

Water Mill Citizens Advisory Committee
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Minutes for November 11, 2024

Members: Steve Abramson, Alan Harper, Jamie Egerton-Warburton, Rachel Verno

Guests: Lynn Arthur, Kara Bak, Curtis Highsmith, Dave Gallo, Allison Giosa, Joe Sanchez, Olivia Motch

This meeting was held on Zoom

Minutes for October 14, 2024 were approved

LYNN ARTHUR / LIPA VBA Surcharge

- Brief recap of the history of the VBA and the discrepancies Steve A had uncovered regarding the refinancing of the debt which went from 6% interest to 3%. These savings were not passed along to the ratepayers and when confronted with this information, LIPA eventually agreed to reduce the outstanding debt by 1.9 million applied to the back end of the loan, thereby reducing the term.
- Other annual charges for unpaid accounts (being charged to the ratepayers in connection to the VBA) are also being disputed.
- Lynn had given testimony and asked for this project to be part of LIPA's next self audit that they do every 5 years.
- Nick Forst, an attorney for the LI Public Service has finished his analysis and would like to meet in person to discuss his findings and make recommendations.
- CAC agreed this would be beneficial. Lynn will work with Steve A to find a date that works for everyone including Fred Thiele, Supervisor Moore, Deputy Supervisor John Ortiz and Jay Schneiderman.
- Lynn also gave an update on various grants and projects available to the Town and community.
- Town Hall will be installing solar panels.

EUPELL PROPERTY/AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

- Kara Bak, Curtis Highsmith and Dave Gallo gave a status report. The Town passed a resolution to purchase the property. The project is being turned over to the Town of Southampton Housing Authority and Curtis Highsmith. The Town will continue to oversee and be involved in the project. A RFQ was awarded to Dave Gallo and Georgica Green Ventures.
- Discussed the need for grant money, CHF will not be able to fund the entirety of the project. There may be some grant funding for environmental remediate.

- Questions about who would be eligible to live in the units and are there ways limit the lottery to local residents who work in the area.
- Fair Housing Laws will dictate eligibility regardless of who oversees the project and regardless of how it is financed.
- Discussed the fact that retirees who have worked in the town would also be eligible for units.
- Still early in the process, but the units will probably be rentals and 35 total.
- There are a number of projects Dave Gallo has both completed and is currently working on with the town of Southampton and Easthampton. The community is invited to take a look at them.
- There will be surveying etc. being conducted on the property in the upcoming months.
- As the process moves forward, Curtis would like to meet with the community and get their input.
- After the meeting, CAC members discussed the desire to keep the units limited to local residents who would be working in the area.
- Rachel contacted Kara after the meeting to clarify grants, retirees and eligibility.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 7-11 is officially taking over the Speedway Gas Station and changing all the signage. It does not appear that this needed to go before the Planning Board since 7-11 acquired the Speedway brand back in 2021 and owns the company.
- One guest asked if the Town could rescind its decision regarding to “opt in” to cannabis sales.
- Updated status of Rivian application at the patio.com location.
- Decided to invite Trustees Horowitz and Maran to our December meeting to discuss status of Mill Pond.
- No update on Mill Park.
- The Fire District Commissioners have advertised for the bid to demo the structure on Upper Seven Roads. There is no movement on their conversations with the SH Fire Department re the North Sea Road property. The Commissioners will raise the budget 2% which is allowable by law.
- Traffic Mitigation Committee has concluded their meetings. CAC discussed inviting the Supervisor, Councilman Iasilli, Tom Neely and Charlie McArdle to an upcoming meeting to discuss plans for Water Mill before they submit their report to the County.

Minutes take by Rachel Verno