

**PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
SOUTHAMPTON VILLAGE
MAY 6, 2021**

Pursuant to Executive Order 202.1 adopted by the Governor of the State of New York on March 12, 2020, Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (Open Meeting Law), is suspended "to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed."

The public hearing of the Planning Commission for the Village of Southampton on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 5:00PM via Zoom.

Marc Chiffert, Laura Devinney Robert Essay, Pamela Gilmartin, and Michelangelo Lieberman and Edoardo Simioni were present. Eldon Scott, Edward Corrigan, and Paul Travis were absent.

Marc Chiffert acted as Chair and opened the meeting.

Tonight the Commission will discuss what will be the discussion and focus for the Commission going forward. There are many new residents, they want to look at which issues need review and the role and mission of the Commission. R. Essay is concerned of historic nature retention and clear cutting of properties. He thinks they should concentrate more on that since it changes the whole character of the Village. M. Chiffert feels the Town is doing a great job but feels that our Boards possibly do not take it as seriously. The ARB has the power to review historic nature of structures. R. Essay noted the fine for tearing down is low and he feels a moratorium on the property for a couple of years would have more benefit. M. Lieberman noted that possibly have a moratorium on demolitions. M. Chiffert feels that having a separate oversight on historic structures is important. P. Gilmartin feels that many committees makes it more confusing, there should be one central board or committee for that purpose. M. Chiffert feels that he agrees that decision by Boards are not in sync and having a coordinator for the process or planner would be a good thing. M. Lieberman wanted to know if that was formally presented to elected officials, M. Chiffert feels that it was not formally done. He feels that the Village should have a committee or branch of ARB or Planning Board to oversee historic structures and be part of approval process to the Village. The Town model was mentioned as highly effective. M. Lieberman stated that landmarked structures do not have teeth. The Village is a CLG, and they have the power to fine and to impose more restrictions noted M. Chiffert. R. Essay served on the Town landmark board and it had no teeth. M. Lieberman noted that since they are a CLG perhaps they can make that recommendation. He wants to make sure that they have a clear path to the elected officials. The rate of demolition and renovation is so fast and in five years we will not recognize the Village. Chair asked M. Lieberman to draft for the Board and he will follow up with template for him to use. J. McLoughlin is the liaison to the Board and that can be sent to his Trustee email.

Chair feels that possibly enlarge the membership of the Commission and create subcommittees so they can better advise on any regulations that will come up. For example, transportation, land use, quality of life, etc., and invite the public to participate and have a theme at each meeting. L. Devinney feels that the Planning Commission is already a committee, but they can designate what they think their focus is

and cover that as a commission, they are in place to help the Board study those issues. She feels that committees dilute, but they need to define or restate their mission and deliver that to the Board and communicate it effectively. M. Lieberman noted they need an agenda and some kind of calendar with tangible goals with timelines and it cannot be too much of inspiration, but more organization. M. Chiffert noted the role of Commission could be vehicle of public involvement and they can get involved. L. Devinney and M. Lieberman agree with the need for public involvement. She feels pre-COVID there was good public involvement. The virtual curtails public input. She feels it is a factor that will be difficult to overcome. M. Chiffert feels the public needs to be involved.

L. Devinney asked when they will meet in the Board Room again, she feels they need to ask the Mayor. M. Lieberman feels that they need to reorganize first and then get public involved again after mission statement is prepared and an agenda needs to be prepared. L. Devinney wants to know when they will meet in person again and is there a plan. M. Chiffert noted that possibly in July, they need to find out from the Village. L. Devinney feels the public will be more involved if they are more organized.

Edoardo Simioni joined the meeting.

M. Lieberman noted that since J. McLaughlin is liaison, perhaps he should attend the meeting so that he can help. L. Devinney feels that goals and mission should be restated and then run by J. McLaughlin. Chair noted that before next meeting they have that first step. M. Lieberman has idea regarding movie theatre and other subjects and feels it is good opportunity. R. Essay also feels the Village should have left hand turning arrows, the traffic is so difficult with making left hand turns. The traffic and parking needs to be addressed and it is getting worse.

L. Devinney left the meeting.

M. Chiffert noted that parking, traffic, and acquisition of land for those purposes should be part of the discussion, he is thinking parcel at Elm and Hampton Road is a good possibility for parking. R. Essay talked about putting in a garage, centralizing via a garage would take on street parking out or condense it. R. Essay noted that garages look like regular buildings down in Florida, not just a concrete building. E. Simioni feels that there is plenty of parking, but the signage is not great, he feels that the public doesn't even know that it is there. E. Simioni noted that left hand turn signal on lights, he feels it may not be a bad idea and he feels it would not be that expensive. He feels the traffic would flow more slowly possibly. M. Chiffert noted that restricting truck traffic on Hill Street could be a possibility. R. Essay stated that everything used to go through the Village before CR39, now it is mostly CR39.

E. Simioni noted that the Chair needs to organize an agenda. He feels the mission statement is driven by the Trustees of the Village. He has not been getting much feedback from the Trustees, maybe they need to meet with the Trustees. He feels public meetings should be picking up, but the public involvement needs to be on Trustee level. A themed meeting would be better attended per M. Chiffert, then they can comment on those things. E. Simioni asked about meeting in person, should they pick a date, M. Chiffert feels like July would be a good date to begin in person meetings. Board members should be vaccinated and masked for them to go back. R. Essay feels July is better, they will give one more meeting like this and then they have time. They also desire to streamline process for resolutions in how it gets presented to Trustees.

R. Essay reiterated his concern that an \$800 fine is pocket change for tearing down, possibly a moratorium is more impactful, E. Simioni feels they will be sued like crazy if they impose a moratorium and infringe on property rights. He does not like moratoriums, the Village attorney would have to look into it, but as CLG with proper committee and a legitimate objection they can modify permitting for proper sign off of proper historical structures. R. Essay concern is that builders are thumbing noses at the regulations but noted they can up the fine. M. Lieberman said possibly rectify or have stop work order. M. Chiffert feels that possibly have mitigation, possibly restore something else, or resolve issue in that manner.

E. Simioni asked about the sewer, he feels that it most important issue and it has fallen by the wayside. M. Chiffert noted that his feeling that a larger sewer district outside of Village on Town level may be better with Business District tying into that STP, in conjunction with County, Town and Village. M. Lieberman disagrees, he feels the density decreases quickly once out of the Village. They have to take responsibility, why cannot they apply for grant. M. Chiffert feels the Village does not have the space. It starts with the plant; R. Essay feels the hospital has a plant and it could be looked at the M. Chiffert feels this is not the best location. M. Lieberman noted that the property at the Full Gospel Church has a proposal right now for affordable housing, but it could be prime spot for STP. That could be an alternative for the Town Board. M. Chiffert feels it is an ideal location. He feels that Town could make slightly larger, but then he feels the Village could link to the plant. M. Lieberman noted it is a discretionary act for that parcel. The Health Department has a well field district adjacent to that property, he is not sure they will get approval. The current proposal has an STP in the plan. M. Lieberman noted they could speak to elected officials about it. Cemetery may be problematic per M. Lieberman; he feels maybe not count on that cemetery location. M. Chiffert noted they need to make sure zoning is in place for the change of having STP. E. Simioni feels it is in place, but it may need to be looked at. M. Chiffert wants to make sure no loopholes, E. Simioni noted it is awfully specific and not a problem. M. Lieberman feels maybe they can review as a committee, M. Chiffert feels that is a good idea. E. Simioni said they need to get it going, the energy has to be put there. Sewer will help Lake Agawam but feels it needs to dredge, feels it is a must. R. Essay and M. Chiffert noted that all that pesticide residue came down there, he feels there is no choice, possibly 6' thick sediment. He noted that dredging of other lakes is required, M. Chiffert feels they should do an RFP for dredging the lake, E. Simioni feels there is a lot of obstacles to dredging. M. Lieberman noted they want healthy eco system that helps it be in balance and restore it. E. Simioni floated an idea of possibly having a treatment plant adjacent to Lake Agawam to treat it, the other Board members felt that was not the best option.

Prior to next meeting they will communicate and reconnect and set up agendas for next month and going forward. E. Scott took a position where he is not allowed to be on a public board, so he is no longer part of the Commission. M. Lieberman will write J. McLaughlin regarding landmark issues. They will meet in person in July pending approval to do so.

Chair closed the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

JoLee Sanchez

File Date: _____

Village Clerk