

MONTAUK CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2022

Attendance: 15 present (38 members)

Members Present: L. Barnds, T. Byrne, J. Chimples, S. Conway, L. Cortese, L. Creegan, J. Fowkes, B. Grimes, D. Hausman, J. Iacono, S. Sennefelder, L. Siedlick, M. Tripp, K. Tyler, M. Waterman

Members Absent: B. Akin, J. Allen, T. Berger, J. Buklad, D. Ceva, R. Cortell, C. Cortese, T. Creel, L. Daut, J. Evans, D. Freudenthal, A. Harris, B. J. Howard, J. James, S. Kalimnios, D. Monahan, P. Monte, T. Ries, R. Silver, K. Weiss, R. Weiss, C. Yula, Z. Zweig

Guests: Tom Gogola (EH Star)

Board Liaison: David Lys

The meeting was called to order by Chair D. Hausman at 6:05pm.

There being no quorum, the Minutes of the August meeting were tabled.

Letters Received: None

Community Organizations: CCOM - L. Tooman submitted her report via email as follows: (1) CARP was officially adopted by the Town Board earlier this month. CCOM is planning to hold a webinar on coastal resilience in October; (2) CCOM Family Picnic will take place this Saturday 1-3pm at Ford Pond House; (3) floating wetlands will be removed on Saturday, October 22. Volunteers are needed; and (4) HAB levels in Fort Pond have continued to decrease and are no longer considered at bloom level. **Chamber** - J. Fowkes reported that Farmers Markets are now on Fridays and the Fall Festival will take place October 8-9. Volunteers are needed. **Library** - Rooms at the Library were dedicated to Joan Lycke and Jim Donna in honor of their outstanding service. Movies are being shown Wednesdays (at 2:30 and 6pm) and on Fridays. **Community Church** - rummage sales are now every other week on Saturday.

Old Business:

Beach Subcommittee Report: No report. D. Lys said that sand replenishment for Ditch would be considered by the Town Board in the Spring, in response to a question.

Airport Subcommittee Report: No report.

MVA Follow up: J. Fowkes reported that, on behalf of the Chamber, she had a very positive meeting with Tony Littman and weeding has been done at the Circle. Some issues remain as to who is responsible for maintenance at some specific areas (MVA or the Town). D. Lys said that some of the "facts" discussed at the last meeting are in dispute and there was a disconnect due to COVID. D. Lys is currently working on a plan to use a drone to conduct an inventory of all planter boxes and green spaces. Once maintenance needs are clarified, he intends to submit a line for maintenance in the Town budget to be offset by parking fees in Montauk. MVA will be involved. He said that MVA is responsible for the hanging baskets, using funds (\$10,000) from the Town that went directly to MVA. He said that the Town sends a morning cleaning crew of teenagers on Friday-Sunday.

Councilperson's Liaison Report: Southern Pine Beetle infestation on Napeague - NYS DEC is working to assess damage and has begun to fell trees and expects to fell 3200. A

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survey of Promised Land found new sites of infestation and trees are being marked. The approach is to fell trees, score the bark and wait for a freeze. Per Tom Dess, efforts are being made to stop the infestation before it reaches Hither Hills State Park. **Montauk Skatepark** - Kudos to the community for supporting this public/private partnership. **Water Quality** - 20% of the CPF is dedicated to grants for water quality initiatives, including septic upgrades and funding for municipal and quasi commercial projects. \$1.6 million is available now but no Montauk property has yet applied. **Beaches** - lifeguards had a good season; drones were used for shark sightings and beaches were closed twice. **South Fork Wind Farm** - there will be a virtual meeting tonight regarding the cable work on Beach Lane. **Emergency Communications** - there is an upgrade plan, with a powerpoint presentation on the Town web site. Small cell towers are live in Montauk but not in Napeague. **Lake Montauk Dredging Project** - Army Corps will dredge the inlet to widen and go to a depth of 17 feet in the Fall of 2023. The sand will go to the areas west of the jetties to rebuild the beach. There will be a 7 year dredging plan. **No Parking on Edgemere/Flamingo** - No parking areas will be extended at the request of the Montauk Commissioners to Suffolk County DOT. **Food Insecurity** - remains a problem in Montauk. The Town has given the Montauk Food Pantry a grant of \$20,000 and people should keep in mind the great need in our community. **"Last Mile" Commuter Service** - a bus has been added for Montauk. Teachers are using the service, but it is not available on Fridays and the MTA has not been responsive to our needs. **Community Housing Implementation Plan** - Jeremy Samuelson, head of the Planning Department, will speak to the MCAC on October 3 with a public hearing to take place on October 6 at 2pm regarding the proposed 0.5% transfer tax on the November ballot to support affordable housing.

Updates/Q&A: Industrial Road Roundabout - final engineering plans are in process and the plan is to complete the project by the end of Spring 2023; **Hamlet Plan** - discussions will begin in November/December; **"Gateway" Project** to bury the lines at the entrance to Montauk is in the works and moving forward; **Rods Valley pier** - night fishing is now prohibited and signage should be up. **Parking/Traffic Safety** - Crosswalks are needed to get safely to the Green; IGA lot no exit onto Montauk Highway is ineffective - new signage is needed and L. Lys said that the MCAC should make a recommendation to the Town Board on what to do; the corner at Hero Beach Resort is very dangerous and stop signs are needed there and in other areas in downtown.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm upon motion by J. Chimples, seconded by L. Barnds.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Wilkov Waterman