

**Southampton Village Environmental Committee &  
Clean Water Task Force  
Zoom Meeting  
Southampton, NY  
December 14, 2021  
5:00pm**

**MINUTES**

The Village Environmental Committee (EC) Zoom meeting was held on December 14, 2021, Southampton, NY at 5:00 PM. Present were Mike Lieberman and Sheila Peiffer, Co-Chairs, Village Climate Action Committee, Village Trustee Robin Brown, Gary Goleski, Superintendent, Department of Public Works, Peter Campbell, Z-Filter Environmental Solutions and EC members: Rob Coburn, John Halsey and Tom Louthan.

1. September 14, 2021 & November 16, 2021 Environmental Committee minutes: The minutes from the September 14, 2021 & November 16, 2021 EC meeting were accepted.
2. Village Climate Action Plan: Mike Lieberman and Sheila Peiffer, Village Climate Action Committee, discussed the Southampton Village Climate Action Plan.
  - Sheila Peiffer noted that the Southampton Village Mayor/Board of Trustees has passed a resolution endorsing a Declaration of a Climate Emergency. This resolution sets a goal of meeting the equivalent of 100% of annual energy consumption, such as electricity, heating, and transportation, with renewable energy sources by the year 2030.
  - A Village Climate Action Committee (CAC) was formed to guide the Village and the community to implement all climate mitigation efforts. Trustee Robin Brown is a liaison to the CAC.
  - Mike Lieberman said that Southampton Town recently awarded a contract to Ramboll Corporation to draft a Town Climate Action Plan. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) sponsors the New York State Climate Smart Communities Program and promotes increasing energy efficiency and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.
  - Mike Lieberman spoke about the NYStretch Energy Code supplement to the NY Energy Conservation Construction Code to focus on local building codes and improve new residential and commercial building energy efficiency by 10%. This is a step in the right direction. East Hampton Town has adopted the NYStretch Energy Code and Southampton Town & Village are considering it.

- Mike Lieberman explained that Southampton Town is a certified Climate Smart Community and a Climate Action Plan (CAP) is part of that program. The first steps would focus on developing an energy efficiency and consumption blueprint, and water quality issues would follow. East Hampton Town is a Climate Smart Community and has a Climate Action Plan.
  - Southampton Town has begun the process to develop a CAP and Mike Lieberman suggested that it would be a good idea to have a Village CAC member as a liaison for the CAP process. Mike noted that the Town is in good position to produce a CAP. After the Town produces a CAP, the Village might work with an engineering firm to follow the Town's climate action plan methodology and qualify as a Climate Smart Community and develop a Village CAP.
  - Sheila Peiffer mentioned several positive developments, including the Village adopting Dark Skies outdoor lighting legislation. Gary Goleski noted that the Village Department of Public Works has begun an LED street light conversion project. Sheila also mentioned that Village residents are very concerned about biking safety and would welcome additional bike lanes around the Village.
  - Peter Campbell said that New York State and City pension funds have announced plans to divest from fossil fuels. At a recent Mayor/Board of Trustees meeting, there was a discussion about the Village looking into repositioning its funds and divesting from fossil fuel investments. Sheila Peiffer suggested that the CAC and EC could work together with the Village Budget & Finance Committee to make a recommendation to the Mayor/Board of Trustees. This might also be of interest to the Village Planning Commission and Village Comprehensive Master Plan Committee.
3. Village 2022 - 2023 Environmental & Clean Water Priorities list update: the list and summary were sent by the EC to the Mayor/Board of trustees on November 29, 2021.
- Tom Louthan suggested that next year, for the Village 2023 – 2024 priorities list, the Climate Action Committee could work with the Environmental Committee and add climate action priorities.
  - At the Mayor/Board of Trustees December 9, 2021 meeting, the 2021-2024 Village Capital Budget was approved. The capital budget includes water quality items in the 2021-2022 Operating Budget, from A.1010 Trustees Special Projects: West Main Street Bioswales: \$5,000; Old Town Pond dredging, surveying, permitting and bid Documents: \$93,100; and update 2017 Water Quality Study: \$20,000.

#### 4. Next Steps.

- Daniela Kronemeyer is relocating from Southampton and will be stepping down from the EC in January 2022.
- Old Town Pond neighbors may be interested in making contributions towards the Village match of \$23,325 for bioswales to be installed at the north and south ends of Old Town Pond. The target could be \$12,000. The Peconic Land Trust has added Old Town Pond as a featured project for online donations. Rob Coburn, Holly Peterson and John Halsey will confer on sending an email to Old Town Pond neighbors with the latest developments.
- Peter Campbell discussed the dredging project at Old Town Pond. The approved \$91,000 cost in the Village budget includes completing the design, surveying Old Town Pond, and preparing permitting and bid documents; these steps would cover everything required to qualify for a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation grant. Old Town Neighbors may want to make contributions towards the Old Town Pond dredging project.
- Gary Goleski and Rob Coburn discussed a new project to add additional catch basins for the Hill Street area to increase drainage and reduce stormwater runoff to Lake Agawam. The Village Department of Public Works has a \$100,000 fund for drainage projects, which could be used for the additional catch basins.
- Rob Coburn is working with an assist from Josh Halsey, Peconic Land Trust, to develop environmental signage that would explain the bioswale, wetland and dredging projects at Old Town Pond.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM. The next EC Zoom meeting will be held in February 2022.