

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

631-283-5978 or 631-283-3566

**Lucille Dunne
John Watson
Co-Chairs**

Minutes of October 14, 2014 Meeting

**Barbara Fair
Secretary**

The meeting opened at 7:35 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting were approved.

Members

**John Barona
Joan Barra**
Mary Beatty**
Declan Blackmore
Joan Brennan**
Susan Colledge
Sheila Comparetto
John Clarke
Daniel Gebbia
Mark Matthews
Stephanie McNamara
Ann Reisman
Frank Palmer
Arlene Schroeder
Mary E. Topping****

Town Committee Reports

Housing. The Southampton Housing Authority’s Development Committee is working with Town officials to identify improvement projects that would address blighted properties. On another topic, the recent newspaper advertisement by the Housing Authority urging landlords to consider participating in the Housing Choice Voucher, or “Section 8”, program prompted a discussion of the program’s reputation. Many present were aware that Suffolk County also places Section 8 recipients within the Town of Southampton. While the Housing Authority carefully screens tenants and requires landlords to have valid Town rental permits in addition to HUD required inspections, it is believed that the County does not require landlords to have a Town rental permit. If this is true, the members questioned why the Town has no control over the County’s Section 8 placements. Last, copies of the site plan and architectural renderings of the final design for the Sandy Hollow multi-generational affordable housing project were circulated to the members.

Landmarks and Historic Preservation. The Town is putting in place a cross-referencing system to coordinate information and activities of all Town Departments with the Historic Resources Survey of buildings 75 years old and older. The system will allow all Town departments to access the same data and share information about permits applied for or approved.

Sustainability. Members were informed of the Green Power Renewable Energy Program to be held Thursday, October 30 from 7-9 pm at the Hampton Bays Community Center. The program will include discussion of the supply and demand side of the region’s electrical power needs, and the “Deepwater Wind” offshore wind power project. PSEG LI personnel will discuss residential energy reduction and solar power. Gordian Raacke, the Executive Director for Renewable Energy Long Island will also speak. Mr. Raacke is the founder and executive director of Renewable Energy Long Island (reLI), a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization promoting clean and sustainable energy use and generation on Long Island.

*denotes Seasonal Member
**denotes ex-officio member

Members reported there are mixed views about the proposed solar installation over a Southold sod farm and that another solar installation for Calverton was supposed to produce more electricity than the diesel powered “peaker” plants proposed in response to LI’s increased electricity usage. Other suggested locations for solar power installations were the runways at Grumman and over landfills. Wind power is now close to being cost competitive with fossil fuels. A wind farm proposed for offshore of Montauk will not be visible from land. A member observed that 40 years ago an offshore wind farm was fought, but that today it wouldn’t be. Balancing alternatives – such as the impact on the fishery or bird life is important, but there are always be people who will come out against something.

Solid Waste. There was no committee meeting in September. However, a meeting was held with carters to explain changes in the solid waste program that will require them to have licenses. Some carters would like to use the transfer stations again, which would require them to source-separate recyclables. Town carters’ contracts with Brookhaven and others were cancelled last spring. New payment terms were not known. Brookhaven Town now is accepting single stream waste.

In the 1990’s East End towns did not want to be in the garbage business. Supply and demand is changing. Large companies such as Home Depot and Lowes were trucking MSW garbage down South to landfills on their return trips from deliveries to Long island. These companies are now using the rail system for deliveries. Trucking costs for MSW have increased as a result of these changes. Local carters can’t truck waste to the South.

Any waste-to-energy solution has to be regional and include East Hampton, Southampton, Shelter Island, Riverhead and Southold. Islip and Brookhaven have incinerators. Southold has a contract for a solar energy installation over a capped landfill but this is an expensive solution. The cost is at least \$50 million to cap Riverhead’s landfill – a big budget issue for that town with large costs overruns. The old Grumman site was suggested as a possible location for a waste-to-energy facility, as it has a railroad spur.

October 25 is the last date the North Sea Recycling Center will accept hazardous waste this year. Because of the specialized training and storage requirements for hazardous waste, a vendor is brought in to collect the material, it has increased to six times per year.

Airport Noise. Three or four meetings have been held between the Town and East Hampton town boards to discuss data collection and ways to mitigate aircraft noise. Some participants were unaware North Sea was among the impacted communities. Residents should call 537-LOUD to report complaints.

Unimproved Roads. The Town received four responses to the RFP for firms to design a road improvement program. In meetings, the number of firms was narrowed to three; the Committee will further refine the list and recommend one or two firms to the Town.

Disabilities. No report.

CAC Chairs. As reported in the Landmarks section, the Town is amalgamating their databases to provide comprehensive information on properties. Other changes are: Code Enforcement will be run like the Police Department, with Code Enforcement officers working in Sectors; the Police Department will go back to Community Policing, with officers attending community functions; and the Town will engage the other East End Towns on issues of regional impact, such as plastic bags, and work to move forward together. Target date for implementation of a biodegradable plastic bag is earth day 2015.

Old Business

Little Fresh Pond – Southampton Day Camp Expansion Update.

The scheduled ZBA hearing has been put off until early 2015. The property owner is supposed to be submitting plans to the Planning Board, which has been designated the lead SEQRA agency for the project. The owner is following the same strategy as before – scheduling hearings for the winter when many homeowners are not around. School buses remain on the property.

New Business

Stahecki Property. A NYS DEC vehicle at the site has been observed on the site. Unapproved activities continue at the site: trucks were observed bringing in a shipments of manure and others with grass clippings. It is rumored there is a buyer for the site.

Previously reported (9/9/14): Members reported that the 19+ Acre site at 1205 Majors Path is on the market for \$5.8 million and that development of the site with 160 condos is in the talking stage. The owner of the site, which drains into Fish Cove, was previously fined \$77,000 for illegal composting activities and sand mining. Councilman Bender asked if the property was in a Preservation Zone and requested the CAC send him an e-mail with that information. A member suggested the CAC write to the Town Board that we are against development of the site and CPF purchase of the site should be considered

Program on Funding at the RML. A free program on finding grants and funding for Not-For-Profit organization, “Introduction to Finding Funders”, will be held at the Rogers Memorial Library Tuesday, October 21 from 7 to 8:30 pm. NSCAC members who are also involved with the Tupper Boathouse Project may find it useful to attend.

Town’s Emergency Response Plans Should Be Tailored to and Shared With Communities.

The members observed that residents receive only Town-wide general instructions on how to prepare for storm emergencies and that the designated Town emergency shelter, Hampton Bays High School, could be difficult to reach from North Sea and likely insufficient to accommodate all Town residents displaced in a major emergency. It was felt these general messages were insufficient to effectively protect hamlet residents and that a distributed emergency response system could be designed and implemented.

Immediately during and after storm emergencies it would be helpful to have designated local command centers and places where people can gather to receive temporary assistance and directions from emergency responders. These locations could be pre-designated, satellite emergency response centers, located out of projected storm surge areas and equipped with permanently installed generators and communication equipment. The North Sea Community Association expressed interest in the North Sea Community House being considered for this purpose. Another option for a satellite emergency response center might be the SYS facility.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm

Present: Sheila Comparetto, Lucy Dunne, Barbara Fair,
Stephanie McNamara, Frank Palmer, Ann Reisman, Mary
Topping, John Watson

Excused: John Barona, Declan Blackmore, John Clarke, Dan Gebbia,
Arlene Schroeder

Guests: Susan Colledge and Ray Clare