

HBCAC FEBRUARY 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: February 17, 2022

Meeting Time & Location: 7pm EST Zoom Meeting

Member Attendees: Irene Anthony, Regina Axelrod, Colvin Cumberbatch, Ray D'Angelo, Victoria Firemark, Margaret Friedlander – Secretary, Thea Fry, Andrew Godfrey, Barbara Lefkowitz, Jim Mackin, Kevin McDonald - Chair, David McMorris, Amy Schmersal-Paradise, Molly Scruggs, Geraldine Spinella, Christine Taylor

Absentee Members: Susan Dean, Louise Stalzer

Guests: Paula Godfrey-Southampton Town Legislative Aid, May Zegarelli-Southampton Town Legislative Aid, Rick Martel-Councilperson, Maria Hults-President, HBCA

Guest Speaker: Charles McCardle – Southampton Town Superintendent of Highways
20 Jackson Avenue Hampton Bays, NY. Phone: 631-728-3600. <https://www.southamptontownny.gov/201/Highway>

Meeting Agenda:

- Speaker: Charles McArdle, Highway Superintendent
- Brief HBCAC member introductions
- Rick Martel, Town Board Member updates
- Other business
- Margaret Friedlander HBCAC “housekeeping” items for discussion

2022 Officers:

- Kevin McDonald, Chair. Appointed by Town Board resolution
- Margaret Friedlander, Secretary. By HBCAC acclamation on Feb 17, 2022

Next Steps & Follow Ups in advance of our HBCAC March Monthly Meeting

February Meeting Minutes

- The Secretary will distribute February meeting minutes via email for the HBCAC Chair and all HBCAC members who were in attendance to review and confirm “READ” -- with the opportunity to identify any errors and/or omissions
- Respective HBCAC member meeting attendee response, review, and approval of meeting minutes are required prior to the Secretary’s signature and submission to Town Board

Identification of March Agenda

- Please forward Kevin McDonald (and cc the Secretary, Margaret Friedlander) with any recommendations
- Current March Agenda topics proposed as of our 2/17/22 meeting:
 - Sensitive issues before the Town Board
 - Margaret Friedlander: HBCAC “housekeeping” matters for discussion
 - Speaker: Highway Superintendent, Charles McArdle, Part 2 follow up to February’s meeting concerning proactive and collaborative efforts by the County and Town Board key decision makers to mitigate Hampton Bays traffic and gridlock abatement ahead of Spring 2022 and moving forward
 - Molly Scruggs volunteered to contact Suffolk County Legislator, Bridget Fleming, regarding traffic issues & mitigation of County owned roads affecting Hampton Bays
 - Allowable zoning locations for Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries - likely light industrial- note there is no LI in Hampton Bays
 - Gas Leaf Blower Topic (Note: Town Board Public Hearing on 2/22/22)
 - HBDOD Revitalization

- Continue discussions regarding the following items noted below to effectively fulfill our purpose (see attached CAC rules of operations item B. Purpose of Committees)
 - HBCAC selection and focus on 3-4 topics/agendas for 2022 which are important issues to the Hampton Bays community
 - HBCAC working collaboratively with other associations/groups representing Hampton Bays.
 - Opening up a dialogue with the community – to include special guest speakers – beyond our 1x monthly HBCAC meeting,
 - Determine if/how we move forward with a HBCAC Sub-Committee structure for members to deep dive and research (aka homework assignments) on TBD agreed upon HBCA 2022 areas of focus

Follow up: Adopt A Road Program

- Kevin McDonald to acquire a the Adopt A Road “digital” program packet to email to HBCAC members

AGREEMENTS:

- HBCAC to continue with Thursday, 7pm monthly meeting date & time – allows TB observers/liaisons time to observe multiple CACs
- Charles McArdle, Highway Superintendent to follow up and speak to the group with a status update in March
- Kevin McDonald, HBCAC 2022 Chair
- Margaret Friedlander, HBCAC 2022 Secretary

REDISTRIBUTING ATTACHMENTS:

- Please review the attached PDF of Town of Southampton Citizens Advisory Committee Rules of Operation, distributed via email by Kevin McDonald on 02/11/22 to HBCAC members
- Please review the summary of the Hampton Bays Water District discussion from December 18, 2021, distributed via email by Kevin McDonald on 02/17/22
- As a courtesy, the above information will be attached to the email distribution of these meeting minutes

DISCUSSION POINTS

TRAFFIC, COURTESY LEAF PICK UP PROGRAM, GENERAL UPDATE

Speaker: Charles McArdle, Highway Superintendent

TRAFFIC

In response to January’s monthly meeting, and concern about traffic nightmares from last summer, the CAC invited the new Highway Superintendent, Charles McArdle, to share some ideas about this problem. HBCAC members in attendance agreed that the County, Town Board and Superintendent of Highways should collaboratively work to implement measures to address anticipated traffic problems

- 2021 pilot of Cone Placement & Blinking Light Pilot Program located the end of Canoe Place Road, supported by police on site,
 - Blinking light is a short-term solution. Long-term solutions are needed
 - It’s important to keep the main arteries clear to reduce cut through traffic on back roads
 - The Highway Superintendent had conversations with Supervisor, Jay Schneiderman, about proactive and continued implementation of these and other traffic mitigation action items
 - Supervisor agreed on some issues and open to doing more studies re: both East & West traffic
 - Lead time, Suffolk County DPW and Town Budget enhancements are required to plan and implement
 - The Chief of Police has concerns about police officer safety issues
 - Highway Superintendent items for consideration/recommendation:
 - Maybe a roundabout on the east side of the canal
 - Expand mitigation efforts to include control of traffic light on Montauk Hwy in front of reservation – both morning & afternoon hours

- Expand mitigation efforts to include the area that comes off the North Road where the “boat houses” are located, including a right turning lane
- Like school crossing guards, traffic control persons can be present in the morning hours and then return in the afternoon hours at problem areas
- Highway Superintendent will be speaking with Bridget Fleming County Liaison to DPW (Dept of Public Works) on County level to let her know the importance of immediate and ongoing traffic mitigation initiatives
- Northeast and Northwest roads are controlled by the County. And any roads that intersect – the County must be involved
 - Highway Superintendent recommending a “TRAFFIC COMMITTEE” be formed – that solely focuses on solves for this specific issue

Q&A WITH HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

- Molly Scruggs HBCAC new 2022 member is on the Board of the Southampton Transportation Commission offered to follow up with Bridget Fleming and the Transportation Commission on this issue and inform HBCAC members of any outcomes during our March meeting
- **Q:** Margaret Friedlander inquired about 2021 Traffic Mitigation Pilot Program budget and the budget allocated for 2022
 - **A:** Highway Superintendent agreed to follow up and share this information during our March meeting as no details were available at the time of this meeting
- Thea Fry cited (2) roads in the area of the train bridge require add’l traffic mitigation efforts
 - Requested mitigation efforts to stop cars from making a left onto Montauk Hwy
- **Q:** Margaret Friedlander inquired when and how the HBCAC will be informed of progress and key decisions regarding traffic mitigation initiatives
 - **A:** Highway Superintendent agreed to speak and provide an update at our next March meeting
- **Q:** Irene Anthony inquired about poor conditions of certain private roads, including her own
 - **A:** There is case law , and it’s the opinion of the NY State Controller, (Paraphrasing) Since the Town does not own a private road, it’s illegal to use Town owned equipment, and staff, on any roads not owned by the Town
 - Highway Superintendent offered several helpful recommendations in response. And anyone having private road issues may contact him directly to discuss what, if anything, he can do

COURTESY LEAF PICK UP PROGRAM

High-Level Program Background: Goes back to the 70s when people burned leaves on their property. When open air leaf burning was banned, the Town initially offered to pick up leaves if piled at the end of the road. As population increased, this became a burden on the highway crew. Changes were implemented: Persons over a certain age could continue to put leaves for collection in a pile for pick up. Persons under a certain age are required to bag leaves.

- Highway Superintendent doesn’t see the program ending, but instead, the program is being modified starting in 2022, and moving forward, to alleviate the burden on the Highway Dept so they can do other critical tasks related to maintaining Town roads
- Modifications mentioned:
 - If home is owned by an LLC or Corporation they should be exempted from the leaf pickup program
 - A home with a rental permit should be exempted from the leaf pickup program
 - TBD (To Be Determined) for all others if there will be a permit required to participate in the leaf pick up program. Similar to beach permits
 - Existing Voucher Program for landscapers to be able to take leaves to the dump is going to discontinued. The landscaper will have to cover the cost drop off leaves at the dump
- This program does not apply to people who live on private roads or Trustee roads

GENERAL UPDATE

- Existing Hwy Dept. equipment is in very poor condition
- New equipment is being purchased
- Relationships are being formed between the new Highway Supervisor and the Town Board
- There are road related capital projects that have been on the back burner now moving to the front
- Rick Martel and the Highway Liaison has brought the Highway Supervisor's attention to:
 - The need for a sidewalk from the South end of Ponquogue Avenue to the South foot of the Ponquogue Bridge

HBCAC SECRETARY

- Chair, Kevin McDonald inquired who would like to volunteer to take on the role & responsibility of 2022 HBCAC Secretary
 - New member, Margaret Friedlander raised her hand
- Chair, Kevin McDonald inquired if anyone else was interested in the role of Secretary
 - No one raised their hands or voiced interest
- Margaret Friedlander, by acclamation, is now 2022 HBCAC Secretary

HBCAC CHAIR

- Kevin McDonald reminded the group that the Town Board had appointed him as Chair. A brief statement was made about the need to be democratic. Ray D'Angelo brought up concerns that the Chair of the HBCAC was appointed to this position by Town Board which contradicts the Southampton Town CAC Rules of Operation. These rules were distributed by Kevin McDonald to all members and redistributed as an attachment to these meeting minutes by the Secretary. It was proposed and a vote was taken for the role of HBCAC Chair. By a show of hands and some verbal approvals, there was a motion to support Kevin McDonald's appointment as Chair.

HBCA MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

- Members in attendance introductions and respective areas of individual interest and priority shared
- Common Key Areas of Focus for the HBCAC members identified:
 - Development
 - Hampton Bays Downtown Development/Revitalization
 - Environmental
 - Drinking Water Supply & Quality
 - Transportation: Traffic
 - Quality of our Bay & Ocean

GUEST OBSERVER INTRODUCTIONS

- Paula Godfrey – Legislative Aide Southampton Town Board
 - Observer, and interested in revitalization of Downtown Hampton Bays
- May Zegarelli – Legislative Aide Southampton Town Board
- Maria Hults – President, Hampton Bays Civic Association
 - Observer, and interested in revitalization of Downtown Hampton Bays

UPDATE FROM RICK MARTELL – Councilperson Southampton Town Board

- Open meetings starting 1st week in March
- Sponsoring the Great East End Clean Up in April 2022
- Earth Day tree give-away with seedlings, free mulch & compost in Hampton Bays & North Sea
- Sponsoring Narcan (Naloxone) training March 16 (6-9pm) at West Hampton Beach Firehouse. Accommodates 30 attendees only. Kits provided at the end of training. Noted recent headlines: Many overdoses in Riverhead, West Hampton, Hampton Bays
- Cyndi McNamara – Councilperson Southampton Town Board unable to attend due to attending Civil police patrol
- Speaking to public concerns about Map showing Maritime Park Canal Road closure.
 - Clarified that was brought up by Supervisor Schneiderman for a (1) day festival or fair
 - Canal Road is not being closed

- A parking lot is being put in for employee parking and for people using the Maritime Park
- Pavilion being installed
- Hampton Bays Water District recent Commissioner’s meeting. Viewable on SeaTV channel
 - Kevin McDonald forwarded HBCAC members an email sent to him by James Kappers regarding this topic
- Marijuana Dispensary
 - Rick Martel wanted to opt out of any sales in the Town of Southampton.
 - Marijuana sales will be allowed in the Town of Southampton
 - Will come down to zoning
 - Rick will fight to keep out of Hampton Bays
 - The Airport has been a suggested location

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS

ADOPT A ROAD PROGRAM

- Thea Fry shared thoughts about the “Adopt A Road Program”. Involved for many years
- Suggested HBCAC members consider getting involved and maybe send to our contacts to encourage Hampton Bays residents, but other Southampton Town residents, participate
- Charles agreed to email program packet to Kevin for distribution to HBCAC members

SIDEWALKS

- Point raised about sidewalks needed on Springville Rd and East Tiana

GAS LEAF BLOWERS

Points raised:

- Noise related quality-of-life issues are a given and environmental issues acknowledged
- Small business expense related issues to make the switch from gas to electric
- Pro & Con issues should be researched prior to HBCAC taking a formal position and/or vote

IN-PERSON OPEN MEETINGS

- HBCAC plans to start in-person open meetings in March. To be confirmed
- NOTE: Secretary, Margaret Friedlander, shared in the Zoom meeting chat she is not currently willing to meet in-person starting in March

HBCAC MEETING CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider extending time of HBCAC monthly meetings to effectively address special issues
- Meet more than 1x per month
- HBCAC focus on 3-4 topical areas
- Sub-Committee structure for individuals to deep dive and research (aka homework assignments) on agreed upon topical HBCAC areas of focus for 2022
 - Informal survey received positive response from some members to determine there is an interest to continue the conversation.