

## Sustainability Committee Minutes

January 6, 2025

**In Person:** Mark McIntyre, Susanne Jansson, Joe Lamport, Bill Pell, Tom Neely, Michael Iasilli

**Remote:** Adrienne Woodduck, David Ulrich, Julie Burmeister, Aram Terchunian, Tip Brolin, Lena Tabori, Gary Goldstein, Evan Mason, Glorian Berk, John Barrows

1. Approved December minutes.
2. Mark introduced our speaker, Robert Mozer, CPG—a hydrogeologist who founded the Citizens Science Learning Center, a 501(c)3, focused on assessing the health of the Town's fresh water ponds
  - a. Marine environment has taken precedence over freshwater ponds, as opposed to saltwater water bodies. TOS has about 400, some of which dry up b/c they are very small. If they dry up, the marine environment suffers.
  - b. Documenting harmful algae blooms (HABS)-core of education program for kids; working with school in Southold, but not in Southampton
  - c. DEC policy is that "if it looks like a HAB, it is a HAB" because of lack of funding.
  - d. State program require only limited sampling of our freshwater ponds; only perform basic chemistry analysis and only in summer.
  - e. Citizen Science Learning Center started sampling of ponds in 2021
  - f. Jury is still out as to why HABS happen in some fresh ponds and not others. CSLC is creating a baseline for the seven ponds it focuses on.
  - g. CSLC tests for runoff and nitrogen. TOS has offered funding to cover lab analysis of nutrient samples. (Approx. \$75/sample); or \$7,000 altogether. Who is looking at it and acting on it?
  - h. 2026 goal is to get this issue in the minds of the Board in TOS.
  - i. How do we prioritize which ponds we focus on? Public access? Recreational use? Ponds that Trustees stock with (10 ponds) fish? Presence of a proposed fish ladder( at Ida's Pond), which has a history of cyanoHABS
  - j. What can our Committee do to help?
    - i. Adopt a pond and fill out the survey, take pictures, maybe take water temperature.
3. Michael Iasilli—Draft of Tree Clearing Ordinance will be reviewed at the Town Board's work session on Jan. 15. Working with Janice and Seth and Ryan Murphy (Public Safety)
  - a. Widespread tree clearing and more. Land disturbance code instead of simply focusing on trees.
  - b. We can watch the meeting and communicate with the Board, but we can't ask questions in the work session.
4. Adrienne Woodduck, Earth Day and Arbor Day
  - a. Waiting to hear from Bartlett who was going to supply us with 50 saplings last year, asking for introductions in school. If Adrienne could do a school a day, she could take saplings to the schools and give literature to the schools for students to pot a sapling and bring it home. As saplings mature, maybe one/some could be planted on Town land and kids given a plaque.

5. Compost update – Joe Lamport
  - a. No new data
  - b. Tom is far along in plans to capture food scrap for composting from US Open.
  - c. Processing from two restaurants at ECI so far. If Town would consider charging a tip fee, it could earn revenue instead of it going to commercial haulers.
  - d. Only 1 registered large-scale facility on all of LI for composting; DEC is supportive of our efforts
  - e. There are some legal/regulatory issues in taking business away from local haulers
  
6. Bill Pell and Michael will be working with TOS on promoting adoption of Innovative/Advanced low-nitrogen septic issues and communication. CCTV team will be going out to get the word out as to what the Town does.

Meeting adjourned @5:25apm

Next meeting is Feb 3, 2026 @3:45pm