

Water Mill Citizens Advisory Committee
PO Box 880
Water Mill, NY, 11976
watermillcac@gmail.com

Minutes for June 9, 2025

Members: Rachel Verno, Rik Kristiansson, Gloria Rabinowitz, Karen Sutton, Jamie Egerton-Warburton, Andrew Rouff (on Zoom)

Guests: Olivia Motch, Jim Weidner, GregTietjen, Kristin White, Nancy Miller (on Zoom), Helen Verno (on Zoom), Judith Verno (on Zoom)

Minutes for April 14, 2025 and May 12, 2025 approved

Various:

- Discussed scheduling conflict with the Flanders CAC. Their meetings are now scheduled for the same day of the month as ours. Councilmembers Martel and McNamara are co-liasons to Flanders. Not clear why the TB would chose to schedule CAC meeting on the same day. Water Mill and Flanders are the only two CACs that overlap.
- Comments about the proliferation of flags and sandwich board advertising for businesses in the hamlet. Additional comments about wanting to have businesses in the hamlet succeed. Is there a way to find a balance?
- New townhouses have CO and are occupied.
- Questions about the status of Mill Pond. CAC will email Trustee Maran for an Alum update.

Blinking Light Programs:

- Discussed afternoon pilot program on CR39, the cost, the manpower and the negative impact to the residents of the village and parents picking up kids at the Tuckahoe school.
- How do you balance the needs of the local residents and the desire to move traffic through the corridor? Same discussion pertains to RT 27 and to all the backroads.
- Are these plans, even if successful, financially viable? How much did this two week program cost? How much did the pilot program in Water Mill back in August 2023? What would the cost be for another blinking light program in Water Mill? What is the cost for closing Millfarm Lane in the morning?
- Instead of shutting down Town owned roads which then raises several issues including the use of taxpayer dollars for a small group of people, could “speed humps” be installed on certain back roads like Old Mill, Upper Seven and Little Cobb to both slow people down and make it somewhat uncomfortable if motorists chose to use these roads as alternatives to staying on the highway.
- If there is another blinking light pilot program in Water Mill this summer, will Old Mill Road be shut down and Little Cobb turned into 2 lanes heading east? Will data be collected? Will the Town study the impact to the new bagel/deli and the residents of the new condos without the ability to make a left out of Station Road? Will people start to use Nowedonah to make the left to head East? Residents and businesses should be part of any programs being proposed. There should be an equal emphasis on moving traffic for commuters and the people living and using the hamlet on a daily basis.

Final Draft of the Traffic Mitigation Report:

- No mention of speed limits in Water Mill despite asking for considering reductions on CR39 to 35mph and on RT27 to 30mph.
- No mention of speed monitors in Water Mill despite asking for consideration at both ends of the hamlet center.
- Name of Station Road misidentified.
- Only suggestion for Water Mill is the removal of the traffic light and installation of roundabouts.
- Discussed the possibility of introducing “speed humps” on certain roads. Reference to Sagaponack considering removing or relocating their speed bumps because of potential damage to the school building and the disruption to students.

Roundabout Proposal:

- Town Board approved resolution to send a letter to DOT requesting the roundabout project be added to the TIP list.
- The revised resolution included comments from Councilmember Martel regarding tributary roads and from Councilmember McNamara regarding the historic character of the hamlet.
- It is unclear what the process is for the “study” and the CAC will draft a letter to the TB requesting information explaining how this will work. Who is the letter is addressed to, who is point at the State/DOT, what engineering firm will be conducting the study, will the community be included in any part of the study prior to public hearings, will there be public hearings locally or only in Albany, etc..
- Members expressed concern that the DOT will make recommendations without community input and may just do whatever they feel will improve traffic. For example, if the DOT concludes that the highway should be widened to improve traffic flow, could that occur without community input.
- To that end, the CAC will invite the Water Mill Community Club and the Water Mill Village Improvement Association to a joint meeting to see if they want to work together and begin discussions about what the residents of Water Mill want to see happening in their hamlet. Are there key concerns, how should the hamlet function: a pass through or more of a hamlet similar to Bridgehampton with parking on both sides of the highway, lower speed limits, lighted crosswalks.
- The community should probably start to look at what they would like from the County, State and Town for the hamlet. Are there goals? Are there dream projects?
- Will the study the Town is asking for only address the roundabout proposal, albeit within the context of the corridor, or will there be any additional/alternative information that may address traffic and safety issues? Will the state be providing any alternative ideas for Water Mill or will this study be limited to the engineering and financing of roundabouts?

Minutes taken by Rachel Verno