



## **PEP Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting**

Thursday February 24, 2022 | 3:30pm-5:00pm

[Zoom Registration](#)

\*Minutes noted in purple

Recording available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GVhBKxuUR4>

Attendees: 29

Kevin McDonald, Julia Priolo, Julie Wesnofske, Mike Bottini, Byron Young, Allison DeParte, August Ruckdeschel, Debra Tennyson, Elizabeth Corker, Emily Hall, Jane Fasullo, Janice, Janice Caufield, Jenna Schwerzmann, John Sep, Josh Halsey, Mark Haubner, Mel Morris, Melanie Meade, Patrice Dalton, Pete Topping, Rameshwar Das Robert Mozer, Sara Cernadas-Martin, Scott Curatolo-Wagemann, Wendy Wetherall, 1 call in

### **AGENDA**

- 3:30 PM      *Introductions*  
Kevin McDonald, PEP CAC Chair
- 3:40 PM      *PEP Updates*  
Valerie Virgona, PEP
- 3:50 PM      *Woodhull Progress & Grangebel Fishway Camera Installation*  
Valerie Virgona, PEP Outreach Coordinator
- Byron Young: gave background on this dam, bucket brigade lifted fish over the dam for 20 yrs. Noted access to wildwood lake
- 3:53 PM      *Otter Surveys and Next Steps*  
Mike Bottini, Wildlife Biologist- Seatuck Environmental Association
- Updates: natural recolonization of LI;
  - Concern for road crossings, need ladders/culverts,
  - Specific site off of Rte 58; Tupelo wetland; Developer convinced DEC not to classify as wetland so it was developed -> no more greenbelt corridor for wildlife.
  - Bottini notes that DEC Trapping regulations for other mammals are allowed although we do not know their populations→ He will be starting to study these mammals.
  - Kevin Macdonald suggests: consider bond act for the State, \$4 Bil, Bottini should apply with an otter project
  - Mark Haubner: wants to be roped into otter talks
- 4:15 PM      *Broad Cove Land Acquisition*  
Julie Wesnofske, Project Manager- Peconic Land Trust
- Broad Cove: Former duck farm, 100 acres, high priority for decades.

- Marketing for a resort, special permit application to town of riverhead end of 2020, landowners accepted a bid and contracts were out but entertained an offer from the land trust-> \$11.5 mil; secured 6 lines of credit, donors will be paid back when they transfer property to the DEC
- High profile: Kevin suggests partnership between Pec Land Trust & PEP in restoration of the site

4:30 PM *Nitrogen Update*

Julia Priolo, Senior Environmental Analyst- Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services

- SIP: SC Septic Improvement Program: 10k + more + design services
- NYS SSRP; NYS Septic System Replacement Program// They do not do anything to remove N from wastewater
- IA's quickly replacing failing cesspools especially during pandemic
- Mike/Patrice concern on if it is more cost effective and faster to sewer than individual septic tank upgrades

~~4:35 PM — *Fertilizer Messaging* \*did not get to due to time constraintsd~~

~~Valerie Virgona, PEP Executive Director—~~

~~4:45 PM — *Discussion Topics*~~

- ~~1. PEP Mini Grants (Poll)~~
- ~~2. Outreach \* Poll on lawn conversion campaign, "2/3rds for the birds"~~
- ~~3. Event Dates and Volunteering~~

Meeting end: 5:17pm

Next meeting: 6/16/2022

**CONTACT**

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