

# SUSTAINABLE SOUTHAMPTON GREEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 7, 2024

3:45 PM – 6:00 PM

Town Hall Lower Level Meeting Room

And on Zoom

## **Guest Speaker – Pamela Harwood – Trees**

- initiative coming from previous effort while chair Bridgehampton CAC, trees were removed when street crossing was installed on Montauk Hwy. Pamela is also on board horticultural alliance of the Hamptons, Peconic Land Trust.
- NYC has dedicated gardener, list of approved trees, have a model tree program
- Chose 3 varieties (redbud, red oaks, hornbloom) as standard

### **Issues**

- Observed that Town is not maintaining the trees that were planted (est. cost of \$1700/tree)
- Having the right tree in the right place
- Over clearing
- Process calls for neighbors to turn in other neighbors .. therefore people don't engage Code enforcement
- Example: Farrell on Main St completely took down all trees
- DR: Once cut it down – is too late – how does education happen?
  - Social media, town email blasts/newsletter
  - Every time property sold/transferred – inform them of code
- Jesse Warren: Tried to pass law on land clearing – big opposition
  - Start small (certain trees, size)
  - Tree city USA organization <https://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/Resident/Resilient-Pinecrest/Pinecrest-Composting-Program>
  - Below is the Tree City USA program. Many Villages and Towns throughout the Country have earned the distinction of being a Tree City USA. How to apply is below:
  - <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/>
  - <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/#becomeSection>
- JW: Planning board has limited authority to prevent
- PH: if you see something take a photograph
- Tom Houghton: photos are really helpful, Town of Southold has land disturbance permit for properties > 5000 sq ft

### **Remedy discussion**

- MI: had a conversation w/town attorney
- PH: how to galvanize public support
- Sagaponack Tree Fund, Sag Harbor has an inventory of significant trees

### **ASK**

- Galvanize public support
- Creating a model
  - Work with planning board to identify trees to protect
  - CPF department, Marty Shea
  - How can this be enforced
  - Consider hiring an arborist as consultant (Jackson Dodds)
- Non-APOD land here's the code draft
- Can condense into 2 or 3 things
- Pamela will get back with 5 or so idea to be condensed down

### **NEXT STEPS**

- James Ewing to contact Pam and discuss further
- Councilman Iasilli: *I'd be willing to support this if the Sustainability Committee wanted to move something forward. I have included Ms. Harwood from the Bridgehampton Civic and Councilman Schiavoni.*

## **Current Projects:**

### **Gas Leave Blower Ban – Dieter**

- Lena: EH has ban, lobbying town board w/recommendation to eliminate all together
- Dieter: have not taken it up because of other priorities
- JW: passed a year round ban, put letter into the tax bill
- Consider integrating landscaper participation

### **Community Composting – Joe**

- Waiting for Tom Houghton to file papers with DEC
- Joe to contact TJS and ask him to motivate Tom to file the paperwork w/DEC, ask for time at a work session to educate new town board
- LT: get in touch with EH contact (Gloria Frazee [easthamptonesc@gmail.com](mailto:easthamptonesc@gmail.com); Mary Ann Eddy [mae922@gmail.com](mailto:mae922@gmail.com) )
- JW: image of composting collection box

### **Outreach – Adrienne**

- Handed out flyers at multiple events and would like to do more
- Important to have website that communicates where the committee is focused and a contact
- Needs definition, goals, and objectives
- Suggesting committee member rotate through board meetings and speak on an issue
- Place where people can go to introduce new ideas
- Need a newsletter / clearing house for information

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Evan organizing a zoom on the 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss goals, objectives and structure