

Bridgehampton Citizens Advisory Committee
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Fred Cammann, Chair - Tony Lambert Vice Chair - Richard Bruce, Secretary

MINUTES MONDAY MARCH 23, 2009 AT 7:00
Bridgehampton Bank Meeting Room

1 Call to Order

2 Attendance:: Present

Fred Cammann., John Daly Jenice Delano, Joan Frasier, Bob Frasier, Leslie Kapon, Steve Long, Michael Kapon, Tony Lambert, Ian MacPherson, Phyllis MacPherson, Weezie Quimby, John Millard, Alejandro Saralegui, Christine Smith, Jeffrey Vogel,

Excused:

Dick Bruce, Wendy Chamberlin, Leonard Davenport,, Whitney Fairchild, Cathie Gandel, Tim Hampton, Shira Kalish, Helene Mahoney, Jeffrey Mansfield, Georgia Rose, Steve Steinberg, William Thayer, Peter Terry, Peter Wilson

Guests:

Councilwomen Nancy Graboski, and Sally Pope

3 Approval of February 23, 2009 minutes

4 Ms Graboski and Ms Pope offered to lead a discussion on the food and shelter problems that face a growing number of unemployed people in the town of Southampton. The issue was introduced by the CAC after it learned of an emergency food program currently in place on a commercial property location in the Village of Southampton. It appears that around 100 people are being fed previously prepared, donated food and beverages six days a week at this location. The food operation has been in effect for about seven weeks.

(On April 1, 2009 this operation was shut down by the Village of Southampton Police Department of Code Enforcement, apparently on instructions from Mr. Chris Talbert, an official in the government of Southampton Village. The shutdown was enforced on a charge that the commercial site was not zoned for a food delivery service.)

The discussion was thorough and constructive.

In recent years an increasing number of people have come to East End seeking daily employment. Each day informal gatherings have occurred in the environs of North Sea Road and County Road 39. Often potential employers have cruised this area and have on the spot employed individuals.. With the advent of winter and the severe

economic letdown, the plight and number of unemployed, hungry people has increased, and there is no reason to assume that the numbers will not swell as the year goes on. All at the meeting agreed that a strong effort has to be made to address food, shelter, and clothing issues in Southampton, as well as on the rest of the East End. Numerous suggestions for aid came from the CAC, including shelter thoughts and potential food pantry suggestions, but it was the sense of all that the Town Board would be well advised to act as or seek out a leadership position in this crisis. Food, shelter, clothing, and health maintenance are basic humanitarian needs, the CAC and its guests agreed. The problems associated with questionable immigration should not be lumped together with humanitarian needs at this difficult time. .

The second subject discussed at this meeting concerned code regulations and enforcement. The following message was sent to the members of the Town Board by the CAC prior to this meeting:

The members of the CAC are very respectful of the pressures on the town departments, but we do tend to become frustrated at times. The town code seems to have become terribly complicated, and we are often at a loss in our individual dealings with the Building Department and with code enforcement. There is a feeling that code violations are not acted upon at times until the issues that cause the violations have resulted in difficulties for our residents. Complicated and sometimes petty regulations often cause financial distress when our residents and business entities need clear and simple direction as they plan budget improvements, new construction, or modified uses.

Ms. Graboski spoke about this issue. She said that the Town departments were working hard to cope with reports of violations of the town code and to increase the efficiency of the departments that deal with building permits, zoning variances, and code enforcement. She said that the quantity of applications for building permits and reports of code violations had substantially lessened with the encumbered economy. The Departments concerned have more time and staff availability to monitor activities in the town. All present agreed that the issues identified in the message sent to the Town Board had merit. .

Finally Mr. Vogel addressed the issue of the revised Bridgehampton Hamlet Study. The boundaries proposed by the Town are still under consideration. In the border between Mecox and Watermill, the Town would probably wish to poll present residents to determine whether they feel they live in the hamlet of Bridgehampton or in Watermill. .

5 New Business : April 27 meeting at the Bridgehampton Bank 7:00 PM.. Main topic will be the visit by Supervisor Linda Kabot.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Frederic Cammann, Chairman Bridgehampton CAC