

**Draft copy of September 9th, 2013 Minutes of  
Water Mill CAC  
Minutes are not official until reviewed by  
WMCAC members and approved at next scheduled meeting  
Web site-[www.ourwatermill.org](http://www.ourwatermill.org)**

Members present: Rachel Verno, Marlene Haresign, Joe Krajewski, June Morris, Gloria Rabinowitz, Steve Abramson

Guests: Deborah Marshall and Randy Hendler

The minutes of August were approved as written.

**DEBORAH MARSHALL and RANDY HENDLER:**

Deborah is in the process of writing a script and plans to shoot a film in Water Mill. She and Randy asked to attend our meeting to give us a brief description of their project.

**DISCUSSION OF LAST MEETING:**

-The issue of storm water containment on farm fields was raised and the question of whether or not a law pertaining to this issue exists. There was discussion about MS4 legislation and whether State guidelines pertained to the Town of Southampton.

-As noted in last month's minutes, much of the information regarding the storm water abatement plan for Deerfield Road was incorrect. After speaking directly with Councilwoman Scalera and Christine Fetten, it has been confirmed that there is money in place for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 that will come from a County grant and matching Town money from a storm water management fund earmarked specifically for this plan. Any additional money would have to be budgeted for. DEC permits for Phase 1 are approved and bids have gone out and will be awarded this month. Designs for Phase 2 must be drawn up and then bids will go out. All work for Phase 2 will occur on Town controlled right of ways. The majority of work will take place in the Spring.

-Councilwoman Scalera and Christine Fetten will be out guest in October. (Our October and November meetings fall on holidays, so we will be scheduling a special meeting with dates to be announced).

**Note:** Since these minutes were taken, the next CAC meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, Oct 29.

**MATT LAUER HORSE FARM:**

-The second public hearing for additional labor housing was pushed to September 26th.

-According to various newspaper articles, this farm is up and running and horses are being stabled.

-Clare Vail confirmed that there is no CO for this farm and therefore, no horses should be housed there.

-Mike Benincasa was alerted to this fact.

**-This is another example of Town laws and codes being ignored.**

## **MADONNA PROPERTY ON SCUTTLEHOLE ROAD AND MITCHELL LANE:**

- A portion of the fencing on Scuttlehole Road has been removed, a road has been created and builder signs have been erected.
- The Town has confirmed that this is preserved farmland that was jointly purchased by the Town and County and no permission has been granted for the "construction road"
- The County has ordered a cease and desist letter to the owner.
- The Town has asked for the construction signs to be removed.
- The CAC feels that in order to prevent future abuses of existing Town laws whether they be illegally creating a construction road, demolishing buildings without permits, removing wetlands, clearing protected lands, etc. there needs to be much steeper fines to discourage such behavior. Currently the fines are so nominal, they become simply the cost of doing business. **The CAC suggests a fine that is a percentage of the actual construction costs.** If the Town is bound by how much they can increase a fine, there should be a discussion about how to change that. The idea that preserved farmland can be so blatantly abused with no repercussions should be unacceptable to the Town.

## **SHED LAW:**

- Discussion of the Supervisor's proposal to take away the permit process for residential sheds as defined in the Town code. All the rules regarding setbacks and size would still apply.
- The purpose of the resolution is to encourage people with illegal sheds to come into compliance with the new rental law without fear of being fined for an illegal structure.
- Additionally, the feeling is that the fees for a permit and survey are onerous for the average homeowner.
- CAC members did not agree with removing the process that would keep track of sheds. The feeling is that a 10x12x12 foot high structure is rather substantial and there should be a record of these structures.
- CAC unanimously agreed not to support the resolution in its current form. The members agreed with lowering or waiving permit fees and supplying applicants with a copy of their survey in order to alleviate the financial burden. Also agreed to a grace period for people with illegal sheds to come into compliance. However, the feeling is that there must be a record of sheds indicating appropriate size and setbacks.
- The CAC will submit a letter before the public hearing.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- The dumpster in the post office parking lot is now located half way into the right turn lane.
- There are numerous illegal signs advertising for businesses and properties for rent along the highway.
- It was suggested that the Trustees should put up a sign near the bend on Deerfield Road next to Artie Muller's house informing people of the laws

for fishing in Mill Pond.  
Minutes taken by Rachel Verno