

Hamton Bays Citizens' Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
September 19, 2024

In attendance: Colvin Cumberbatch ("CC"), Victoria Firemark ("VF"), James Mackin ("JM"), Michael McCullough ("MM"), Gail Shepard ("GS"), Christine Taylor ("CT"), Rick Martel ("RM"), Amy Schmersal-Paradise ("ASP"), Erin Spellman ("ES"), Sarah Doud (SD).

Missing:, Phillip Metzger, Linda Wells.

Guests: Cynthia McNamara ("CM") and Bill Pell ("BP").

GS opened the meeting at 7:0pm.

GS: Spoke to Michael Iassali about consultant with meeting with the Shinnecock Nation. There was some diplomacy with the Nation, asked to re-vegetate the road next to Quayle Run. The Town does not want to litigate with the Nation over the development.

CM: The Nation wants to build and CM agrees that the Nation should be allowed to do what they legally can do. Litigation will take years and will cost millions. The Nation has Federal funding and they are not going to change their plans. They are asking for a rubber stamp of their plans. The Town needs to know what they can do. Town retained an attorney in DC who knows Indian Law.

GS: Burial grounds behind Villa Paul.

CM: The Town Historian has said that no gravestones have been looked for on the Villa Paul property. The Planning Board is looking into this and has scheduled a hearing. The possible cemetery is possibly behind the lot behind Villa Paul. There is a cemetery on old surveys. There is a pre-submission session on September 26th. The CCC can send comments to the Planning Board thereafter.

GS: Parking in front of Rumba this summer. Gail will send a letter to Michael.

JM: Parking for the restaurant

GS: Sidewalk continuation.

CM: There is a budget for more sidewalk construction in the fall.

GS: The businesses in Hampton Bays needs more low-income housing.

CT: Affordable housing will not help with the trade parade.

GS: Nov 2. Disability applicant fair.

ES: Patternbook and downtown reconstruction.

GS: Code Enforcement. Can the complaints be anonymous?

CM: you can do that and go back and check the resolution.

GS: Heatherwoods owns the property behind Villa Paul.

MM: Made a motion to accept past meeting notes which was approved.

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GS: Traffic situation.

CM: Train will not help. The problem is bigger than the town.

ASP: Make Canoe Place Rd. one way southbound.

CM: Google Maps will allow people to find other routes.

CT: No commercial traffic on Montauk Highway.

JM: These are public roads and it's difficult to stop commercial vehicles.

SD: What about HOV?

CM: They increase traffic due to loss of one of the lanes. Mitigation is meeting on June 26th at 4PM. But there are no real solutions.

CT: Increasing access will bring more traffic.

GS: Bids on Bell Aire.

CM: Contract will be awarded at July 9th Meeting.

JM: Fence is wide open again.

GS: ON Monday, HB Civic is have a meeting with the Lisa, the Assessor. Are we going to 100% assessment for the entire town?

CM: It's on the table. We will know more when we go through the budget cycle. Homestead Tax is through the Assembly and Senate. Florida has this. If the home is your primary residence, then the taxes are frozen. This way full-time residents will not be affected.

CT: What are current assessments?

CM: It's at 62%. If everyone's assessment goes up, then the taxes don't necessarily go up. But, there are disparities in valuations of new homes. If the valuation goes up, the tax rate goes down, but you are still borrowing money.

SD: Why is Hampton Bays so expensive compared to other parts of the town?

CM: The school taxes are higher here.

GS: Why are the larger homes assessed at lower rates?

CM: The argument for re-assessment is to get the percentages in line.

CT: Can the tax brackets change to make the school taxes more equitable?

CM: This has been voted down when attempted in the past. It's hard to combine school districts.

JM: Commercial real estate taxes are low compared to residential.

CM: There is a recent work session where Lisa attended.

GS: Shinnecocks- are things at a stand-still?

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CM: Nothing is happening. The Appellate Division will be deciding on the billboards. That decision will the Town know what it can do and will let the State know about the off-ramp.

GS: Closed the meeting at 8:15pm.