

Hampton Bays Citizens' Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
June 20, 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"), Sarah Doud (SD).

Missing: Erin Spellman, Phillip Metzger, Linda Wells.

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

GS opened the meeting at 7:04pm.

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

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. Homstead 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.

Hampton Bays Citizens' Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

June 20, 2024

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?

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

GS: Sidewalks on Shinnecock Rd./Foster Ave.

CM: The Highway Department is marking and surveying sidewalks. Cyndi will talk to Bill and the Board about the cost and will get back to the CAC.

BP: There is a big difference between sidewalks and multi-use lane. The town would have to find more funding.

GS: Commercial properties that are using their space for residential

CM: Code Enforcement needs to receive complaints in order to act. It's difficult to enforce.

JM: End of Corywin Lane at the boat launch has pot holes.

BP: Will call Highway

CM: Some CAC's are not meeting in July or August.

GS: Will take a poll on July/August meetings.

GS: Closed the meeting at 8:15pm.