

Minutes for Sag Harbor CAC meeting, September 12, 2014

Attended by;

Bob Malafronte

John Linder

Steve Shumann

Susan Baren

Guests;

Brad Bender, Southampton Town Board Member

Sgt. Lewis Scott, Community Response Team, Southampton Town Police

Councilman Bender spoke about the Riverside Traffic Circle Improvement Proposal.

Purpose:

1- relieve congestion and delays in addition to safety concerns from the current configuration

2- Improve access to area shopping, access to the County Center as well as long term revitalization efforts of both the Riverside and the Riverhead communities.

The Plan:

Expand the Circle for two lanes, improves safety and enhances traffic flow

Method:

The plan would require incorporating a small sliver of land, currently owned by the Town. In exchange for County owned land that would double the size of the parkland adjacent to the circle.

Benefits:

No cost to the Town

Twice as much land as the land the town is surrendering

Double pedestrian access to the river

Improve traffic, safety and growth in the community

Action:

The CAC will write in support of this plan, we will urge citizens to vote for the Ballot Proposition.

Sgt. Lewis community response team:

Steve Shulmann asked about the illegal dumping on Town Line Road near the power lines and illegal ATV traffic in the same area.

Sgt. Lewis told us that it was a problem but with limited man power it was not a high priority. the staffing reduction due to budget cuts at the town level have left the dept.

undermanned. The cost to the town of approximately \$215,000 per officer hired. And the Town Board is currently considering hiring 3 more officers. Councilman Bender said the town will be hiring 3 more officers as well as introducing new patrol schedules that would be better for the force and reduce the absence rate.

Given such limited resources on the enforcement side, the police dept. then has to then make serious decisions about what gets their attention and resources and priorities. And our main issues of illegal dumping, ATV traffic, and random gun target shooting, decrease in their priority as enforcement issues while simultaneously highlighting the complexity of enforcing our issues.

Such as:

illegal dumping-can get cleaned up periodically even though complicated due to split jurisdiction issues and enforcement virtually impossible due to the remote location being difficult to patrol,,

shortage of enforcement man-hours and erratic timing of actual illegal dumping
Illegal ATV traffic-again complication of enforcement due to violators must be "caught in act" by an appropriate officer, underage disqualifying ticket situation of most participants, parent's condoning of such activity.

Illegal shooting-turns out is not really illegal. Anything goes as long as 500 feet from any building or roadway

Sgt. Lewis was very informative and the members were very satisfied with the information given by him.

In summary:

We will post to our website the exact law around each of our three issues so we and the public know what is exactly enforceable. Then our recommendations of what citizens might do to within the parameters of the law to prohibit or reduce the frequency of occurrences of our three local issues.

Next meeting: Friday October 10, 2014 @ 5:30 p.m. Pierson H.S. Library