meets Town Line Road. Ms. Overby reported after the meeting that this sign would require additional legislation and a hearing. The Committee was not in favor of installing sidewalks. There was a request to see a more detailed beach parking and turn around plan.

Mr. Frankel passed along a request for flush-to-the-ground monuments noting the LGBTQ history at the former Swamp at Del Mastro Park. All were in favor.

The Committee discussed the Maidstone Gun Club lease renewal. The lease (current lease is \$100/yr for 100 acres) renewal is approaching in 2023. Issues surrounding the lease renewal include fair market value, noise, use by a private club, and concerns about possible lead contamination. Councilwoman Overby's report included the information that multiple Town,

Village, and neighboring community police officers and ESU units practice at the club. Reported usage is 50 or more times a year by these authorities. Concern was expressed about the club's environmental impact (it is on an aquifer); its use of public land; and the noise pollution. Other than a sundown to 9 am curfew, the club is open 365 days a year with no rules or restrictions. A question asked about who will pay for assessing and remediating any contamination. Consideration was asked of a new indoor facility for necessary police training. However, a countervailing view was also presented. It was reported that there are 1500 members comprising wide numbers of EHT and neighboring community residents. And, that the risk of lead bullets seeping into the ground is low. The consensus appeared to be: (1) assessing if there is contamination, (2) considering reducing the size of the property used by the Club and returning the remaining property to its natural state, (3) considering an indoor facility to help compensate for the above as applicable, and (4) negotiating a more market-based lease.

Pam Mahoney reported that the ARB had 2 applications pending: the first, a 10,000 sq. ft. reconstructed barn on the front of the Lauder property, to be set back set back 160' from Beach Lane; and the second at 98 Beach Lane, requesting a new foundation, elevating the house according to revised FEMA requirements.

Jose Arandia reported that Wainscott Commercial Center ('the pit') application before the Planning Board is still deemed incomplete. Hersey Egginton led a discussion about the Town litter committee initiative on which he is a member representing the WCAC. It was suggested asking local radio stations, LTV and local press to support efforts.

Mr. Frankel read Andy Drake's written responses to questions about the Southern Pine Beetle infestation. Given remaining questions, it was asked if a Town expert could attend the next meeting.

The Route 114 Community Housing Project was reviewed. The project address, 776-780 Route 114, is within the Wainscott School District. The project development is 8.5 acres in total with 50-60 1-bedroom rental units to be built by the Town and operated by the EH Housing Authority. A question was raised about the 1-bedroom plans; some families may need 2-bedroom housing. A suggestion was made to create pathways to ownership. And, is the lottery pool coming from the State or East Hampton Town. These questions were posed to Ms. Overby post the meeting and will be reported on at the next meeting.

The Wainscott Sewing Society's annual rummage sale will be on Saturday, August 20 at Wainscott Chapel. A question was asked about the possibility of resurrecting the incorporation of Wainscott.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55.