

**North Sea Citizens Advisory Committee  
Town of Southampton  
164 Fish Cove Road & • 18 Pine Tree Road Southampton, New York  
11968**

**631-283-5978 or 631-283-3566**

**Agenda**

**Lucille Dunne  
John Watson  
Co-Chairs**

**Barbara Fair  
Secretary**

**North Sea Citizens Advisory Committee**

**Minutes of March 11, 2014 Meeting**

**Members  
John Barona  
Joan Barra\*\*  
Mary Beatty  
Declan Blackmore  
Joan Brennan\*\*  
John Clarke  
Daniel Gebbia  
Stephanie McNamara  
Ann Reisman  
Frank Palmer  
Arlene Schroeder  
Mary E. Topping**

The meeting opened at 7:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes of the February 11, 2014 meeting were approved.

**Speakers:** Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst,

Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst wished to discuss certain developments concerning LIPA's stated need to provide an increased power supply on the East End and was given the floor at the opening of the meeting. She explained that LIPA has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for 200 megawatts of power for the Town and "points east". The current system, as structured, can't deliver enough power for the East End's anticipated peak demand conditions. LIPA's need to provide additional power to its customers is related to the current installation in East Hampton of "enormous" utility poles opposed by the community. Several years ago, the Town of Southampton negotiated underground lines instead of large utility poles. LIPA was not willing to pay for the "undergrounding" and residents are paying for the cost through the Visual Benefits Assessment on our electric bills.

In the last few weeks, several providers have approached the Town Board to discuss concepts prior to the March 31 deadline for submitting a response to LIPA's RFP. At a special Work Session on March 11, the Board decided to meet with LIPA's management to better understand what the utility needs, as the Town has heard only from potential providers.

The vendor that constructed the Greenport power plant is proposing to construct a diesel-fueled "peaker plant" that would operate only at times of peak demand and would have to be linked to an existing sub-station, of which there are three: Shinnecock, Sag Harbor and Deerfield Road. The vendor suggested the North Sea transfer station might provide a suitable 4 acre site needed for the peaker plant and chimney however the Town indicated only about 3.5 acres was available, at the current location of the mulching operation which adjoins the SYS roadway. In this scenario, a site would have to be found to relocate the mulching operation. Another possible site for the peaker plant might be right off the entry to the Transfer Station.

Another firm, the Offshore Deep Sea Wind Turbine company, has leased 250 acres thirty miles offshore of Long Island. (The horizon is 12 miles away and objects 30

\*denotes Seasonal Member  
\*\*denotes ex-officio member

miles away are not visible from the shoreline.) The company is building a pilot program off Block Island to provide power to Block Island and Rhode Island; those jurisdictions have agreed to a feeder cable. They propose to build a wind-powered generating plant capable of generating between 250 and 500 megawatts of power and could guarantee Southampton 250 megawatts. Power would be carried in an underwater cable to the Shinnecock Sub-Station and could be either “peaker power” or “constant feed”. In this scenario, everything would be on Town-owned land, and LIPA would lease the land from the Town. The wind turbine company is willing to provide a \$1million Community Benefit donation.

The March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for submissions presents a problem for the Town as well as potential vendors. The Town is considering authoring a letter to LIPA asking them to clarify what they see as the East End’s power needs and expressing the need to be part of approval process. These matters will be further discussed at the Town Board Work Session on March 20<sup>th</sup> and the Town hopes to have a public information meeting before March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Some questions raised in the discussion that followed concerned:

- Which proposal would most benefit the Town?
- Was “peaker power” or “constant feed-in” a better choice?
- Would a new plant make the East End more resilient to power outages?
- Could the peaker plant run on natural gas, rather than diesel?
- Would siting the peaker plant at the landfill allow for future expansion if needed?
- Would the off shore wind plant be a significant revenue source for the Town?
- If LIPA benefits from the plant, can we negotiate removal of the VBA?
- What can be done about the non-payers of the VBA?
- How do residents of the Shinnecock area feel about the off-shore wind plant and feeder cable?
- What did the wind company do on Block Island as a community benefit?
- In theory, if nothing is done, will we be subject to rolling blackouts?
- Have we solicited comments from Greenport about their power plant?
- Greenport generates its own electricity. Can Southampton do the same?
- What would be the timeline for the offshore plant? Are there special environmental considerations?

The Supervisor responded to many of the above questions, and indicated that vendors are complaining that the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline is too short; that LIPA’s needs may provide additional opportunities to “underground” our power lines; that LIPA has a mandate to provide power and the Town can’t make it too difficult for them; and they have all the authority they need to put up big poles.

Additional questions for the Supervisor concerned the Trustee lawsuit and dredging restrictions for certain water bodies on the Peconic Bay that limited boat egress and restricted “flushing” the bays through tidal action. During the current lawsuit against the Town Trustees, the Trustees were ordered to turn over their books to the Town Comptroller. However the Trustees appealed this decision and the Court subsequently issued a stay of the order pending determination of their appeal. The Town is not controlling the Trustees’ funds at this time.

The Supervisor agreed that water quality in the bays and inlets was a great concern and that all levels of government were recognizing the importance of clean water, and the link between waterways and the economy. The Town has a proposal in to New York State that came out of the state's Economic Development Council to create an economic development incubator with input from the engineering department at SUNY Stony Brook, Southampton's Marine Sciences department, and Brookhaven National Laboratory. The goal would be to find means to reverse or prevent degradation of our water bodies and test these concepts in the environment.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm

**Present:** Mary Beatty, Declan Blackmore, John Clarke, Barbara Fair, Dan Gebbia, Ann Reisman, Mary Topping, Arlene Schroeder, John Watson

**Guests:** Sheila Camparetto, Myron Holtz

**Excused:** John Barona, Lucy Dunne, Stephanie McNamara, Frank Palmer