

BOARD AND COMMISSION SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2023

Arts & Culture Commission

The Arts & Culture Commission met on September 21. Members discussed the Art Association Show and Plein Air Painting in the Village Center on October 14. The members will attend the Art Show to choose an art piece to purchase for the Art Purchase Award. Members discussed the Garden Tour 2024 and how their budget funds will be used this year.

Board of Finance

The Board of Finance met for their Regular Meeting on Monday, September 18. Meeting topics did not include any items that required any action to be taken. Mr. Jylkka did inform members that the FY 2024 tax mailer will be sent out in October.

Brownfields Redevelopment Agency

No meeting

Clean Energy Task Force

The Clean Energy Task Force met on September 5. There were three students and one parent in attendance at the meeting. The members introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of what the task force does in town. Ms. Belanger has submitted a letter of resignation to the chairman. She will be leaving the task force at the end of the month. The members discussed clean energy opportunities in town. They mainly discussed and shared ideas on solar for senior housing in town. The members also discussed working with the Commission on Aging and Housing Authority on future initiatives in town. There was discussion about the fall energy fair. There is no set date yet, but the target date for the fair would be early November. It was decided to leave the meeting time at 5:30pm since it works well with all members. Some alternate locations for the energy fair to be held were brought up and discussed.

Commission on Aging

The Commission on Aging met on September 14. Dr. Rosenberg thanked everyone for their efforts in making the East Hampton Community Cares launch a success. Ms. Ewing reported that River Valley Transit's changes will directly improve the accessibility of bus service for the Town's older residents. The launch of East Hampton Community Cares had 58 non-commission people attend the meetings. Dr. Rosenberg reviewed an updated plan of follow-up and longer-term steps to promote EHCC. Three core focus groups include Volunteer, Fundraising and Outreach.

Conservation-Lake Commission

The Conservation-Lake Commission met on September 14. The members discussed the Lake Smart Program. Island View Association was awarded with an article submitted to the Rivereast. It was suggested to form a sub-committee to draft criteria and procedures for awarding individual people living in associations. The members met the new limnologist, who attended the meeting via zoom, and discussed the lake and the new invasive plant found during his check of the lake. Hydrilla is an invasive plant from Asia that is a rooted plant that spreads out in the soil of the lake bottom. The members discussed different options of eradicating the plant. The members also discussed buying three or four units of eelgrass from Aquaflex to set up in Christopher Brook to test out the material in a real-world environment. The members discussed getting a sign for the boat launch and extending the manpower for Sears Park to help prevent more invasive plants from entering the lake.

Design Review Board

No meeting

Economic Development Commission

The Economic Development Commission met on September 19. The members reviewed the motions, minutes, and new businesses from the last Planning and Zoning meeting. There was discussion on the procedures and execution of the business of the month and new business nominations. The members decided to nominate the businesses ahead of time. This is so an invite can go out to the owner to attend the meeting to get their award and have a picture taken with the members for the article for the Rivereast. The signs will be dropped off and picked up to be brought to the next business by one of the members. The members discussed getting more people to join the commission as members, since membership is down. A letter from Chris Burt of Burt Realty was sent to Mr. Jedziniak to see if the members would advocate on his behalf to the town and the Town Manager. He wants to get the granite curbing extended to in front of his office location on West High Street. It was noted that this is a State road, so permission for the curbing would need to come from the State rather than the town. Mr. Jedziniak will contact Mr. Burt to let him know the members discussed and remind him that the road is a State road and he would need to contact the State for the curbing.

Ethics Commission

No meeting

Fire Commission

The Fire Commission met on September 11. The members held a moment of silence for fallen firefighter David Romanchik after the pledge of allegiance. Three junior members presented to the board members and attendees about the Fire Academy classes they attended. The members discussed their options for fixing the leak in the tank since CoreTech stated they don't open tanks. They only investigate and inspect tanks. The fire department is waiting on the town for both the Walnut Avenue water source problem and the Air Line Trail safety issues. There was no update from the new firehouse search committee. The board members made a motion and approved the balance payout for the awards program for Hunt Voelker.

Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency

The Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency met on September 27.

New Applications:

- A. Application IW-23-018: Jeffrey Schleidt, Mott Hill Rd., Timber harvest within Upland Review Area. Map 24/ Block 44/ Lot 14D Mr. Hill made a motion to determine that this project is as-of-right. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0
- B. Application IW-23-019: John Brown, 209 East High St., Construct a single-family home within Upland Review Area. Map 32/ Block 71/ Lot 1/5 Mr. Hill made a motion to continue the application to the October 25, 2023 regular meeting. Mr. Wall seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0
- C. Application IW-23-020: Linda DiCaprio, 83A North Main St., Grade and landscape slope within Upland Review Area. Map 04A/ Block 45/ Lot 13B Mr. Hill made a motion to send this application to the Duly Authorized Agent for approval. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0
- D. Application IW-23-021: Peter Guastamachio, 5 Clearwater Condo, 20' x 11'.6" deck expansion in Upland Review Area. Map 10A/ Block 80/ Lot 5/3 Mr. Hill made a motion to send this application to the Duly Authorized Agent for approval. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

Joint Facilities

The Colchester- East Hampton Joint Facilities met on September 19. Work will begin on the Lakeside septage receiving station in September. A Ford F250 with plow (23/24 Capital item) and a Ford F450 crane vehicle (21/22 Capital item) were ordered. The F250 has been delivered. Election of officers was tabled to the November meeting. Scott Clayton announced his retirement effective December 29, 2023.

Library Advisory Board

The Library Advisory Board met on September 11. The new Circulation Desk is expected to be delivered the last week of September and the Library is working with the Director of Facilities to coordinate the installation. The new siding on the driveway side of the building is scheduled to be completed this fall. The Library has purchased and installed a new overhead patron counter in the front entryway in the hopes of getting a more accurate count of regular patron traffic and attendance at large-scale events. The Friends of the Library are planning a Mahjong tournament as a fundraising event. They are also planning a fundraiser for the Christmas season selling t-shirts designed by high school students that incorporate the Friends of the Library logo. The proceeds would fund the Friends' annually awarded scholarship. The Friends have purchased the painted bell hanging outside the Library from the Rotary Club's auction so that it remains at the Library.

Middle Haddam Historic District Commission

The Middle Haddam Historic District Commission met on September 7 for a Special Meeting. The members reviewed and discussed two of the three public hearings. The first public hearing was for application 584 to replace garage siding with composite clapboard siding for applicant Cathy Ann Clark. The members suggested the applicant look into wood options instead of composite material. Samples of two wood siding options were brought to the meeting for the members to look at. The applicant still prefers the vertical composite siding over the wood options. The members voted to approve the application as presented with three of the five members opposing. The next public hearing was for application 585 to mitigate the visual impact of the visible portions of the side yard fences that were recently installed for applicant Judith Keefe. Ms. Keefe was not present at the meeting, so the members tabled the application for the monthly meeting. The last application was for application 587 for the installation of a 24' above ground pool and deck for applicant William Hanna. Mr. Hanna started working on the stone wall and stone steps leading up to the pool and deck area. The members suggested that he stop work and bring a full conceptualized plan to present at the next monthly meeting to be approved. The application was tabled for the monthly meeting to be held on September 28.

The Middle Haddam Historic District Commission met on September 28 for their Regular Meeting. The members were presented with options for mitigating the visual impact of the privacy style stockade fence installed by applicant Judy Keefe. There were three to four options that were discussed with the members. The members voted to approve the picket style fences on the front and back of the property as submitted. But the stockade fence, and options, were voted on and denied by the members. The second public hearing needed to be tabled since the applicant, Mr. Hanna, was waiting on information from the Building Department. A special meeting will be held on October 12th for the application. The members approved the application for Cathy Ann Clark to use vertical cedar tongue and groove siding on her garage. The members briefly discussed the typo on the Middle Haddam Library porch application. The Chairman will ask the Library Board to submit an application with a change to fix the typo. The new application will be submitted for the special meeting on October 12th. The members also briefly discussed the work being done at 57 Middle Haddam Road. It was decided an email will be sent to the Town Manager about the concerns for the property.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board met on September 5. The Air Line Trail Committee is planning for Trail Maintenance Day. The status of all Parks & Recreation programming was reviewed. A bench request was approved from Friends of the Lake. The transition of the Parks Maintenance staff to the Public Works department was reviewed.

Planning & Zoning Commission

The Planning & Zoning Commission met on September 6.

Public Hearings:

- A. PZC-23-012: Michael Bakaj, 37 South Main Street, a 22-lot (33 units) HOD subdivision in existing HOD Zone, Map 20 Block 51/ Lot 27. Vice-Chairman Zatorski made a motion to continue the Public Hearing to the regular meeting of October 4, 2023 at the applicant's request. Mr. Rux seconded the motion. Vote: 7-0.
- B. Text Amendment Regarding Required Setbacks on Non-Conforming Lots in the R-1 Zone: Section 8.2 of the East Hampton Zoning Regulations. Vice-Chairman Zatorski made a motion to continue the Public Hearing to the next regular meeting of October 4, 2023. Mr. Rux seconded the motion. Vote: 7-0

Water Pollution Control Authority

The East Hampton WPCA met on September 5. The work has been completed on the Bay/Princess force main. A Public Hearing was held on September 5 to allow property owners to be heard regarding the proposed annual sewer use rates effective on October 1, 2023. No public was present. The Board approved the sewer rate of \$560.00/EDU and for those properties served by grinder pumps maintained by the WPCA an additional rate of \$350.00/EDU totaling \$910.00. The board also approved a sewer connection fee of \$3,500. Vote: 5-0. Motion Passed. Mark Barmasse was elected Chairman and John Suprono was elected Vice Chairman by the WPCA board. Vote: 5-0. Motion Passed. Scott Clayton announced his retirement effective December 29, 2023.

Zoning Board of Appeals

No meeting