

CAC-West Minutes - August 14, 2014

Members Present: Carol Corcoran, Steve Rosemarin, Douglas Adams, Ed Pavlak, Janet Beck, Hank Beck, Joyce Flynn, Mike Anthony, George Lynch, John Bouvier, and Joyce Roper.

Guests: Dr. Ruth Bruun, Christian Bruun, Janet Gabriel, Ursula M. Lynch, Andrea Spilka, Yu-Lu Bouvier, Joan Hughes (East Quogue CAC), Larry Carnavale Jr., Philip Smyth, Amanda Smyth, Tina Corcoran and Southampton Town Councilman Brad Bender.

The meeting was held at the home of Janet and Hank Beck In Westhampton and opened at 6:30 PM. The hosts prepared some snacks and beverages for the group. Part of our goal at this meeting was to attract any citizen who would like to join and/or know more about the CAC-West. Hank passed around a blurb he had written about the CAC's in general and also a copy of the official Southampton CAC rules and guidelines. He stressed that the CAC's are advisory only to the town board and that there is no restriction on membership. Several of the guests expressed interest in becoming members of the CAC-West.

Philip Smyth attended as a representative of the Remsenburg Association. We discussed and agreed that close communication between all local civic groups is critical if we are to be effective in expressing our position on area issues to the town board. He mentioned that his impression is that the CPF process seems to have ignored Remsenburg. We discussed the CPF purchases of Bailey's Field, The Village Green land by Woody's Gas Station and the Remsenburg Marina. He asked for support from the CAC-West towards stabilizing and preserving the Old Mill building and property at the intersection of Mill Road and Montauk Highway. We agreed in principle and would welcome a more detailed report about the mill and how this could be done.

Our monthly meetings with other CACs and civic organizations at Town Hall, organized by the Supervisor, gives us all an opportunity to discuss problems common to us all. All the groups talk about issues that concern them and we often find common ground and common support for each other. We meet at the end of each month, usually with Frank Zappone and Anna Throne-Holst. There have been no meetings during the summer but they are expected to resume in September. At an earlier meeting of the CAC-West we had agreed to send a letter to the Southampton Town Board in support of the Sustainable Southampton Green Advisory Committee in their efforts to promote a single-use plastic bag ban. Hank read the proposed letter to the group and after some lively discussion and some minor edits it was agreed to send it immediately. It was also agreed that the education and recycling programs are not very effective in reducing these bags

from the garbage flow.

A great deal of discussion ensued over the problems with both our ground and surface water pollution. Steve Rosemarin presented a good argument for adopting new sanitary waste systems that would at least prevent future new discharge. He also pointed out that the Suffolk County Board of Health appears to be years behind in approving more effective systems due to the extreme cut-backs that were effected under a prior Suffolk County Executive. He offered the story of a local woman who was attempting to construct a LEED certified home on Dune Road but is being frustrated because she cannot put in a sophisticated sanitary system that has not been tested and approved by the Suffolk County Board of Health.

At the request of Andrea Spilka we also agreed to support Dick Amper's latest suggestions to endorse the Clean Water Technology Initiative being advanced by Stony Brook University and Southampton Town.

We spent some time on a discussion about how to remediate the untold ten's of thousands of existing (old and new) household sanitary systems that are continually releasing pollutants into our ground water. These pollutants are progressing rapidly towards our surface waters (rivers, streams creeks and bays) and there doesn't appear to be any way we can stop they. The harm to these waters affects our total Town and East End economy. There are already many shellfish areas that are damaged and closed. Places that have never been affected like Sag Harbor are now experiencing algae and bacterial growths in the waters causing bans and warning about shellfish and the risk of even going into those stricken waters. Much discussion followed on the subject of possible remediation and how to put pressure on the SCHED and the New York State DEC. It was obvious to the group in general that the threats to our waters and environmental concerns certainly top the list of issues. Overdevelopment is a second major issue of concern.

The meeting adjourned about 9:30 PM or so.

Our next meeting is September 4, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the Westhampton Free Library.

Respectfully submitted

Hank Beck, Chair, CAC-West