



Agenda
PEP Local Government Committee Meeting
November 8, 2023 - 10:00pm – 11:30pm

Hybrid Meeting

In-Person Location:

Suffolk County Community College, Speonk-Riverhead Road, Riverhead, NY 11901
Montaukett Learning Resource Center Library (MLRC)

Zoom Recording:

<https://youtu.be/oMAhwDYZbc0>

In Person attendance: Bob de Luca, Valerie, Jade, Sara and Joyce, Peter Ganley (Director of Operations, Congressman Nick LaLota)

Virtual attendance: Terie Diat - Village of North Haven Trustee, Carol Brown- Southold CAC, Angela Noncarrow-Senator Palumbo's Office, Jim Colligan- Shelter Island Town Councilman/PEP LGC Chair, Mary Ann Eddy- Sag Harbor Committee, Liz Gillooly- Southold Town Trustee, NYS Assembly Jodi Giglio

10:00am-10:10am: Introduction- Shelter Island Town Councilman Jim Colligan, PEP LGC Chair

- Many East End Towns share a frustration about dealing with NYSDEC with how slow they move paperwork Not sure if this is an issue State-wide or only for LI. We need to strengthen the relationship between LG and NYSDEC
- Really excited about Shoreline Resilience projects and Climate Change adaptation. East End Towns should become more data driven about projects, specially with climate change programs. We have to promote programs that will help mitigate the effects of climate change on our coast-line
- PEP should consider hiring an engineer expert in shoreline adaptation (cost should be shared among East End Towns) who would specialize in assessing the shoreline areas of interest of the East End Towns.

10:10am-10:30am: PEP Updates- Valerie Virgona, PEP Outreach Coordinator

- Valerie: Update on outreach and upcoming events
- Sara: Fishing EJ, USGS Solute Transport Model, Bay Scallop Meeting and Blue Carbon project

10:30am-10:45am: Shoreline Adaptation Initiative Update- Jade Blennau, PEP Coastal Resilience and Community Coordinator



- Jade: Tidal Wetland Projects: Paul Stoutenberg Preserve, Broad Meadows/Narrow River, Riverside, Salt Marsh Sparrow USFWS ACVJ Report, PEP Marshy Plans. Shoreline Adaptation Initiative overview and current status of the initiative. Since the ultimate goal is to amend code, we urge all municipalities and Towns to reach out with any comments, questions or suggestions on how we can best reach this goal.

10:45am-11:15am: NYS Open Space Plan Update- Bob DeLuca, President, Group for the East End

- Bob: NYS Open Space Plan Update. Historically LI has been a challenge for the State due to the high price of land acquisitions. Now, with CPF \$ the Towns can leverage acquisition costs to attract this State funding. The Regional Advisory Committees: Advancing policies that you would like to see take place from the State perspective (shoreline, habitat protection, stream protections,...). Towns have the information needed to assess priority parcels for acquisitions, taking into account not only environmental conservation but also environmental justice. At the end this committee will produce a regional report that will be shared with the State. If Towns do not get into the report, it will be quite difficult to be added down the line and thus, it is unlikely that they will receive funds for land acquisitions from the State.
- Joyce: For the coordination of this effort, we are discussing all the parcels within the Towns, not only the ones within the Peconic Watershed

11:15am-11:30am: Discussion - Each Town's Top Two Environmental Priorities for 2024

- Jim C (Shelter Island): High Nitrogen Levels in drinking water in Shelter Island. The SC Water Authority was invited to help sort this problem with potable water. Houses near the center of the island don't have drinkable water and houses near the shoreline are dealing with saltwater intrusion. For Shelter Island drinking water is the number one issue. The second priority would be Community housing, Shelter Island has been applying for different sources of funding to help improve the situation.
- Terie Diar (North Haven): Priorities for 2024 are the continuation of the 2023 priorities. Top two are to continue to encourage residents to upgrade to I/A systems, with a "concierge" service that will help them navigate the whole process, especially considering how long it takes to actually happen when the house is not dealing with a catastrophic failure. The second priority is to encourage residents to reduce fertilization in their gardens. North Haven is a peninsula and most residents have waterfront properties. The WQ committee is considering taking more "aggressive" measures to assure fertilization is finally reduced, if this seems to work, North Haven will reach out to neighboring communities to create a common initiative for all Towns.
- Jodi Giglio (Riverhead): Riverhead did conservation areas that required to keep 25% of indigenous vegetation within the property and thus reduced the amount of grass being planted and therefore the application of fertilization. The Town can provide an Engineering report for the installation of I/A
- Maggie Merrill: Hoping to work on a coastal resilience project



- Liz Gillooly (Southold Trustee): Besides WQ we want to also prioritize educational materials to educate the public. We also want to update the code to better reflect what the Trustees want to see happening in vegetation buffers (homeowners are planting plants that are not suitable for acting as buffers). The Trustees are also going to request an increase in the actual cap for fines and let the judges have more leeway in choosing the fine amount based on the severity of the offense.
- Mary Ann Eddy (Sag Harbor): Building more Rain Gardens with the help of PEP. Continue work with increasing source service area of wastewater treatment. I/A systems in this area are an extra challenge due to the proximity to water, so sewerage is a better option.

Comments and Discussion

- Bob de Luca: Are the municipality's priorities ever compiled and brought in front of local legislators?
- Joyce: When we meet with Legislators we discuss money, so not directly. We use these priorities internally to prioritize projects but we are looking into improving how we interact with the Legislators to streamline the process.
- Joyce: Increase in budget to NEPs (PEP budget increase of \$25K). \$1M for Sag Harbor wastewater management, \$1.25M for Water related work in Shelter Island (municipal wastewater)
- Jim: What are the chances that the money will make it through the House? Would we be able to use this money to extend water into our Municipal buildings
- Peter: Passing the House is in the air and we are not sure. About using the funds for something else we should discuss it more offline.
- Valerie: Finding locations for the meetings is sometimes challenging. Maybe some members of the LGC would be willing to host these meetings on a rotating basis.