

Minutes of Sag Harbor CAC Meeting, January 9, 2015

In Attendance:

Bob Malafronte
John Linder
Eric Cohen

Guests:

Dai Dayton and Sandra Ferguson: Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt

Dai Dayton and Sandra Ferguson presented their concerns about upcoming improvements to the Bridgehampton/ Sag Harbor Turnpike. CR 79 is County owned. The work to be done would be funded by NY State/Suffolk County.

Dai is trying to get the State and County to give her an idea of what they are planning for the road and what part of the road they are going to work on. Dai is concerned they will do the same thing on the North end of the road, (adding curbs and drainage) on the South end of the road.

~The Friends of the Long Pond Green Belt are opposed to this and would like to be included in the planning stages of this project.

~They have been in contact with **Jay Schneiderman's** office, asking for information. Dai stated that they just completed work on the road from Scuttlehole Rd. to Montauk Highway and that they are assuming they will want to do the same from Scuttlehole to Main Street, Sag Harbor.

~**Dai** stated, one of the problems with the project on the North End of Scuttlehole is the damage done to turtles. The installation of CURBS interferes with the Turtles crossing the Turnpike and has caused the demise of many of the Turtles, especially near the Slate Pond.

~**Mary Ann Mulvihill** has joined with the Friends of Long Pond in the effort to get information from Legislator Jay Schneiderman's office and the Department of Public Works.

They were told the Planning Stage of the Project would not begin until 2016 and that the Friends of the Long Pond would be included in the planning stage of the project.

~**Dai** stated that it is early in the process and this is a good thing if they have any chance of having some influence on the outcome of the Project.

~**Jay Schneiderman** has stated that it is crucial that as much input as possible will ensure a positive outcome on the Plan.

~**Dai** is asking that the CAC ask to be involved in the process and to support the Friends of the Long Ponds recommendations.

~**Eric Cohen** stated:

The Sag Harbor CAC has a history with the Turnpike, we worked with many local groups to change the zoning at what is called the GATEWAY to Sag Harbor Village. This was done to prevent the Village from becoming victim to large Commercial Projects being developed along the Turnpike.

~**John Linder** asked what the top 3 or 4 complaints about the first project would be?

~**Dai** stated that

- 1- the construction of curbs and drainage along the road that were not necessary. There has never been a flooding problem along that section of road.
- 2- She felt that the County Dept. of Pub. works and their Traffic Engineers did not understand the rural character of the East End.
- 3- The County did not consult with The Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt even though the Pond runs the entire length of the Turnpike.
- 4- The Northern end of the Turnpike is mostly Preserved Land and the Necessity for curbs does not exist.

~The Friends of the Long Pond would like to see:

- 1- Safe roadways
- 2- Wildlife friendly roadways
- 3- Work to be completed on the Ligonee Creek Underpass which has been approved but needs funding.

A Study was done two years ago by the Peconic Estuary Program and they recommend that any new project on the turnpike include correcting the Culverts that run underneath the Turnpike including Ligonee Brook.

ACTION:

The CAC will support the Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt

The CAC will write letters and advocate in support of their initiatives

Bob gave a brief update on the Noise problem at HTO

1- The Board will make a decision on Restrictions on aircraft using the airport in February

2- There will be a public session shortly after that and then a final vote on the issue will follow

Dai spoke about the plan to put a park near **Round Pond Lane**, this was approved around 10 years ago but still needs funding.

The property was a CPF purchase and the Friends of the Long Pond would like to see this project get off the ground ASAP.

The plans developed by the Town Trustees, it would include many plantings and pathways down to the Pond, Drainage rings to be sure the pond will stay clean. Some other questions need to be answered, who will maintain the property etc.

Action:

The CAC will strongly support this project and will wait to hear from Sandy on who we need to contact.

Bob gave a brief update on the Airport

Things will come to a head in early March.

Next meeting:

Friday February 13, 2015

Pierson H.S. Library

One topic will be Thinning the Deer Herd and the latest on that.