

Hampton Bays Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

November 21, 2019

Members Present: Irene Anthony, Doreen Bartoldus, Ray D'Angelo, Thea Fry, Elizabeth Hook, Barbara Lefkowitz, Gerry Loesch, Mary Pazan

Members Absent: Al Danza, Mary Egan, Robert Lefkowitz, Kevin Springer, Maureen Sutton

Elected Officials: Town Councilperson Julie Lofstad

Other Officials: None

Guests: various

- Call to Order by Chairperson Ray D'Angelo
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Mr. D'Angelo acknowledged Councilperson Julie Lofstad and Ms. Kitty Merrill from the Southampton Press News Group in attendance.
- Mr. D'Angelo noted that the CAC is an appointed committee by the Town Board to advise the Town Board and is not a membership civic association such as the Hampton Bays Civic Association. The CAC meetings are open to the public for community input and the CAC was established as the official liaison between the Town Board and the community.
- **Hampton Bays Water District issues:** The committee members raised concern about the lack of timely action being taken by the Town Board/Hampton Bays Water District Commissioners regarding mitigation of contamination, maintenance, potential upgrades, and management of the Hampton Bays Water District. Ms. Pazan noted that that the completion date for the Dvirka and Bartilucci study of the HBWD infrastructure was sometime in the summer and therefore it is now months overdue. Councilperson Lofstad indicated that the receipt of the study is anticipated the week after Thanksgiving. Councilperson Lofstad also indicated that Richard McCuen, Deputy Superintendent is running the day to day operations of the HBWD temporarily. Ms. Lofstad also reported that the filters that filter out the known PFAS are being installed on the contaminated wells in time for the warmer weather; she will report back to the CAC when they are installed. Ms. Lofstad also reported that the discussions with the SCWA are tabled until after the Commissioners have had a chance to review the Dvirka and Bartilucci report. Attendees, including Liz Hook who has reported severe brown water, reiterated their concerns for the basic human need for clean drinking water. Ray D'Angelo read Town Code Section 330-63 into the record to make a point: *"The Town Board of the Town of Southampton is empowered by § 263 of the Town Law of the State of*

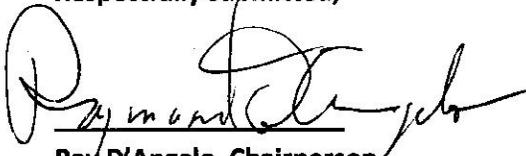
New York to enact zoning regulations which, in accordance with the Town Master Plan, facilitate the adequate provision of water to the residents of the Town and also promote the health, safety and welfare of the Town. The sole source of drinking water for the Town of Southampton is its underground aquifers. The federal government has given sole source aquifer designation to this area. The aquifers must be kept pure if a continued source of potable drinking water is to be available for future generations. It is the policy of the Town Board to protect the Town's supply of drinking water in its pristine state and prevent the degradation of this valuable and essential resource."

- **Mulching Operations at the Transfer Station:** Ray D'Angelo reiterated his concern that the excessive mulching operations at the transfer station can reasonably be a factor in the iron and manganese problems in the water supply and that the Town is slow to react and should consider closing the facility until the Town can update the facility to DEC standards.
- **Various ground water contamination plumes:** Councilperson Lofstad and the attendees discussed the various plumes in the TOS and whether or not the TOS has maps of the aquifers and the plumes. Ms. Lofstad will follow up and report back to the CAC as to the status of the maps.
- **The Hbfd Building designated as a NYS Superfund site:** Attendees raised concern that the Town Board is not taking an active interest in the investigation that was reported to commence in February 2019. The attendees raised concern that this issue should be fully vetted before the Town Board approves the HBDOD since it affects the quality and quantity of the residents' drinking water.
- **Assessed Valuation Committee:** Attendees discussed the inequitable tax burden distribution between the hamlets in the Town of Southampton mostly related to the school taxes and the 100% market value assessed valuation. Mr. D'Angelo questioned that if the Town re-assessed to market value each year, how could his and others' property assessment increase over 20% in one year? Councilperson Lofstad indicated that the Committee to study the assessed valuation has been formed. Attendees raised concern that no one from the CACs was included in the committee. Councilperson Lofstad indicated that she would provide the CAC with the resolution creating the committee and the names of the committee members appointed.
- **Code Enforcement:** Attendees raised the issue that it has been several months since Steven Troyd left his position as Director. Ms. Lofstad indicated that the position has been posted and Richard Harris is currently acting as the Director. Attendees also noted the lack of data provided and that the S.O.S. records the N.O.V. (NOTICE of Violation) as a COMPLETED violation. Ms. Lofstad indicated that they are working on a more accurate recording system, but data should be available on the TOS website under the S.O.S.
- **Homeless Camps:** The attendees discussed the existence of homeless camps in the community. Ms. Lofstad indicated that the police department and code enforcement are aware of the camps including the one by the Methodist Church/Cemetery, Macy's parking lot, Wild by Nature Parking lot, woods by the Long Island Railroad. Ms. Lofstad indicated that they try to assist as many as they can, but many do not

want the help. Ms. Lofstad indicated that the TOS provide funding to homeless services such as Maureen's Haven. The attendees queried the approximate number of homeless and the amount of funding the TOS provides to homeless services. Ms. Lofstad indicated she would provide information to the CAC.

- **Status of the purchase of the Bel-Aire Cove Motel by the Town for redevelopment:** Councilperson Lofstad reported that the motel was fully vacated and that the Town would be closing on the purchase as soon as possible and precede with the Town's Waterfront Development Plan. Mary Pazan noted that she, along with Doreen Bartoldus and Elizabeth Hook, are petitioners in an Article 78 proceeding regarding this purchase for redevelopment.
- **Status of the AutoZone Site Plan review:** Councilperson Lofstad indicated that she was advised that the site plan has been revised to include facades similar to the King Kullen Shopping Center. Mr. D'Angelo noted he had submitted a letter to the Planning Board regarding this issue.
- **Loss of the Movie Theater:** Attendees once again raised the issue that the loss of the movie theater is symbolic to the decline of Hampton Bays. Geraldine Spinella, a guest, reported she met with members of the Town Board to discuss a cultural center and believed that there were really no initiatives by the Town.
- **Cameras installed through the Town:** Ms. Lofstad indicated that the cameras are mostly for surveillance and traffic.
- **HBDOD "next steps":** Ms. Lofstad reported that about 300 community comments were received and a final EIS would be completed sometime this month. She also reported that she was informed that no further public input/hearings would be conducted as per Janice Scherer. Attendees disagreed in principal and procedure that there should be additional public review and comment before the Town Board votes on the final plan and EIS.
- **General lack of transparency and cooperation by the Town Board:** Thea Fry noted that the Town Board appoints community members to the CAC and then either does not request their input or ignores their input. Mary Pazan noted that it is the responsibility of the Town Administration to ensure that the community has clear and complete information; instead, it seems that the community needs to "work" to obtain any information. Ms. Lofstad disagreed pointing to the the Town reacting to the community initiative for the Ponquogue Pavilion renovation. Attendees disagreed with Ms. Lofstad indicating that the initiative was commenced by Supervisor Schneiderman wanting a full service restaurant at the site and the need for structural repairs to the Pavilion.
- Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ray D'Angelo, Chairperson

*approved by members via email