

January 14, 2008 Meeting Summary

Members present: Co-Chair Steve Abramson, Co-Chair Rachel Verno, Gloria Rabinowitz, Tom Shea, Marlene Haresign, Tom Haresign, Joe Krajewski, Paul Griffin and Mary Schader

Non-members present: Sally Scranton, Steven Gorman, Katelyn Corwith, Bill Pelletier, Austin Handler, Eric Dever and Alex Akavam

LIPA:

Report on meeting of elected officials and LIPA executives follows:

-Fred Thiele's suggested spreading the \$10 million cost to bury 100% of the 4 miles of aboveground cables over different areas of Southampton Town through a Special Tax Assessment District. LIPA insisted that creating a TAD is unrealistic, as process could not be completed before they start installation. Instead, it was discussed that LIPA would tack on a "capital improvement surcharge" to cover the additional cost.

-LIPA would present a "Matrix of cost" which would show the cost per household depending upon the size of the geographic area upon which it would fall. An outside expert would verify all of this.

(Note: Since the WMCAC meeting, LIPA delivered a Matrix based upon the number of residences. Fred Thiele has asked LIPA to change the surcharge Matrix from households, to consumption.)

-WMCAC's position is that until an agreement has been confirmed, Town should continue with the SEQRA process and commence legal action. WMCAC has written a letter responding to the DEIS, but the FEIS was approved by LIPA on January 24.

-Discussion regarding the three resolutions the Town passed: their letter to LIPA stating the incompleteness of the DEIS; the hiring of an outside appraiser; and, the hiring of an outside consulting firm to validate LIPA's proposal.

-Discussion continued asking for all CAC's and members of the community to write to LIPA regarding the incompleteness of the DEIS. The Town Landmark and Historic District Committee had also written to LIPA stating their concerns about the project.

-Concern was raised that the Town's LIPA resolution implies that the Board prefers an above ground option on the LIRR ROW. WMCAC's position is that whichever route is chosen, it must be 100% underground. It was also pointed out that there is no physical way that above ground poles can be installed along the LIRR because of wetlands and setback constraints.

A Water Mill resident, presented the poster he designed and his concept of using the WMCAC website as a means to update the community about LIPA issues. The WMCAC website is not equipped for this, so he is going to explore other possibilities. Various members of the WMCAC have offered to help in this effort. Several guests pointed out that a large portion of the community is still not fully aware of the LIPA issue and discussion about how to bring information to all residents in the community.

OTHER BUSINESS:

-Another letter will be sent to the Town Board and Superintendent Bill Masterson regarding the unsafe condition of the sidewalks in several areas in the hamlet center.

-Another letter will be sent to Supervisor Kabot and Town Board members urging action be taken on the Water Mill Hamlet Corridor study, which has been in the works by Hutton Associates for 5 years.