

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING  
SOUTHAMPTON VILLAGE  
JUNE 2, 2022**

Due notice having been given the public hearing of the Planning Commission for the Village of Southampton was held on Thursday, June 2, 2022, at 5:30PM as hybrid via video conferencing and in Village Hall, 23 Main Street, Southampton, New York. Pursuant to Executive Order 202.1 adopted by the Governor of New York on May 5, 2020. Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (Open Meetings Law), is suspended "to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such action authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the opportunity to view or listen to such proceedings and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed.

Chair opened the meeting. Pledge of allegiance was held.

Present were Co-Chair Marc Chiffert  
Co-Chair Michelangelo Lieberman  
Pamela Gilmartin  
Michael Anderson  
Christian Picot

Absent were Edoardo Simioni  
Laura Devinney  
Summer Stelling  
Edoardo Simioni  
Robert Essay

**MINUTES ADOPTION**

MOTION by Chair, second M. Lieberman

**To approve the minutes of the May Planning Commission public hearings.**

On Vote: Chair Chiffert, M. Anderson, P. Gilmartin, M. Lieberman, and C. Picot

**SEWER/WASTE-WATER COMMITTEE UPDATE BY PAUL TRAVIS AND D&B ENGINEERING**

This will be handled at July meeting. A presentation was made to the Town, and they have identified a site on County Road 39 and David Whites Lane as possibility for sewage plant.

Trustee Arresta will speak to the Commission in July.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY KEVIN McALLISTER**

Kevin McCallister, Marine Biologist, currently works with Defend H2O. He has a Masters in Coastal Zone Management and qualifies as a specialist with dredge and fill. He was Baykeeper for 14 years, as Baykeeper, he commissioned a study back in 2013 regarding the health of Lake Agawam. The problem is the phosphorus laden bottom pollutant. There are chronic blooms and then storm water adds to the

problem and it settles to the bottom sediment, this is really the problem and cause of blooms. They are currently treating systems that are not getting to the true root of the problem, which is the thick organic bottom. For dredging, the problem is terrestrial, they need to dewater and dry to facilitate trucking, it's an enormous volume with considerable impact to the community. The price is high as well.

He would argue that they need to think outside of the box, and he has seen dredging in all forms, and it is visually dirty. However, they need to start think about having a straight jet into the slosh zone in cold weather months, when disruption would be minimal. Hydraulic dredging and discharge into shoreline could be a solution. There is sand, contaminants and pollutants that would need to be identified. As well as an assessment of life in the bottom. His feeling is that the chronic nature of blooms signals a probably dead bottom, so it is not truly an ecosystem in its current state.

Wintertime would be an opportunity because of lessened use and blue green algae not in bloom. They could place right into the swash zone, in a short straight shot as you can get. He feels the bottom is largely organic and it is mud, and it will smell, cause discoloration, but dilution will disperse it in short order. He feels it should be a one time, get it all done in one shot, and he feels it is plausible and he has researched DEC regulations. DEC doesn't preclude a discharge with contaminants at certain levels. The Village would have to have a conversation with DEC. Trustees with Town need to be involved as well. Dewatering and trucking is cost preventative, this is a good option. He would like to help Trustees to analyze this option.

M. Anderson asked how long a process? Not certain, but after characterizing the bottom, those in industry will tell what it will take, and a price could be based on that information. M. Chiffert noted the dredging is being discussed by Clean Water Committee, definitely an interesting suggestion.

## **UPDATE TO TREES USA**

### **Trees and Environmental Task Force:**

Michelangelo Lieberman, Leader

Christian Picot

Michael Anderson

Laura Devinney

C. Picot noted that Trees USA has four application requirements, and this is referring to public tree legislation only.

1. Have an Arbor Day proclamation, which has already been accomplished.
2. A budget for tree maintenance in excess of \$2.00 per resident, there is \$38,000 in the budget.
3. A tree ordinance in place.
4. A Tree Board needs to be established.

C. Picot thanked L. Devinney for collecting the necessary element to revamp Village Code Chapter 107 on trees. C. Picot and M. Anderson met with Steve Phillips of the Parks Department as well.

Their recommendations moving forward will be to establish a tree board under the Planning Commission oversight that would have three members. The members would be a member of Board of Trustees liaison from Parks Department, Village Planner and a member of the Commission. They will

need to write an initiative to have three members. The Board can oversee the work by A. Wallach and Village Counsel. A work session with Village Board is necessary, but they need a formal request from Trustees. They are putting all pieces in play, and they are ready to craft policy.

M. Chiffert feels five members would not be a bad idea, he feels that three members may be too small. The Village has 15,000 trees and a third need maintenance. P. Gilmartin feels the public should have more of a say. Perhaps with five members there could be a public representative.

A Tree Board is a first step, the work session is necessary to develop a tree board and have Alex Wallach/Ken Grey work with them regarding tree policy. There is grant money out there and they don't want to prolong it, they will need to work fast.

MOTION by C. Picot, second Chair Chiffert.

**To bring to the Board of Trustees a proposal to finalize application for Trees USA by the end of the year.**

On Vote: Chair Chiffert, M. Anderson, P. Gilmartin, M. Lieberman, and C. Picot

#### **GUEST PRESENTATION BY VILLAGE CLERK CATHY SWEENEY/JACKIE ALLEN**

Postponed to July.

#### **GUEST PRESENTATION BY VILLAGE PLANNER ALEX WALLACH**

An RFP was issued for an architectural reconnaissance survey, and they got two responses from RFP. The Architectural Review Board is going to evaluate responses and recommend to Board of Trustees and interview those consultants. Both firms are based in NY and have done work all over the place. M. Chiffert was surprised only two, perhaps timeframe was too short. A. Wallach noted a possibility to readvertise with different language, but ultimately, they got two responses.

Village applied to NYS Parks Historic Department, and they are going to receive \$10,000 of State grant to support this effort. He will follow up with the two companies that responded.

Possibility to accept Town of Southampton License instead of Suffolk County License. Village Attorney is exploring, he doesn't have an answer right now on the status of this. M. Chiffert suggested reaching out to Janice Scherr regarding the matter. The advantage is that if a complaint is made, it is dealt with at Town level and it is easier. C. Picot asked if they are talking about reciprocity with landscapers for Village, M. Chiffert noted this is for home improvement only, and doesn't apply to new construction. The Mayor would have to sign a formal agreement. Currently there is no special license for landscapers.

A. Wallach noted they are also working on NY Stretch Code. M. Lieberman volunteered to assist in language for that code.

#### **TASK FORCE ASSIGNMENT UPDATES**

##### **Property/Real Estate Task Force:**

Michael Anderson, Leader

Marc Chiffert

Pamela Gilmartin

**Urban Sustainable Mobility Initiative Task Force:**

Marc Chiffert  
Bob Essay  
Eduardo Simioni  
Summer Stelling

**Senior Center/Club Task Force:**

Laura Devinney, Leader  
Pamela Gilmartin  
Summer Stelling

**UPDATES ON VILLAGE NEWS/DEVELOPMENTS**

Chair reminded not to forget the Village elections on June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Cultural Center on Pond Lane. They can vote early with form from Village Clerk.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Audience member, Marie Durban at 97 Breese Lane, would like bicycle lanes to have better signage, they can't be seen clearly, and there is no biking allowed on Jobs and Main streets. She also expressed concern over where plant for Sewer District will be, it will be corner of CR-39 and David Whites Lane, she feels as taxpayer they have a new sewer study frequently and then no action is taken with the Study. The Commission let her know that studies are necessary for public works, especially with a high price tag. She also asked the Commission if the pipe that is currently in place from Lake Agawam to the beach can be utilized for dredging. That is an overflow pipe, the dredging will have to be discussed and will involve DEC participation and approval.

She wanted to give input regarding the Master Plan, she was informed that falls under a task force that is headed by Bill Manger. The Commission thanked her for her input, and they want to encourage participation and public comment.

Next meeting will be July 7, 2022.

MOTION by Chair, second M. Lieberman

**To adjourn the meeting.**

On Vote: Chair Chiffert, M. Anderson, P. Gilmartin, M. Lieberman, and C. Picot

Respectfully Submitted by:

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JoLee Sanchez

File Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Village Clerk