

## CAC Meeting Minutes

**Group:** CAC

**Date:** Tuesday, January 6

**In Attendance:** David Nadal, Tom Neely, Michael Iasilli, Renee Marcin, Diane Sadowski, Lorraine Duryea, Maureen Curzio, Elaine Bodtmann, Skyler Arrasate

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### Call to Order & Pledge

- 6:30 pm Meeting was called to order.
  - Group stood and recited the **Pledge of Allegiance**.
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### Guest Presentation: Traffic & Public Safety Updates

Michael Iasilli introduced himself and discussed current and planned initiatives focused on **traffic congestion, speeding, and roadway safety**, noting traffic is a major quality-of-life issue for the community.

#### Key initiatives and updates:

- **Traffic Safety & Mitigation Task Force (convened in 2024):**
  - Included stakeholders such as town staff, police leadership, DPW/highway representation, business community, EMS, etc.
  - Noted as a “bottom-up” process with public input and a final report with recommendations.
- **Speed monitoring technology:**
  - Installed along **County Road 39** (including flashing “slow down/thank you” style signs).
  - Data collected is shared with police but is not real-time; helps inform enforcement patterns.
- **Urban SDK real-time traffic data (pilot/engagement):**
  - Proposed/being used to provide real-time information on speeding, congestion, and volume to aid police deployment.
  - Mentioned alongside police **drone technology** to evaluate causes of bottlenecks.

- **Speed limit changes / resolutions:**
  - Speed limit reductions to **25 mph** on certain roads in **North Sea and Tuckahoe** (examples cited: Big Fresh Pond, Lakeside Drive, Parash Road).
  - Standardizing **Noyac** at **30 mph** where it previously varied.
- **Infrastructure improvements discussed:**
  - **Roundabouts** in **Water Mill** on Montauk Highway under assessment by DOT.
  - County Road 39 study expected to conclude soon; ongoing coordination with county DPW engineers.
  - Discussion of **median and curb cut reduction** on County Road 39; need for cross-access between commercial properties (some exists, others incomplete).
  - Mention of potential **utility pole relocation** and possible eminent domain needs for roadway improvements.
- **Truck/through-traffic concept:**
  - Idea discussed: create dedicated lanes (including potential **truck lane**) on CR-39 to move “trade parade” vehicles more efficiently.
  - Sticker/permit concept discussed for enforcement.
- **Public awareness campaign (PSAs):**
  - Videos about speeding/rules of the road distributed on local channels and social media; boosted posts to reach target audiences.

#### **Community comments/questions:**

- Concern about “sign pollution” vs safety signage; Michael noted balancing both viewpoints.
- Members discussed need for signage reminding drivers to pull over for EMS vehicles.

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#### **Quality-of-Life / Code Enforcement / Neighborhood Issues (Michael)**

Michael shared several town initiatives:

- **Stop Work Order fines:** minimum increased to **\$750** (previously ~\$150–\$200).

- **Leaf blower law outreach:** town PSAs and messaging included on tax bills (“being a good neighbor”); discussion acknowledged challenges of enforcement and seasonal restrictions (gas vs electric).
- **Dog leash law:** clarified wording to require dogs to be **leashed** (previously “under control”).
- **Land disturbance / tree clearing proposal:**
  - Work session referenced as **January 15**.
  - Goal: require permits prior to clearing; address gaps allowing clearing before permits and weak accountability.
- **Construction noise regulation changes:**
  - **No construction noise on federal holidays.**
  - On Sundays: **9 AM–5 PM** (previously longer hours).
  - Building inspectors may require **on-site parking** or limit number of vehicles at construction sites.
- **Short-term rental/party house noise concerns:**
  - Members raised concerns about large rentals being sublet by rooms leading to frequent parties.
  - Suggestion: police/code enforcement use decibel meters; current limitations noted.
  - Michael encouraged residents to use the **SOS complaint system** to document chronic issues.
- **Staffing:** noted two additional code enforcement officers were added in last year’s budget.

### **Beautification / Hamlet Sign Project (CAC + Town)**

A significant portion focused on installing a **welcome/hamlet sign** with landscaping.

#### **Discussion highlights:**

- Determining jurisdiction and permits (state/county/town involvement); DOT permit likely required especially if located in/near median/shoulder.

- **Maureen** obtained **three estimates** for sign work more quickly than prior attempts.
- Proposed next steps: CAC to assemble a **proposal package** including:
  - Size, materials, post safety considerations
  - Exact location (with aerial/diagram/blueprint)
  - Sign message/wording
  - Funding plan (including reference to earlier allocation of **\$10,000** mentioned historically)
  - Ongoing maintenance plan (landscaping and sign upkeep)
  - Rendering/sketch of final concept
- Discussion on wording: expectation it must reference the **hamlet** (e.g., “Hamlet of Shinnecock Hills – Tuckahoe”); “Town of Southampton” wording at that specific spot was not expected to be supported.
- Landscaping to emphasize **native plantings** and low-maintenance approach; possible **solar lighting** was discussed but noted DOT may review lighting concerns.
- Target timing mentioned informally: hope to complete by **May / before summer season**, but no formal timeline adopted.

**Action owner(s):**

- CAC members to draft and submit proposal to Tom/Michael for review, then forward to DOT contact(s).

**Tuckahoe School / Education Updates**

- Member reported attending **Tuckahoe school meetings**; stated **merger is off** for now due to inability to secure someone to perform required study.
- Suggestion raised: ask an **education department graduate student** to update/revamp an older study.
- Discussion on **opt-out rates** for standardized testing and how that affects reported results (concern that performance claims may be misleading without opt-out context).
- Statement shared that **per-student spending** was high (figure discussed: ~\$61,000/student), with discussion about what is included/excluded.

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### **Town Reassessment / Taxes Discussion**

- Members discussed desire for a **town-wide reassessment** (not done since before the pandemic per speakers).
- Discussion included:
  - Perceived disparity between sale prices and assessed values.
  - Mention of **Homestead**-type tax reduction concept and claim that assessor said it requires reassessment first (members questioned whether that is truly required by state law).
  - Acknowledgement that reassessment could raise some assessments/taxes; members emphasized fairness and current market changes.

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### **Future Speaker: Water Quality / Septic Systems**

- Chair received an email contact: **Rachel Friedman (Stony Brook University)**, affiliated with the **Peconic Estuary program**, to present on:
  - Innovative/alternative septic systems
  - Water quality impacts
  - Grants and cost assistance opportunities
- Group expressed interest and support in hosting the presentation.

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### **Trails / Preservation Topic: "Pomonok Trail" (spelling uncertain)**

- Member raised concern about maintaining/clarifying the status of a trail corridor near Hill Station / power lines area and ensuring it remains accessible.
- Discussion referenced:
  - Portions may be on CPF/preservation land, easements, or private property; some ownership may relate to a **defunct corporation** (unclear).
  - Interest in turning relevant portions over to preservation/open space where feasible, including potential tax reimbursement implications.

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## Next Meetings

- Next meetings scheduled:
  - **Tuesday, February 3**
  - **Tuesday, March 3**

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## Action Items (as captured)

1. **CAC sign/beautification proposal** to be drafted with rendering, exact location, materials, funding, and maintenance plan; submit to Tom/Michael for review and onward submission to DOT contact(s).
2. **Invite Rachel Friedman (Stony Brook / Peconic Estuary)** to present on septic systems and water quality grants (date TBD).
3. **School merger study**: explore whether an education grad student or similar resource can update an existing study for Tuckahoe.
4. **Chronic noise/party house issues**: encourage residents to log recurring complaints through the town **SOS system** for documentation and enforcement follow-up.
5. **Trail corridor status**: town liaison to look into ownership/easement status and options to preserve public access.

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**Meeting adjourned at 7:48**