

Hampton Bays Citizens' Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes  
November 21, 2024

In attendance: Colvin Cumberbatch ("CC"), Victoria Firemark ("VF"), James Mackin ("JM"), Michael McCullough ("MM"), Gail Shepard ("GS"), Rick Martel ("RIM"), Erin Spellman ("ES"), Christine Taylor ("CT").

Missing:, Phillip Metzger, Linda Wells, Sarah Doud, Amy Schmersal-Paradise.

Guests: Ryan Murphy ("RYM"), Michael Iasilli ("MI"), Paula Godfrey ("PG").

GS opened the meeting at 7:02pm.

RYM: Discussed Code Enforcement. The department was a 5-day-a-week seasonal operation and has moved to a 7-day-a-week operation year-round. Also, the department is hiring. The department is now staffed with Spanish-speaking inspectors and call staff. In Hampton Bays, 147 violations have been issued this calendar year. 37 appearance tickets have been issued in the past 12 months. Code Enforcement Officers can only go to the front door. They can't look into windows. They can't look over a fence. Also, the anonymity feature on SOUTHAMPTON ONLINE SOLUTIONS ("SOS") system hinders officers from getting more information. Vehicle rules on property is one more car than the legal number of bedrooms. But, if there is an extra car then it's not going to be a violation. All Code Violations that are not safety and health violations require 30-days' notice for correction. Usually, you need two violations before the case goes to court.

RIM: What is the code acceptance on box trucks or large work trucks on residential property?

RYM: On trucks, if it's over 10,000 gvw then it can't be stored overnight on a residential property.

MM: What about Window coverings on commercial businesses?

RYM: The Town has issued 47 notices to businesses in Hampton Bays. Many business owners did not know the rules. Some of these cases have been dealt with voluntarily. Others will go to violation in January. Cyndi McNamara has done a great deal of outreach with business owners on these issues.

GS: Basement apartments are a fire danger and a risk for volunteer fire fighters. What can be done?

RYM: The Town is working on it. The definition of the nuclear family has changed, so people can justify having people with different surnames in a house. It's difficult to get a case through the court process, usually 18-24 months, so the Town tries for voluntary compliance.

GS: What about people living in houses under construction?

RYM: Building department usually enforces building permit issues. They are allowed to inspect the property under the permit. Code Enforcement will look into the case if it come to them.

GS: What about labor housing where the employees lives at a house owned by an employer?

RYM: That would be "boarding" situation. The Town allows boarding for two people in your home without a permit or inspection. But, the boarders must have full access to the house. If it's more than two people, then it could be a violation.

Hampton Bays Citizens' Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

November 21, 2024

GS: Town fines are too low. What can be done?

RYM: The Town has to be better than other places. Other places might not have had challenges to their codes. If the fine is over \$1000 then it is treated as a felony charge. Code Enforcement cannot issue felony violations.

MI: The lower end of the fine structure could be increased.

JM: Are there different levels of tickets that could be handled easier? Perhaps create a Code Court?

RYM: Tickets, summonses, and FAT's are all actual tickets to go to court. A Notice of Violation does not have a fine. Notice of Violation can be effective. There is not a separate court in the Town for Code Violations. The cases go to the Town Court with all other Town violations. Egregious violations or life or safety violations can go straight to summonses without a notice.

ES: There is a business on Main Street with U-Hauls out front.

RYM: This is being addressed.

GS: What about hedges that obstruct the view of drivers?

RYM: That's the Traffic Committee. But, it could be a Code Violation under certain circumstances.

GS: What about the Westwoods development?

RYM: A stop work order and charges were issued against the property owner and the contractor.

GS: Closed the meeting at 8:14pm.