



## **BRIDGEHAMPTON CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)**

### **Draft with Julie's changes 1-31-16**

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>  
Bridgehampton National Bank Meeting Room on Snake Hollow Road

**CALL TO ORDER:** The incoming Chairperson, Pamela Harwood, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**ATTENDEES:** Pamela Harwood, Carey Millard, Jenice Delano, Peter Sughrue, Rich Cachion, Karen Cachion, Nancy Walter-Yvertes, Peter Feder, Walter Miller, Joan Miller, Sebille van Kempen, Julie Burmeister.

**GUESTS:** Tom Neely, Southampton Town Superintendent of Traffic and Safety; Dennis D'Andrea, Wainscott CAC; Steve Kotz, Editor of the Sag Harbor Express

### **Introduction by Pamela Harwood, Incoming Chair of the Bridgehampton CAC**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Housing and Commercial Development: The Strain on Bridgehampton's Infrastructure and Town Services**

Ms. Harwood reported that, beginning with the incredible pace of development in Bridgehampton starting 15-20 years ago, Southampton Town has received significant increases in property tax revenue. (The State-legislated tax cap limit of 2% was in effect only recently and, we believe, allows for exceptions.) She inquired whether or not, in return, the Town's expenditures for services and infrastructure in our hamlet has kept pace with increased development and resulting revenue? For example: has the Town proportionately increased expenditures and personnel for Highway Dept. services (especially snow removal, road repair and repaving, letter removal, Town parking lot maintenance, upkeep of drains to prevent road flooding), Parks and Recreation Dept services at Bridgehampton taxpayer-only beaches, Police Dept deployment to stop and ticket vehicles for moving violations like speeding, not stopping for waiting pedestrians at crossways, and distracted driving behavior like phone texting and talking?

The Town is allowing nearly uncontrolled residential development, with ever larger houses that accommodate more residents per home. Commercial development is also on the rise. On the other hand, is the Town allocating a proportionate amount of expenditure for the upkeep of Bridgehampton infrastructure and services to accommodate the additional residents, renters, and seasonal visitors these larger and more numerous homes and businesses have brought?

Town roads in Bridgehampton: How many more cars, buses, and trucks - many of them coming from outside of Southampton Town, such as from landscapers, plumbers, builders, repairmen, fuel maintenance and delivery, furniture delivery, UPS and Fed Ex delivery, Fresh Direct and Peapod delivery, to name just a few - are on the road to service the increased population? Doesn't this increased traffic create more wear and tear on our roads and are we budgeting to repair and resurface them at this increased rate?

Bridgehampton Traffic and Pedestrian Safety: how many injurious and fatal vehicle and pedestrian accidents have taken place in the last 5 years? Have initiatives to prevent these accidents kept pace with the increased traffic in Bridgehampton?

Bridgehampton Town resident beaches: access and amenities: We have lost parking spaces at Cameron Beach, for instance, and we lost the staircase, decking, and permanent concession and rest rooms that used to be on the decking which stood over the dunes. Unless you get to the beach by 10:30 am, you have a long wait for a parking space to become available. Even though there are federally mandated handicapped parking spaces at Cameron, the beach itself is not handicapped accessible, with a long hike from east to west over a hill of sand from the parking lot to the beach itself.

Is this situation at Bridgehampton beaches contributing to a lesser quality of life as well as the enormous increase in private pools that require much water heating fuel, and chemicals?

Bridgehampton water quality: how much more synthetic fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides are being used to maintain the lawns and landscaping of all the additional houses and commercial spaces? Has the Town considered banning synthetic - not organic - applications?

Increased attention to traffic safety by increased police presence to ticket moving violations:

Currently the young people who are given summer jobs as "traffic control" personnel are primarily focused on ticketing parked cars. They spend little time helping people to cross the street, are only stationed at the Candy Kitchen crosswalk and not at all pedestrian crossings. They are not allowed to ticket for moving violations like mobile phone talking while driving and other distracted driving behavior, or for speeding through our hamlet, driving without a license or with a suspended license, all contributors to traffic and pedestrian accidents. Most important, these traffic personnel are only deployed during July and August. Idea: should all the proceeds from car ticketing in our hamlet be designated for equal expenditures to increase traffic safety, improve roads, and clean up litter?

CPF Expenditures:

One attendee added that it is uncertain whether or not the Town of Southampton CPF spends as much money preserving land in Bridgehampton as it is receiving from the sale of homes in our hamlet. One of the reasons why there has been so much development in Bridgehampton is that, compared to other hamlets and villages, there was more farmland transferred (sold) from farmers to developers.

## 2. OLD BUSINESS

### **Pedestrian Crossings and Traffic Safety Plan –Updates**

A Meeting took place at the Hamptons Library in Bridgehampton on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 regarding this subject, with the following attending: NYS Assemblyman Thiele, Town Supervisor Schneiderman, Councilwoman Scalera, Councilwoman Glinka, Town Municipal Works Director Fetten, Town Police Chief Pearce, and DOT reps Hearn and Jones. Nancy Walter-Yvertes and Julie Burmeister represented the BH CAC. A letter was sent on January 8<sup>th</sup> by Thomas Neely, Town Director of Transportation and Traffic Safety, to the New York State Department of Transportation in Hauppauge, regarding his understanding that all Bridgehampton crosswalks are now under review for enhanced safety features. As per the previous BH CAC meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 other enhancements requested include tree pruning so that street lighting is not blocked, all crosswalks to be lighted, with motion sensors, as they are at the Hampton Library crossing, reduction of speed limit to 25mph between the school and the Commons, speed cameras.

Nancy Walter-Yvertes reported that she has been assured by Fred Thiele that we should expect state funding for the lighted crosswalks to be approved this spring. The Town can then proceed to schedule the work. The Town will also replace existing street lamp light bulbs with the brighter and more efficient LED's.

### **TJ Maxx Expansion and BH Commons – Update Nancy Walter-Yvertes**

A resolution to oppose the expansion was approved, a copy of which is attached.

### **Gateway PDD on Montauk Highway in Bridgehampton, across from the Commons**

A group has formed to voice concern about the impact the Gateway PDD will have on water quality in Kellis Pond. In a January 24, 2016 email to Amy Pfeiffer of the Town Planning Board, resident Bonnie Verbitsky expressed her shock that the public hearing on the project would be scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>, a time when so many tax-paying residents are away for the winter. She asked that the hearing be postponed until April, and was not successful in this request.

### **Bridgehampton Incorporation as a Village**

This topic is in an exploratory phase and there was no new report.

**Bridgehampton Taxpayer-only beaches:** following a discussion at last month's meeting about the loss of amenities and services over time at Cameron Beach, Tom Neely forwarded Peter Feder's email to Jon Erwin of the Parks and Recreation Dept. Mr. Erwin has not yet reached out, but Mr. Feder will pursue.

## 3. NEW BUSINESS:

- Snow Removal from Roads, Sidewalks, Town Parking Lots, Pedestrian Crossings, and Winter Road Repair:  
Report by Pamela Harwood:

Prior to the prediction of Saturday's snowstorm, Pamela Harwood contacted Alex Gregor, Superintendent of the Highway Department in Southampton Town, to attend our meeting so that he can share his strategies for snow removal and maintenance of our roads this winter. He declined to attend a BH CAC meeting until spring. However, he did invite Ms. Harwood to visit him at his office in Hampton Bays.

- Bridgehampton Fire District will demolish Pulver Gas Building and replant with grass by end-February. Our question is, why did they purchase the property, with taxpayer funds, if they do not need the space/land, as they claimed at the time of purchase?
- Suggestion of high speed rail service was discussed in a news article.
- Money laundering through shell companies and real estate development - we noted a January 14<sup>th</sup> *New York Times* article. Could this be happening in Bridgehampton by corporations buying luxury spec houses?
- Lack of adequate parking at Bridgehampton Citerella: Tom Neely, Director of Transportation and Traffic Safety, forwarded Julie Burmeister a copy of the June 28, 2012 resolution by the Town Planning Board to approve Citerella's site plan, signed by Dennis Finnerty, and advised that she get in touch with the Department of Land Management. Regarding the many customers, especially during the summer, who park on the north side of Montauk highway and then cross traffic to enter Citerella, he pointed out that parking along the highway is legal. However, a dangerous situation has developed. It is possible that no one anticipated the popularity that Citerella would enjoy, and so perhaps the parking situation should be reconsidered at this point.
- An email from a resident noted that the façade and landscaping at the Bridgehampton Post Office are not being maintained properly. We are uncertain of the identity of the landlord.
- **PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE FOR THE VACANT TOWN BOARD POSITION, TOMORROW JANUARY 26TH!!**

Submitted by:  
Pamela Harwood,  
BH CAC Chair  
February 3, 2016