

Bridgehampton Citizens Advisory Committee
Post Office Box 1650
Bridgehampton, New York 11932
cac@aboutbridgehampton.com
Fred Cammann, Chair - Tony Lambert Vice Chair - Richard Bruce, Secretary

MINUTES MONDAY JULY 27, 2009 AT 7:00
Bridgehampton Bank Meeting Room

1 Call to Order

2 Attendance: Present

Fred Cammann., Jenice Delano, Joan Frasier, Bob Frasier, Cathie Gandel, Leslie Kapon, Steve Long, Michael Kapon, Ian MacPherson, Christine Smith, Steve Steinberg, Peter Terry, Jeffrey Vogel, Peter Wilson

Excused:

Dick Bruce, Wendy Chamberlin, John Daly, Leonard Davenport., Whitney Fairchild, Tim Hampton, Shira Kalish, Phyllis MacPherson, Helene Mahoney, Jeffrey Mansfield, Georgia Rose, William Thayer

Guests:

Michael Robinson, Postmaster Bridgehampton Postal District

3 Approval of June 17, 2009 minutes

4. A Discussion with Mr. Robinson about the interaction with the public at the Bridgehampton Post Office.

The CAC wished to discuss the problem we face concerning the disposal of duplicate, unsolicited, and unwanted bulk mail from our mailboxes. We know that the Post Office is not suited to be a receiver of waste material, but frankly it is a real problem for our residents not to have a way of disposing of unwanted and unsought bulk mail. We understand that the post office itself has a limited amount of lobby space, but for all time, until recently, we have accommodated each other as neighbors and users facing a common problem. We would like to pursue with the Post Office a way of resuming a way of on premises disposal of unsolicited and unwanted bulk and third class mail without creating a mess in the Post Office lobby.

The CAC understands that some one of the community deposited a sandwich or some other unsuitable object in the disposal containers.

Mr. Robinson first introduced himself as the new Office in Charge of the Bridgehampton Post Office. He is a veteran of 30 years in the Postal service. His presentation was both instructive and interesting.

First of all Mr. Robinson said he was impressed with the staff in the Post Office, a sentiment shared by the members of the CAC. He then described the quandary that the Postal Service in general and the Bridgehampton Post Office in particular share.

Dating from before the present economic downturn, the Postal Service has endured a profound decrease in the quantity of first class mail, resulting in a sliding source of revenue. The increasing abundance of commercial advertising mail, periodicals, and other bulk mail has become the main source of income for the Postal Service. Indeed generators of this class of mail have been offered large incentives to increase the volume by the National Postal Service. A resulting problem is that in districts that do not enjoy home delivery but require customers to pick up mail from their local post offices, there has arisen a severe problem of disposal of unwanted bulk mail. Part of the quandary is that a large proportion of the mail in question is unsolicited by the recipients and a large portion consists of duplicate pieces of mail. Obviously recipients have no incentive to carry this material home and burden their own trash containers.

The Bridgehampton Post Office premises offer limited space for the sorting and disposal of this mail; hence the Post Office has taken steps to severely restrict the on premises sorting and disposal of unwanted piece by the members of the hamlet

The members of the CAC were quite sympathetic to the disposal problem, but it is their opinion that the responsibility for maintaining a clear and clean environment rests on the shoulders of the Postal Service, including providing adequate disposal facilities. The CAC feels that the problem is self inflicted since the Postal Service encourages the volume of unsolicited and unwanted bulk mail in order to improve its balance sheet. In other terms the Postal Service has created its own “attractive nuisance” and can request assistance from its public clients in resolving the issue, but the facts remain that the responsibility for solving the problem remains squarely in the Postal Service’s court.

On the other hand the CAC understands fully the quandary and will pursue the issue with the Southampton Waste Management Department, asking that the town furnish adequate disposal and pickup service to rectify the problem. In fact during the week following the July CAC meeting, members did meet with the Waste Management Department on this issue and received an agreement that the Town would “see if they could help”.

5. Mrs Quimby sent the CAC an email concerning the general problem of trash disposal in the town and particularly the hamlet. The CAC enthusiastically approved her comments and asks for the Town’s cooperation in publicizing the solution to proper trash disposal.

In general Mrs. Quimby points out that the trash problem gets worse every year. For example, Starbucks reports that increasing amounts of household garbage are hoisted in their bin and stuffed in their trash cans. Apparently there is an ordinance against this dumping in East Hampton, but there is not a similar one in Southampton.

In addition, the town does a poor job of educating people about the use of the transfer station on the Sag Turnpike. Every new and old homeowner should be given a roll of bags and directions to this transfer station, including the schedule and hours that the station is open. .

Purchasing the bags can be a nightmare because there is little in the way of convenient ways to learn **where these bags can be purchased**. Indeed merchants are penalized for carrying them in stock and presenting them for public sale because the commercial stores are not allowed to offset the cost of stocking and selling the bags. As a result the bags are regularly stored in areas that are out of the normal shelf traffic, in many cases making it difficult for the public to find them. There is no rational reason why a merchant should have any interest in carrying and selling these bags, and it is crazy that they are not available for sale at the transfer station. No wonder frustrated members of the community resort to dumping.

6. 5. Old Business

At our last meeting we discussed the need for a stop sign on Norris Lane to slow down cars that are taking a short cut to Sag Harbor. Councilwoman Nancy Graboski says a public hearing at the Town Board meeting will be held in mid August to deter speeding cars and utility vehicles. This week the CAC received a similar request from residents on Lockwood Avenue . This is being used as a bypass to avoid the Monument light going East. Big trucks and speedy cars. Lots of bypass trouble. More generally, the CAC feels we need MUCH more police presence on the roads in Bridgehampton . The CAC requested the chair to ask Supervisor Kabot to request a Police Department Official to meet with the CAC at its August 24 meeting to discuss our concerns about the coverage devoted to traffic safety in our hamlet and on the neighboring roads.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Frederic Cammann, Chairman Bridgehampton CAC

The next meeting of the Bridgehampton CAC will be on Monday August 24 at 7:00 PM at the Bridgehampton Bank Meeting Room.