

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

631-283-5978 or 631-283-3566

Agenda

**Lucille Dunne
John Watson
Co-Chairs**

**Barbara Fair
Secretary**

**Members
John Barona
Joan Barra**
Mary Beatty
Joan Brennan**
John Clark
Daniel Gebbia
Arron Navan
Jamie Navan
Stephanie McNamara
Ann Reisman
Frank Palmer
Arlene Schroeder
Mary E. Topping**

North Sea Citizens Advisory Committee

Minutes for July 8, 2013 Meeting

The meeting opened at 8:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

As the minutes of the June 10, 2013 meeting had not been distributed, no vote was taken to approve them.

Special Guest: David Betts, PCI, CPP Chief Town Investigator , Code Enforcement and current Candidate for Superintendent of Highways on the Republican and Conservative lines.

Mr. Betts referred to his having worked as the administrator of the Town’s Code Enforcement bureau for the last five years, overseeing a staff of 6 full-time and one he characterized his experience working for the Town as “ good”, and feels that he gets along with the current Town Board. He mentioned that during his tenure as Chief Town Investigator he received training in handling emergencies under the “Incident Command System”.

Members asked Mr. Betts to describe his policies on specific issues, beginning with leaf collection. He said he doesn’t care about “73-74” (age requirement) and leaf collection needs to be done the way it done for twenty years until a better way can be found. He acknowledged snow removal can become a problem. Money can be found in the highway department budget to purchase surplus vehicles from the military, which has been done successfully by the Town of East Hampton.

A co-chair asked Mr. Betts about his views on private roads. Mr. Betts responded that some people don’t want their roads improved, but that if residents wanted it, and it was financially feasible, he was in favor of improving private roads. Before a private road can be improved, the owners have to agree and the road has to be deeded to the Town. The co-chair pointed out that only 50% of the adjoining owners have to approve the Town taking over the road, but that the Town has to agree to accept the road into the system.

The co-chair briefly explained the work of the Unimproved Roads Committee and the concept of budgeting a modest amount annually for road improvement work. It would only take \$8.00 additional per household to fund \$500,000 in new road improvements annually. Mr. Betts envisioned this as a “perpetual program” as roads only last 30-40 years. The co-chair stated that he had succeeded in getting \$50,000

*denotes Seasonal Member
**denotes ex-officio member

put in the Highway Department budget this year, but Mr. Gregor said he couldn't do anything with it.

On the subject of creating a third class of road, Mr. Betts said it depended on the volume of traffic. His philosophy was that if what the committee wanted could be done he was in favor of it, but you need a level of road that suits the traffic.

Regarding the Trustee Dock on Towd Point, Mr. Betts observed that there was a time when the dock would be graded by the highway department "but that has stopped." Improving traffic conditions on Noyac Road at Cromer's Market has been discussed for years, Mr. Betts said, and there wasn't enough money for the plan proposed by Alex Gregor.

A member asked whether Mr. Betts had reviewed the Highway Department budget and whether there were efficiencies that would permit better maintenance of the catch basins. Mr. Betts replied that the Highway Department was really a maintenance company and he did not know how catch basin maintenance was done – on a schedule, or in response to complaints.

A member said that the real problem was that there are roads in this town that are not passable to fire trucks and ambulances, particularly after heavy rains and that a way had to be figured out to fund two or three roads a year. Another member cited the situation in North Sea Beach Colony, where the roads are too narrow for fire trucks and there is no hydrant. They investigated town road status, and the prior Highway Superintendent said they could not be added to the system.

Turning to the subject of Code Enforcement, a member inquired about the status of a house in the Cove that burned three years ago and the roof was about to fall in. Mr. Betts explained that as long as the building was secured, it could stay the way it was until there was an insurance settlement. But if the roof caves in, it can't be secured and the Town could come in and take it down.

A co-chair asked what was the law on motor homes, mentioning there were several in the area. Mr. Betts replied that you are not supposed to live in them, and they can't have utility hook-ups but can be placed in conforming locations – not in a required side yard.

A member asked Mr. Betts what were the top two things he would change. Mr. Betts began by stating that he previously worked as the Security Superintendent for the Smithtown SD, overseeing 115 security guards. His goals were to make the Highway Department as efficient as possible, to install a computer system to track projects and programs, and to motivate the staff. He said he liked the \$8 a year concept to fund work on unimproved roads and re-allocating unused funds from snow removal for this purpose as well.

The co-chair pointed out that flooding at the Town Highway Barn affects neighboring homes but that the engineering study recommendations to correct the conditions had not been implemented.

Correspondence. The Town Planning Board sent information concerning a barn proposed on a North Main Street a preserved lot across from the pony farm. There is already a 4,800 square foot agricultural building on the property. Because the material sent was insufficient to draw conclusions it was agreed that the co-chair would call Planning for additional information.

New Business. None.

Old Business. Tupper Boat House. It was reported that the Preservation group wanted to save it, and that the Town was “looking at Sandy money” to fix it. It is not likely to be considered for commercial use, but an educational or community use such as the Sea Scouts’ oyster hatchery was a possibility. Because Community Preservation money and town funds were used to purchase the site, the property can’t be used for a commercial venture.

Little Fresh Pond Association. The Association’s new attorney filed a cease and desist order, but the court refused to shut down the operation, reportedly because too much money had been invested and papers committed to the program. It was said that ten to twelve counselors are living at the camp, multiple activities are offered, including arts and crafts. Only the swimming pool got a permit; none of the internal changes to the building have been approved. The septic system was upgraded; the only oversight was by the SCDOH. The camp’s owners reportedly donated 10 scholarships to the local ambulance and NSFD.

Membership Priorities Updates. None.

Other Town Committee Reports.

Parks. No report.

Housing. The Housing Authority is working with the Village of Southampton on construction of three affordable homes on Bailey Road in the Village which will be awarded by lottery. The affordable housing site at the corner of Lincoln Avenue in North Sea has a “glitch” in that it appears the site was previously designated as parkland.

Sustainability Plan. The Plan is a set of suggestions for the Town’s consideration, the details of which will have to be filled in after discussion and input from many sources. Workforce housing came up a lot as something that needed to be addressed. Comments from the Business Alliance covered much that is already in the Comprehensive Plan.

Solid Waste. No report.

Airport Noise. The control tower is up and running. Aircraft are using routes over the Northwest woods and a beach route over Georgica. The new noise complaint number is 1-800-376-4817.

Unimproved Roads. The committee will be re-named “Southampton Safer Streets”. Fred Thiele’s bill to establish Road Improvement Districts (substandard

road zones) passed in the NYS Senate and Assembly and is on the Governor's desk for signature. (Senate 4418-A and Assembly 6429-A)

Disabilities. In April, the Mental Health Day at the High School was very successful. The committee recommends that good mental health should be part of insurance coverage – it is more important than gun control. A website is being developed to list restaurants that are accessible – that have grades with a 1” rise over 12” in length. The committee would appreciate input for the list of restaurants that are accessible. There is no building permit fee for construction done to make businesses more accessible.

CAC Chairs Committee. No meeting to report.