

July 13th, 2009 – Meeting Summary

Members present: Chair Rachel Verno, Gloria Rabinowitz, Marlene Haresign, Steve Abramson Mary Shader, Rik Kristiansson, Joe Krajewski. Toni Maloney and June Morris

Non-members present: Terry Kiernan, Jeff Bragman, Jeremy Samuels, Lynn Packard, Linda Packard, Susan and Frank Keenan. Mark Keenan

BURNETT PROPERTY at 1025 Flying Point Rd:

Jeff Bragman, the Atty. for a neighbor, expressed concerns about the constraints of this property, its susceptibility to flooding, how it is unsuitable for building, septic needs retaining wall, southern end too close to wetlands, etc. Asked everyone who had objections to attend the Conservation Board's next hearing on Aug 26 for this property. He will also contact the Town Trustees regarding public access to the bay abutting this property. Jeremy Samuels of the Group for the East End urged everyone to push for having nothing built instead of requesting the house to be smaller. Felt it is a bad precedent to set – first fill in a lot with dredge spoil and then build on it.

LA BRAVA HORSE FARM:

Mark Keenan, resident on Deerfield Rd, is protesting the site application for a 32 acre horse farm, indoor riding rings, and polo fields on what is now ag reserve. Feels entire project is too big and would obstruct the public view that was protected by the Planning Board some years ago.

Although a horse farm is allowable on agricultural reserve land, the addition of polo events and large-scale buildings would be a “disaster”. Discussion followed on how Mark and CAC would convey their thoughts on this over-sized project to the Planning Board. There will be an August 13th public hearing on this site plan. All were urged to attend.

OMNIPOINT CELL TOWER:

Chair, Rachel Verno reminded everyone that the Planning Board has scheduled a public hearing on July 23rd before they decide on a SEQRA determination. This will give the public an opportunity to comment. Most agreed reception in Water Mill was more than adequate. Question was raised if Omnipoint would rent space on the pole to other providers. If so, can current tower behind car wash on Cty Rd 39 be updated? Visual impact of this 77 ft pole was discussed along with health issues. Also, why shouldn't the Town have this on their property and get the rental income from it. Were other options explored and rejected? Also, applicant for this cell tower only owns one acre of a larger field that he rents. Owner of that property opposes cell tower. CAC will submit a letter at the hearing.

LIGHTING LAW: Next hearing scheduled for July 14. CAC will be monitoring.

SPORT SOUTHAMPTON RETAIL: (luxury car showroom proposed at former Fortunoff location)

-CAC has submitted a letter stating our concerns. Since this CAC meeting, Rachel Verno spoke with Southampton Town Planner, Matt Briones, who said he thought the project might be on the agenda in the upcoming weeks.

COUNCILWOMAN ANNA THRONE-HOLST SITE PLAN REVIEW PROPOSAL:

Anna has been drafting a resolution regarding revising the site plan process, when the public can participate, etc. Her legislation is in response to the Environment Review Committee proposed by the Group for the East End. Town seems receptive to addressing public concerns that they be more involved in site plan process. This is a work in progress.

BURGER KING SIGNAGE: CAC will submit a letter opposing granting relief to Burger King for 9 nonconforming pre-existing signs.

ELECTED/VERSUS APPOINTED POSITIONS FOR TOWN HWY SUPERVISOR AND TOWN TAX RECEIVER:

There is a proposal by Nancy Graboski to change the now elected positions of Hwy. Superintendent and Tax Receiver to appointed positions. This would not occur until a referendum was put before the voters at the next election.

CAC members came down on both sides of this issue. Subject of political contributions to the Hwy. Superintendent was raised, making this a very powerful position. (Since our meeting, the Town Board held a hearing on July 14 and another one has been scheduled for July 28.)

OTHER BUSINESS:

1) Proposal to simplify Building permits criteria to avoid Planning Board review:

There is a proposal to allow the chief building inspector to grant a building permit to any business that is replacing another in an approved site plan if they are just doing interior renovations and if the new business does not increase the need for parking.

CAC members felt this would weaken the process and all sorts of businesses could slip through. More criteria should be considered in addition to parking, such as garbage disposal, sewage, etc. CAC will keep on this. Town Board will hold another hearing on August 11.

2) Mecox and Montauk Hwy. Intersection – Bridgehampton CAC has had long-term concerns about this dangerous intersection and was told by Town Board that it is actually located in Water Mill. Our CAC will look into safety improvements that could be implemented.

3) How Town can be more receptive to public's concerns and communicate better -

Toni Maloney brought up ways that the Town could be a better communicator and respond to public's concerns that we be more involved. She suggested that both the Town and the CACs open Twitter accounts to telegraph alerts and get out info on pertinent issues. Other resources should be explored such as Face Book. She will put together a proposal and we will recommend to Town Board.