

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

*631-283-5978 or 631-283-3566*

*Lucille Dunne  
John Watson  
Co-Chairs*

*Secretary  
Barbara Fair*

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

*\*denotes Seasonal Member  
\*\*denotes ex-officio  
member*

**MINUTES**

**September 10, 2012**

**Guests:** Sheila Comparato, Lyn and Jim Ashe

**Special Guest Speakers:** Gary Glanz and Josh Belury – Sea Scouts Oyster Hatchery at Conscience Point

The meeting opened at 8:06 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the July 9, 2012 meeting were approved.

**New Business**

**Sea Scouts Oyster Hatchery Program.** Mr. Glanz and Mr Belury described the project, which is being conducted in North Sea Harbor near Conscience Point by the Sea Scouts. For the project, which was suggested by member Howard Reisman, the Sea Scouts obtained 100,000 oysters the size of a grain of sand from the East Hampton Hatchery. Oysters double in size each week; the men brought with them a bag of 1500 12 week-old oysters, each about an inch and a half long, that were grown at the hatchery. The Scouts use the “FLUPSY” method for growing, which involves flushing water up through a layer of oysters lying on a screen. This method was recommended by the Board of Trustees and enables the oysters to grow quickly. The project has been supported financially by a number of local businesses, among them Riverhead Building Supply, Lavinio Pools, and Norsic and Sons.

Mr Glanz related how New York used to be the “epicenter” of oysters: many years ago, 5 million New York oysters were harvested each day. Each adult oyster filters 50 gallons of water a day contributing greatly to the health of our bays. He envisions re-populating the bays with oysters, clams and scallops and is working with an advisory committee from Cornell Cooperative Extension in Southold.

The Oyster Hatchery has been a huge success with the members of the Scout troop and Mr Glanz and Mr. Belury aspire to expand the concept to creation of a not-for-profit Marine Learning Center at Conscience Point, perhaps in partnership with the Southampton Historical Museum. This might include a shellfish hatchery for oysters, clams and scallops run and maintained by students, marine environment classes for elementary and middle school students, and classes in marine skills such as boat

building and repair. The old Conscience Point Inn\*, which the men feel is structurally sound, seemed a suitable location for this, so they approached the Town about using it for a Learning Center. However, the Town was reportedly not receptive and indicated the old Inn was slated to be torn down. One possible reason is that the site was purchased with CPF funds and this proposal may not be compatible with CPF legislation.

The members strongly supported the concept of a Marine Learning Center at Conscience Point, pointing out that adaptive re-use of the Inn was one of the community's proposals in the draft North Sea Hamlet Study. Extending beyond improving the health of our bays, the benefits of a shellfish hatchery include its potential value as an educational tourist attraction, as the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery is a major tourist destination. Moreover, it was pointed out that as agriculture is a permitted use for land purchased with CPF funds, so why wouldn't aquaculture be permitted as well?

The members voted unanimously to approve writing a letter to the Town Board supporting the concept of a Marine Learning Center/Shellfish Hatchery as a desirable adaptive re-use of the Conscience Point Inn and consistent with the North Sea Hamlet Study recommendations.

#### **New Business**

**Water Quality Commission** – Co-chair Lucy Dunne said she would like to see North Sea represented on the Water Quality Commission that is being set up. Member Stephanie McNamara volunteered she was interested in being on the committee. It was noted there is already a Regional Clean Water Commission as well as a Clean Water Coalition comprised of the East End's town Supervisors. Members questioned whether the new commission represented a further duplication of effort, and how the missions of these groups would be coordinated.

**9/11 Memorial Service.** A 9/11 Memorial Service was scheduled for 8:30am, Tuesday, September 11 at the North Sea Community House at which time the bell is tolled and the flag lowered to half-mast. All are welcome to attend.

#### **Old Business**

**Little Fresh Pond.** The ZBA required the property owners to submit two separate applications at the same time: the first, for installing a swimming pool and playground, which attorney Wayne Bruyn argued was an accessory structure to the 12 cottages on the site, and the second, for a variance to allow the proposed Day Camp – a change in use which the community opposes. The write-in comment period on the proposed swimming pool closes November 8. The Planning Board will consider the application for a variance January 13, 2013.

As background, it was explained that in the Spring of this year, Mr. Jacobs advertised a tennis camp on site "with swimming in Little Fresh Pond". According to the Suffolk County Dept of Health, only if there were two activities and children were swimming in Little Fresh Pond would a day camp permit be required as 2

activities would be occurring. There has never been a permit issued by Suffolk County Department of health for a children's day camp on this property.

It was reported that the Town permitted an employee/representative of Mr. Jacobs to search old Town records for "camp" and pool variances, and that two were found: Bridgehampton Tennis and Surf Club, and the day camp on route 104 in East Quogue. The pool at SYS was cited as existing as well but that pool was built before there were tennis courts on the property at SYS. The purpose was evidently to prove that some tennis clubs had pools approved as accessory structures.

The members were concerned that an employee of the developer was allowed direct access to files that are usually made available through FOIL requests. Members were also concerned that the attorney for the Little Fresh Pond Association was given only five minutes for his presentation at the ZBA hearing.

### **Membership Priorities Updates**

**Jet East Site.** Members wanted to know if the property was going to be purchased with CPF funds, as had been suggested. Co-Chair John Watson said there was no new information.

### **Other Town Committee Reports**

**Parks.** No report.

**Housing.** Fred Thiele provided a legal opinion to the Town and the Housing Authority that as both CPF and Town funds had been used to purchase the Balcomie site without actually subdividing the property, the constraints of the CPF legislation applied to the whole site, and no portion of the property could be developed for residential use. TDR's associated with the site can be transferred.

**Sustainable Growth.** The committee is focusing on improving the water quality of the bays and surface waters, looking at technologies that are alternatives to sewer systems. Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst is spearheading creation of a Clean Water Coalition of East End Supervisors. There is a concern that the efforts of multiple committees working on this issue need coordination to avoid duplication.

**Solid Waste.** No meeting has been held since June. There have been three articles in the *Southampton Press* on recycling.

**Airport Noise.** There continues to be strenuous community opposition to helicopter noise. Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst, Councilwoman Bridget Fleming and Senator Schumer attended a meeting of over 70 residents protesting FAA plans to make routes over Noyac, North Sea and Roses Grove permanent. It was reported that the FAA does not have to hold a hearing when they choose a route, and that the FAA's only concern is safety. Co-Chair John Watson voiced the opinion, shared by the members, that the FAA should be required to hold a hearing. Concerning altitude, the reason helicopters don't fly at 5,000 feet, where noise is not an issue at ground level, is the time and additional cost of fuel to make the ascent and descent.

Members felt the appropriate solution was for the helicopters to fly at 5,000 feet and pass the cost on to their customers.

Helicopter noise will be the topic of the September 17 Town Board Work Session, when all key players will meet to consider a solution.

**Unimproved Roads.** The committee chair met with the Supervisor, Councilwoman Fleming, Town Attorney Murray and Assemblyman Thiele in July. The Supervisor is looking into internal funding sources. The committee chair observed that raising a fund of \$500,000 for unimproved roads would amount to pennies per household.

**Disabilities.** There will be a meeting later in the week. The committee is working on an Accessibility Guide for doctors, restaurants, dentists and stores.

**CAC Chairs.** Meetings were held in July and August.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

**Present:** Joan Barra, Mary Beatty, John Clark Lucille Dunne, Barbara Fair, Dan Gebbia, Stephanie McNamara, Ann Reisman, Frank Palmer, Mary Topping, John Watson,

**Excused:** Arlene Schroeder