

MONTAUK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 20, 2021

Via ZOOM

Attendance: 30 present (38 members)

Members Present: B. Akin, J. Allen, T. Berger, D. Ceva, J. Chimples, S. Conway, R. Cortell, C. Cortese, L. Cortese, L. Creegan, T. Creel, J. Evans, D. Freudenthal, B. Grimes, A. Harris, D. Hausman, B.J. Howard, S. Kalimnios, R. Monahan, P. Monte, S. Sennfelder, R. Silver, E. Steck, M. Tripp, K. Tyler, M. Waterman, K. Weiss, R. Weiss, C. Yula, Z. Zweig

Members Absent: L. Barnds, J. Buklad, H. D'Agostino, L. Daunt, J. James, J. Murtha, T. Ries, L. Siedlick.

Guests: Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc, Councilperson Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Kate Rossi-Snook (CCOM)

Board Liaison: David Lys

Minutes of July and August 2021 meetings were adopted on motion of J. Allen, seconded by R. Cortell.

Community Organizations: Kate Rossi-Snook of **CCOM** presented on water quality testing results. Discussion focused on possible causes of high levels of Enterococcus in Fort Pond Bay and the need for further monitoring. **Chamber of Commerce** reported that the Fall Festival will take place October 9-10 and that the Farmers' Market will continue on Fridays.

Old Business:

Airport Subcommittee: T. Creel reported that the Subcommittee believes the draft diversion study prepared for the Town Board was "useless" because it contained no "real world" evidence that can only be obtained by speaking with airport users. Supervisor Van Scoyoc agreed, as did D. Lys and K. Burke-Gonzalez, that input from users was needed. An earlier MCAC resolution called for an opportunity to review diversion study drafts before anything is deemed final. That request was reiterated. Supervisor Van Scoyoc agreed to continue to keep MCAC advised. In response to a question about whether the Town might purchase the Montauk Airport, the Supervisor said that nothing is off the table, including the possibility of exercising eminent domain powers. He does not want to do anything that changes the quality of life in Montauk. He wants to be careful to understand unintended consequences.

Upon motion by T. Creel and seconded by E Steck, and after extensive discussion, the following was adopted by vote of 29 in favor and 1 abstention:

MCAC asks that, in reaching any conclusions regarding where aircraft diverted from closure of the EH Airport would likely go, the Town Board collect and consider real world evidence from airport users, including bookers such as Blade, pilots and travelers.

Supervisor Van Scoyoc said that he knows the future of the East Hampton Airport is important to Montauk and that he does not want to create a problem in another part of the Town when addressing problems at the airport. This is an ongoing process and the Supervisor said that the Town Board will not make a rush decision. Members were urged to submit written statements to be part of the record.

Upon motion by T. Creel and seconded by S. Kalimnios, and after extensive discussion, the following was adopted with 24 voting, 18 in favor, 5 opposed and 1 abstention:

MCAC asks that a public, in person hearing be held before any action is taken on how or if operations at the EH Airport will change after the FAA grant assurances expire.

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Beach Subcommittee: R. Cortell noted that, although the Subcommittee had been assured early in the year that there would be boots on the ground to enforce the Code on the beaches this summer, the Town was, in fact, understaffed. Clearly, the Town needs to allocate more funds for enforcement and education. D. Lys said that the budget was increased for beach cleaning but staffing was the problem. The Supervisor said that the Town really needs to find non-property tax revenue to support needs like these. The MCAC had asked the Town to remove trash cans from ocean beach entrances, that did not happen and the Town Board has decided to do outreach communications for next year. **Beach fires** have continued to be a very big problem and R. Monahan noted that no summonses for violations had been issued in Montauk. The Supervisor said he would look into whether any fines had been levied for beach fires in Montauk. There was discussion about whether to limit fires to specific times and areas, what role motels can/should play and who can enforce the rules. The Beach Subcommittee will have another meeting and make more recommendations.

Councilperson's Liaison Report: D. Lys reported that with the end of the season, beach bathrooms will close at the end of September. The Seaview legal case regarding public access to **"truck beach"** has ended, but the Town Board believes use of beaches is a public right and intends to continue to fight against privatization of the beach. Use of eminent domain powers is not off the table. The **skate park** has raised more than \$1 million and the Town Board wants to go out to bid on construction in early spring with a plan to complete the work during the summer. There has been wide community support for the project. D. Lys shared a design rendering and there was discussion about the plans. **Cell service survey** results will be presented at tomorrow's Town Board meeting and they will be looking at updating cell infrastructure in the Town. Other items before the Town Board include South Lake Drive runoff, increasing the size of two Town pump out stations, upgrading West Lake comfort station (RFP is going out). Upcoming events include Energize EH webinar (9/30) and Car Free Day LI (9/22). A draft **budget** for the Town will be out soon and must be adopted by November 20. The public hearing will be held on November 4 and adoption is expected on November 18. **South Fork Commuter Connection**, including "the last mile" link, is operational again. **COVID** positivity rates have been high over the past week: 12% of tests (of 1200) in East Hampton and 14% of tests (roughly 400) in Montauk according to the Town's vendor in those locations. The Town is working on getting more vendors and testing sites. Lisa Valcich has encouraged the Town to donate three unusable cars to the Montauk Fire Department for heavy rescue training.

There will be a hearing on historic designation of the **Carl Fisher House** (44 Foxboro Road) which is being purchased by the Town from CPF funds.

Upon motion by J. Chimples and seconded by A. Harris, the following was approved with 19 voting (*not a quorum*), 18 in favor and 1 abstention:

MCAC supports the Town's acquisition and preservation of the "Carl Fisher House" and favors historic designation of the site.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm upon motion of R. Cortell, seconded by S. Sennefelder.

The next meeting will be held on Zoom on October 4, 2021 at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Wilkov Waterman