

Water Mill CAC  
PO Box 880  
Water Mill, NY, 11976  
[watermillcac@gmail.com](mailto:watermillcac@gmail.com)

Minutes for September 11th, 2023

Minutes for August 14th, 2023 approved

Members: Rachel Verno, Karen Sutton, Steve Abramson, Gloria Rabinowitz, Marlene Haresign, Alan Harper, Jamie Egerton-Warbuton, Rik Kristiansson

Guests: Southampton Fire District Commissioner Roy Wines, Southampton Fire District Secretary Kristin White, Jesse Warren, Bob Burden, Olivia Motch, Jim Weidner, Joel Perlman, Eric Dever, Jay Herbert, Tsewang Motch, Tim Maran, Sarah Hunnewell, Jesse Wellen, John C. Higdon, Ben Olavarria, Johanna Halsey, Margery Freedman, Patti Halsey Wellen, Ed Kush

Guests on Zoom: Susanne Emmerich, Nancy Skulth, Jeffrey Bragman, Carol Finocchio, Robin Esterson, Judith Verno, Helen Verno, Winifred Phillips

#### MILL POND:

- Discussed fishery survey and carp harvesting.
- Chris Horvath from Solitude Lake Management gave a presentation at the August 21st Trustee Meeting. The meeting is online to view.
- Discussed that the permits for the lily pad harvesting from the DEC were not yet approved and not sure they will be obtained in time to meet this years deadline.
- Discussed Trustee project that was submitted regarding financing for an engineer study from McClean for a fish ladder between the culvert at Mill Creek and the culvert on Mill Pond at the railroad crossing. The CAC and Mill Pond Committee were unaware of this project. The project costs

\$174,000 for the engineer report. Unsure of what the cost would be to execute the plan.

-Discussed upcoming elections in November. There are ten Trustee candidates running. Water Mill will most likely have a new Trustee assigned to Water Mill.

-Will look into when Trustee debates are.

-Jesse Warren discussed Lake Agawam. DEC contact for Agawam, Rob Calarco and they used Roux Engineering for lily pad removal.

-Since our meeting, the lily pads have been harvested and there also appears to be activity on the Deerfield Road side of the pond.

### MILL CREEK PARK

-Marlene asked if any, covenants/protections have been put in place to protect future uses of the park. Are there any covenants in place from the CPF purchase of the property or will covenants be discussed when the park plan goes to public hearing. Specific concern that the park is protected in the future from being used for fundraisers, concerts, weddings etc. That is remains passive use.

-Olivia Motch asked whether revised plans addressing comments from the community will be presented by Chris LaGuardia at a future CAC meeting. CAC did not have an answer, but Rachel will contact Councilman Martel.

-CAC will put the park on the agenda for next month in hopes that Councilman Martel can answer some of these questions.

### CONE PROJECT ON LITTLE COBB

-Briefly discussed the project and will put this on the agenda for next month to discuss with Councilman Martel.

-Mention of the County's plan for a traffic study of CR39 and the newspaper article that stated widening RT 27 in Water Mill was a consideration.

### FIREHOUSE

-Commissioner Wines confirmed that the Fire District Commissioners are continuing to pursue this plan regardless of the community objections.

-The CAC had submitted a list of questions to the Commissioners that we are still waiting to be answered.

-Discussed alternative sites including Willow Road. Commissioner Wines and the other Commissioners have said this site is too small. CAC pointed out that the North Sea substation and the North Sea Firehouse are both on

similar sized properties so it is not clear why a substation could not work on that property.

- Continue to question why a substation needs 2 acres.

- Commissioner Wines repeated that the Fire District had two million dollars to spend and the property had to be 2 acres. The CAC feels this is a completely unrealistic guideline.

- When questioned about the design and size of the project, Commissioner Wines explained that the plans submitted to the Planning Board would be modified. This continues to be confusing for the community and the CAC since the plans being presented are for a full size firehouse, 4500sf with 40 parking spots. Still remains unclear why plans for an actual substation aren't being presented.

- Told the the traffic study the Planning Board requested will be done. Questioned whether it was being done off-season. CAC believes that the traffic studies need to be conducted at the height of the season.

- Still unclear why the North Sea Road property that the Fire District owns is not being developed instead of the Water Mill property. The North Sea Road property is more centrally located. CAC feels that the North Sea Road property would negate the need for a substation in Water Mill.

- One CAC member asked if the Water Mill firehouse was being used as leverage by the Fire District for future negotiations with the Fire Department. Commissioner Wines responded no.

- Commissioner Wines discussed the increased number of fires in Water Mill, he did not have exact numbers but said he would get them to the CAC. The CAC continues to question what studies exist to support this claim.

- The project continues to lack any support from the CAC and the surrounding community given the location in a residential area as well as the traffic and safety issues.

- This project does not have the support of the Southampton Village Fire Department.

- Much of the same groundwork was covered in this meeting. The meeting was recorded on Zoom.

Minutes taken by Rachel Verno