

May 9th, 2011 Meeting Summary

Members present: Chair Rachel Verno, Marlene Haresign, Steve Abramson, Rik Kristiansson, Joe Krajewski, Steve Lerner, Barry Levy, June Morris, Toni Maloney, Gloria Rabinowitz

Non-members present: Southampton Town Trustees President, Eric Shultz; Town Trustee Bill Pell; Brad Bender, Daniel Belinger, Charlie Corwith, Dr. Ed Kush and Ray Maloney

TRUSTEES REPORT ON MILL POND

The WMCAC meeting was attended by Trustees Eric Shultz, president, and William Pell IV.

Mr. Shultz, citing that the Trustees budget had been eviscerated by the Town Board, suggested that their financial resources were limited to remediate Mill Pond. Making the point that Town practices have resulted in a polluted pond, he emphasized that the Town Board would have to find other funds to supplement whatever the Trustees could contribute. Furthermore, he expressed political concerns about making a large investment in Mill Pond, which has large houses on it, and how that would look to residents in Flanders. The question of how much money was already spent on studies for Millpond was asked and Mr. Pell responded that they were working on trying to figure that out since those records were intermingled with other financial information.

Rachel Verno and Steve Abramson, both said that Water Mill residents were looking to the Trustees for the best, most efficient plan to remediate the water body, and that financing that remediation was a separate issue.

Toni Maloney suggested that the Trustees should support changes in policy that would result in behavioral modifications, and Mr. Schultz said the Trustees would be willing to support the idea that the Town Board pass code legislation mandating buffers on existing shorefront residential property and catch basins on farm property. There was additional discussion regarding septic systems and the use of residential fertilizers and chemicals. Also discussion regarding the upcoming Cashen plan of action that would be addressing storm water abatement.

Regarding the forthcoming decisions to be made regarding remediation, Mr. Shultz said that the Trustees need to duplicate some of the muck measurements made by the LakeSavers' crew under the supervision of the Bay Constable -- to verify the results, independently and because there were no "control" samples taken. That struck the CAC members attending as unnecessary, but Mr. Shultz said the additional study was needed for scientific validity.

About the LakeSavers/Clean-Flo system itself, Mr. Shultz insisted that there was nothing proprietary about it, and nothing that required special expertise. He said the Trustees could replicate the system, including the anaerobic bacteria and enzymes and accomplish the installation, application, monitoring, and maintenance themselves at less cost. The CAC does not concur that this would be a wise undertaking for the Trustees, who lack prior experience with the application of anaerobic bacteria and enzymes, and because the Trustees would be shouldering this responsibility. We doubt they would execute and perform as well as a dedicated outside resource with the experience and credentials plus accountability. The Trustees also suggested that they could apply alum treatments themselves, assuming that was a course of action they decided to go forward with.

About the NYS DEC, Mr. Shultz said the downstate representatives do not have much experience with lakes, and attend mostly to saltwater and tidal wetlands. Mr. Shultz said he would be reaching out to upstate representatives of the NYSDEC.

NEXT ACTION: Mr. Schultz said the Trustees would decide upon a course of remediation for Mill Pond in two weeks, i.e., present it at the Trustees Meeting on the Wednesday following Memorial Day, June 1, 2011. After the presentation of the Action Plan for Mill Pond with attendant costs, the CAC would ask to meet with Town Board members to discuss the means of financing the project.

The CAC has also requested a joint work session with the Town Board and Trustees so that everyone can get on the same page in terms of an action plan.

PDD LEGISLATION:

The CAC discussed the upcoming public hearing on the pre-submission PDD legislation and agreed to support via a petition. The CAC and guests also discussed what they felt were community-specific benefits to Water Mill that a developer could provide. Two were suggested 1) Funds toward remediation of Mill Pond and 2) Affordable Housing.

HEAD OF POND/STRONGS LANE/SCUTTLE HOLE INTERSECTION;

Realignment is scheduled to start ASAP. CAC to send another letter of support.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CAC RULES OF OPERATION:

Rachel asked members to review proposed changes which were e-mailed to them for discussion at our next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CAC will obtain a list of broken telephone poles in Water Mill in order to advise LIPA to repair them.

CAC will submit a letter regarding sign and other code violations in our Hamlet to Chief Building Inspector.