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*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

April 9, 2012

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

The minutes of the March 12, 2012 meeting were approved.

Guests

Town Council Member Christine Preston-Scalera, Town of Southampton
Director of Municipal Works Christine Fetten, P.E., and North Sea resident
Howard Reisman

Special Presentation – Storm Water Management Program

Councilwoman Scalera introduced Christine Fetten, Director of Municipal Works for the Town of Southampton. Ms. Scalera explained that in order for the Town to maintain its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit (“MS4 Permit”) the Town was required to do education and outreach to the community on the need for, and means of, storm water management. Ms. Fetten explained that storm water in many instances runs into local water bodies, compromising water quality. Ms. Fetten then presented an informative slide show that began by depicting the cycle of water, the movement of ground water, and surface runoff.

The main goals of storm water management are: to improve impaired water bodies; increase the safety of seafood; reduce bathing beach closures; reduce coastal erosion; and to educate developers, the general public and maintenance personnel. Pamphlets were provided on proper chemical disposal; the use of trees and shrubs to filter runoff; the advantages of smaller lawn areas, reducing fertilizer use and composting yard waste; maintaining septic systems; and the need to prevent soil erosion, which causes turbidity in adjacent water bodies.

The Town’s multi-pronged efforts also include supporting the Great East End Cleanup, the free leaf and brush disposal program, encouraging native perennial plantings, presentations at school events, the open space preservation program that creates natural buffers, and encouraging the construction industry to follow Best Management Practices.

Other topics covered in the comprehensive presentation included wildlife feeding and habitat; domestic animal waste; roof runoff, rain barrels and rain gardens;

pool care and maintenance; boat maintenance, No Discharge Zones and Pump-Out boats; use of non-toxic cleaning products; landscape design, organic fertilizer use, xeriscaping, native plantings, recycling grey water and rain gardens; vehicle washing and maintenance; the evolution of septic systems from block infiltration pools to advanced treatment systems; and proper septic system maintenance.

Summarizing the Towns' objectives for the Storm Water Management Program:

- Prevent pollution at the source
- Manage clean water runoff
- Minimize use of pollutants
- Plan for spills and accidents
- Practice preventive maintenance
- Identify potential pollution sources
- Plan new facilities to include storm water retention
- Improve data collection, mapping and records management
- Improve community outreach and coordination
- “Recycle, Reuse, Reduce and Re-Educate”

In the question and answer period that followed, members suggested the Town again offer composting units to homeowners at a reduced price and inquired how the Town was going to do outreach to the broader community. Ms. Scalera replied that, in addition to kickoff meetings at King Kullen and Stop and Shop, there would be programs at schools, a poster contest, individual and business pledges, and a “green directory” online.

Other discussion/questions concerned the practices of pool service companies; storm water management through additional storm drains; an inventory of municipal facilities and employee education; whether the Town followed Best Management Practices; and DEC and other ordinances.

Members were particularly interested in learning why the Town did not agree to a plastic bag ban. Ms. Scalera replied that they wanted to try education first and if the goal of a 15% reduction was not reached, “some sort of legislation would probably come”. Also noted was the potential effect on summer visitors unprepared to bring re-usable bags to the market.

Other remarks included the possible environmental concerns posed when the Highway Barn on North Sea Road was flooded, and the Green Sustainability committee scheduled [Forum on Septic Tank Maintenance at the Hampton Bays High School](#) from 7 to 9 pm on May 15.

New Business

Summer Schedule - The CAC will meet on July 9. There will not be a meeting in August.

Old Business

Day Camp Expansion – There was concern that property owner’s operation at 175 Daniels Hole Road, East Hampton, would in the future be combined with activities at the Little Fresh Pond site, if the day camp was approved by the Town. “The first thing they did was create a path to Little Fresh Pond.”

Other Town Committee Reports

Housing - A member explained the qualifications a person must meet to receive Section 8 housing assistance under the Town’s program administered by the Housing Authority. Persons who live or work in the Town have a preference for the vouchers. The program is intended to help working families cope with the high housing costs in our area. Members expressed appreciation for the excellent presentation by Richard Blowes, Executive Director of the Town of Southampton Housing Authority, at the last meeting.

Sustainable Growth – The Committee would have liked to see a ban on plastic bags. The Town Board wanted to try to achieve results through education.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee – Voted to ban plastic bags.

Unimproved Roads Committee – The committee met with the Supervisor and with Alex Gregor, Superintendent of Highways, and discussed unimproved roads. The Superintendent of Highways favors a solution to these roads as he believes that everyone should live on a safe road. The Committee is waiting to get on the Town Board calendar.

Disabilities – The Committee held a very successful Mental Health Day on March 31, from 9:30 to 3:30 at the High School. There was a free lunch and workshops on spirituality and mental health issues.

The Disabilities Advisory Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month. There are three new members. The Committee is working on wheelchair access to additional restaurants and stores. Some accessible businesses do not have handicap access to bathrooms, or the toilets are too low, which are additional issues.

CAC Chairs Committee – The meeting was cancelled.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 pm.

Present: Mary Beatty, Lucille Dunne, Barbara Fair, Stephanie McNamara, Ann Reisman, Arlene Schroeder, John Watson,

Excused: John Clark, Dan Gebbia, Frank Palmer, Mary Topping,