

November 12, 2007 - Meeting Summary

Members present: Co-Chair Steve Abramson, Gloria Rabinowitz, Tom Shea, Marlene Haresign, Al Kistler, Charlie Corwith, Joe Krajewski, June Morris and Rachel Verno
Non-members present: Jenice Delano, Anthony Newman, Paul Griffin, Anna Throne-Holst, Deputy Suffolk County Executive; Ben Zwirn, Jeffrey Vogel, Sister Mary Harvey, David Corwith, Liam O'Braoin, Rik Kristiansson, and *Southampton Press* reporter John Riordin.

LIPA's Plans for Proposed Transmission Line -

October 29 Meeting with Kevin Law, new LIPA President and CEO, Michael Hervey, Director of Operations, and Bill Davidson, Director of Government Relations:

Steve Abramson attended with Bill Berkoski and Buzz Schwenk. The arguments for burying the cables (imperiling a hurricane escape route, visual scar on neighborhood, lower property values, etc.) were again presented. Mr. Law said he would give the decision a "clean, fresh look" and is so far withholding his decision re route, etc.

On October 30, Councilman Chris Nuzzi and SH Village Mayor Mark Epley met with Mr. Law and presented the same arguments about wanting to see 100% of the cables buried and asked LIPA to absorb the costs. LIPA was told that the South Fork is especially vulnerable to a hurricane threat, and that reason alone should be adequate for LIPA to absorb the cost into its operations.

Anna Throne-Holst reported that she met with Kevin Law and told him burying 100% of the cables was a major issue on the East End.

The concept of a special assessment based on property evaluation was discussed; this would be a way to fund (pay for a bond) to meet LIPA somewhere in the middle of its incremental costs to bury 100% of the cables. Whether the community would support self-assessment to fund the cost to bury the 4 miles of cables will be polled by The Committee for a Green South Fork, as soon as the prospective tax district has been delineated by the Town, allowing the cost per household to be calculated; if the special tax assessment district were to include only Bridgehampton and Water Mill, and part of the Village, the annual cost would be around \$20.00 per \$1 Million assessed valuation. And, LIPA has still not provided verification of its real out of pocket costs to bury the additional 4 miles of cables, but as part of SEQRA review they must answer this question

LIPA's mentioned alternative plan along the moraine was discussed – LIPA has said that the Public Service Commission prevents them from installing a parallel set of cables along the moraine, since if one tower or cable fell, it could imperil the second. Additionally, LIPA said they do not have easements to bury the cables on the moraine, as they only have air rights.

NY State DEC has yet to decide who will be Lead Agency for the Environmental Review, and the Town is seeking to have the Planning Board replace LIPA as Lead Agency. However, LIPA is assuming Lead Agency status and is proceeding with its plans. It was decided that the CAC should send a letter to Fred Thiele, with copies to Ken LaValle, Jay Schneiderman, Ben Zwirn, and Steve Levy urging that Assemblyman Thiele do whatever he can to have Town's Planning Board be Lead Agency.

Site Plans-

Per October's meeting, the CAC had sent letters regarding: Trata Restaurant should apply for new site plan review re outdoor use; Villa Maria must abide by restrictive covenant of no obstructions or landscaping allowed 300 feet up from Mill Creek.

Corwith Site Plan – Members approved the conservation plan to build 8 houses instead of 26 allowed on Standard Plan. David Corwith was present.

Water Mill Ateliers – Owner is close to receiving final okay from Suffolk County Health Department. Once that permit is received, demolition of the old building will begin.

Next meeting will be on Monday, December 10, 2007