

EAST QUOGUE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (EQ CAC)

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2024

Bay Ave Marina Building, 7PM

Cathy Zambetti, Chair, called the meeting to order with 10 people in attendance. Cyndi McNamara, the EQ Town Board Liaison, was in attendance. All attendees introduced themselves and indicated their street of residence in EQ.

I. Guest Speaker: Jacqueline Fenlon, Community Preservation Fund, Director

We were pleased to have Jackie Fenlon, Director of the Community Preservation Fund (CPF), give a brief overview of the goals and objectives of the CPF. <https://www.southamptontownny.gov/188/Community-Preservation-Fund-CPF>

On June 22, 1998, Governor George E. Pataki signed state legislation enabling the five towns within the Peconic Bay region to establish a Community Preservation Fund (CPF) supported by revenues from a 2% real estate transfer tax. This historic and progressive legislation has given the Town of Southampton a powerful tool to achieve its long-standing farmland, open space, and groundwater protection goals. The Community Preservation Fund facilitates a completely voluntary program whereby landowners can sell their land or the development rights from the land to the Town of Southampton at fair market value.

The Community Preservation Department is responsible for the administration of the Town's land acquisition program. Though properties are often donated to the Town, they are most often purchased through the CPF. A CPF Advisory Board meets once a month, but meetings are closed to protect the confidential nature of the real estate transactions. The CPF evaluates properties based on three criteria: its open space, historical or cultural significance, and its environmental or water quality impact. Once a property is being considered for acquisition, a public hearing is held to elicit community input.

Ms. Fenlon explained the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Program which authorizes the Town of Southampton to use up to 10% of the annual fund revenue to make "Pilot" payments to special districts such as school, fire, fire protection, and ambulance districts where over 25% of the land in that district is exempt from real property tax due to its ownership by the state or other municipal corporation. The purpose of this payment would be to reduce the real property tax liability of the residents within the qualifying special district.

The Town Board of the Town of Southampton was granted authorization for the utilization of a specific portion, not exceeding 20%, of the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) towards projects aimed at enhancing water quality, commonly referred to as water quality improvement projects (WQIP).

Most recently, the Town Board of the Town of Southampton approved the establishment of the Town of Southampton Community Housing Fund (CHF) through a half-percent (1/2%) real estate levy.

For further information or questions about the CPF, please visit the Town of Southampton website or contact Jackie Fenlon, jfenlon@southamptontown.gov

II. Long Island Clean Energy Proposal

Ms. Zambetti distributed a request to present to the CAC from Cornell Cooperative Clean Energy Program. Please see the attached document.

III. Planning and Zoning Issues

No further actions have occurred for Bridge Petroleum, Serenity Fields, or Dockers proposals. Plans are underway to establish another community center in Westhampton.

Ms. MacNamara indicated that a proposal for replacing the playground in the EQ Village Green will be submitted as part of the Town's capital budget. More information to come.

IV. Other Business

The Summer Concert Series will be held on the 5 Tuesday evenings in July (7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30).

A poster for the East Quogue Summer Concert Series. The background is a photograph of a grassy field with trees and a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, the title "EAST QUOGUE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES" is written in a large, red, serif font. Below the title, the schedule is listed in blue and yellow text: "Every Tuesday in July at 7:00pm East Quogue Village Green", "JULY 9TH MEAN GENE - Rock", "JULY 16TH IRIS ORNIG featuring LAUREN KINHAN- Jazz", "JULY 23RD CC AND THE BOYS - Country", and "JULY 30TH SOUTHPAWZ - Youth Cover Band". At the bottom, it says "Rain Dates August 6th and 13th" and "Sponsored by the East Quogue Civic Assn, the East Quogue Chamber of Commerce and Southampton Town".

**EAST QUOGUE
SUMMER CONCERT
SERIES**

**Every Tuesday in July at 7:00pm
East Quogue Village Green**

JULY 9TH MEAN GENE - Rock

**JULY 16TH IRIS ORNIG featuring
LAUREN KINHAN- Jazz**

JULY 23RD CC AND THE BOYS - Country

**JULY 30TH SOUTHPAWZ - Youth Cover
Band**

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Commerce and Southampton Town**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next meeting: September unless otherwise noted.

Hello Ms. Zambetti,

My name is Augie Ruckdeschel and I am with the Long Island Clean Energy Hub, working out of Cornell Cooperative Extension Suffolk County in Riverhead. I see you are listed as the Chair for the East Quogue CAC. I was wondering if there was an opportunity to talk about the LI Clean Energy Hub at any upcoming CAC meetings. We are funded by the state (NYSERDA) to offer free educational assistance in the clean energy space to Long Island residents. Partners on the Hub include CCE-Nassau (lead agency), Hofstra, Molloy, United Way of Long Island, and Renewable Energy Long Island with my colleague Melissa Parrott (cc'ed)

Some quick background on the Hub:

LI Clean Energy Hub: An Introduction

The Long Island Regional Hub is a team of trusted, knowledgeable, community-based organizations in and from Long Island. We have experience with clean energy, [energy efficiency](#), workforce and economic development, education, [home weatherization](#), health, and housing. Hubs help and provide information to individuals, small businesses, and affordable housing owners about the benefits of the clean energy economy, ways to reduce energy use and costs, and how to make more informed energy decisions.

Our hub advisors can talk about:

- **FREE** home energy assessments, and why they may be useful;
- Clean energy and efficiency incentives for your home or business;
- Air source and Ground source heat pumps;
- Electric vehicles (EV), charging stations, and rebates;
- Installing rooftop solar or signing up for a local community solar program;
- Finding qualified contractors to perform clean energy upgrades; and
- Accessing job training and employment in the clean energy sector.

Please let me know if we can join you in-person or via zoom at any upcoming meetings. I would ask for about 15-20 minutes for presentation but can go shorter or longer as desired!

Thank you for your consideration!

Augie

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Cornell Cooperative Extension | Suffolk County

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