

Sag Harbor CAC Meeting

Friday May 15, 2015

Attendees;

Bob Malafronte

John Linder

Susan Baran

Robert Cohen

Guest;

Kevin McAllister: Founder and President of; Defend H2O

The People's Right To Clean Water

Kevin has been advocating for clean water since 1998.

Farm and agricultural runoff was thought to be the main cause of nitrates but we have since learned that it is household waste water that is the main problem.

The standard zoning in the U.S.A. is based on at least 1 acre for conventional systems and 10 parts per million or 10 parts per liter, this constitutes clean drinking water.

For the past 10 years Kevin is trying to move Suffolk County to adopt more stringent standards to promote ecological protection, using the best available technologies.

State of the art septic systems that denitrify the waste water.

Suffolk county has been slow to do some of these things even with evidence that shows the steady increase in nitrates in the ground water.

Kevin presented his Plan for Clean Water:

Defend H2O:

- 1- Will monitor water quality through scientific analysis, public education and participation in government decision-making processes.
- 2- **Protecting** ground and surface waters, sewage management reform, enacting stronger water-quality standards, and wetlands protection
- 3- **McAllister** says a big part of Defend H2O's agenda will focus on a campaign for more restrictive nitrogen standards for wastewater, advanced septic systems, an analysis of long-term impacts of ocean outfall discharge in the South Shore's water supply and wetlands, and preventing overdevelopment tied to new sewer projects.
- 4- **Stopping** the spraying of the pesticide Methoprene for mosquito control, something he has been working on for 10 years.
- 5- **Town of Brookhaven** officials have adopted stringent new sewage-system requirements aimed at improving water quality. Brookhaven is the first Suffolk County town to adopt sewage-discharge standards that are tougher than those required by the county.
The new rules require intermediate-size sanitary systems to discharge no more than an annual average 3 parts per million of effluent. The county requirement is 10 parts per million.
- 6- **Kevin** said he hoped the Brookhaven law would produce "a cascade effect," leading other towns and Suffolk officials to adopt tougher regulations.
McAllister said septic systems that would meet the new code have been used successfully on Cape Cod in Massachusetts, in Florida and along the Chesapeake

Bay in Maryland.

Locally, Kevin is trying to get the Town of Southampton to adopt new regulations similar to Brookhaven.

He has pointed out to the Town Board the fact that the Courts have given local Boards the ability to adopt their own laws concerning water pollution etc.

The Town Board said they are still looking into it.

Action:

Kevin is preparing a letter advocating for better control of nitrates in waste water etc.

We will support his efforts for clean water on Long Island and the East End.

Next meeting Friday, June 12, 2015