

**PLANNING COMMISSION
ZOOM PUBLIC HEARING
SOUTHAMPTON VILLAGE
JANUARY 6, 2022**

Due notice having been given the public hearing of the Planning Commission for the Village of Southampton was held on Thursday, January 6, 2022, at 5:30PM remotely via Zoom. Pursuant to Executive Order 201.1 adopted by the Governor on March 12, 2020. Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (Open Meetings Law) is suspended “to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public in-person meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held via conference calling or similar service, provided that the public has the opportunity to view or listen to such proceedings and that they be recorded and later transcribed.

Chair opened the meeting.

Present were Co-Chair Marc Chiffert
Co-Chair Michelangelo Lieberman
Christian Picot
Pamela Gilmartin
Edoardo Simioni
Robert Essay
Summer Stelling

Absent were Michael Anderson
Laura Devinney

Pledge of Allegiance was held.

MINUTES ADOPTION

MOTION by Chair, second C. Picot

To approve the minutes of the December Planning Commission public hearings.

On Vote: Chair Chiffert, Co-Chair Lieberman, C. Picot, P. Gilmartin, E. Simioni and R. Essay

SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATION BY MAYOR JESSE WARREN

Mayor Jesse Warren was present and thanked the Commission for their work. He wanted to review and discuss priorities for the Village.

- BFJ Planners are updating Master Plan and have been working closely with the Sewer Task Force. It will revitalize downtown, improve quality of life, protect the environment, and maintain historical integrity.
- New York Stretch Code has focus on clean energy. Since the last meeting, the Town of Southampton and East Hampton have adopted some of NY Stretch Code and paves the way to move forward.

- They hope to beautify with eco-focus and an emphasis on tree planting. Public tree planting and preservation could help propose for public trees and perhaps legislate land clearing to preserve specimens on private properties.
- Micro mobility, this is a trend toward alternative transportation. Village residents rely on cars and bike paths would allow to bike to beach, work, etc. Possibly consider electric scooters and bike docks. This would reduce carbon footprint.
- Improving WIFI is essential, they signed a contract to install a tower on top of Village Hall. It promotes business, entrepreneurship, improves access to education in time of COVID, and make communication simpler.

Chair thanked Mayor for leading next phase of the Village. He feels the trees is an important subject. This concept of micro mobility would be great addition to the Village as well, M. Anderson was not present but can help with his background in utilities as well.

M. Lieberman spoke about Trees USA as a possible resource. He asked if they wanted legislation for private properties; the Mayor would like them to legislate of the goals of original SAVE committee. Second piece will be to inventory all the trees in the village, and which are important or historic. Adding versus taking away is important. Trees USA was sought out in the past, M. Lieberman noted they can have a work session regarding trees. R. Essay asked about a property on Little Plains that was cleared completely, and a neighbor built a pool, ruined roots, and killed the tree. M. Lieberman noted that many repairs on Village street make trees weaker when roots are disturbed.

Chair spoke that upgrading the Village Hall transparency via a better portal was a concern for the Commission. Mayor noted that there are good examples of portals in other cities. They have upgraded their software and they hope to get to the level of transparency that is necessary. Civic Plus has a module for building permits so they can be retrieved easily.

Chair noted that the possibility of the Senior Center that Pam Gilmartin and Summer Stelling have been working on. They discussed having it at the Veterans Hall and they are waiting for approval for maintenance at the Veterans Hall. They were going to request for some funding as well. The idea is more like a program or club and provide seniors something socially. Mayor noted that perhaps they can meet with him regarding the matter. C. Picot wanted to ask the Mayor about youth and senior affairs committee, is that functioning and if it is, why would not that be folded into the Committee. It is part of this discussion; Judy Johnson has been part of the discussion. He asked why wouldn't it be under this committee and articulated on since it has been approved to manage.

R. Essay noted that bike lanes are a good idea. He feels that Village traffic needs to be relieved, Chair feels they need to perhaps carpool. Mayor stated as far as Hill Street, there is a traffic study that is being done. Sometimes it does not flow, and the side streets have fast traffic, one hypothesis was increase Hill Street speed and lower the side street speeds. Highway engineers have changed the lights green for longer, so they also reached out to the State, the State was more difficult to adjust, and they suggested from 3-6PM to have blinking yellow on St. Andrews. R. Essay would like left arrow turning lights, the Planning Board recommended a roundabout by McDonalds and 7-11.

Mayor added that he would love Planning Commission to look for potential properties for CPF acquisition. Smaller project would be opening Village composting garden, perhaps they can find grants or funding. S. Stelling is trying to do it at her school, it is a pile of scraps for use as compost. Her idea was they could work with farms and landscaping companies. Chair noted possibly speak with G. Goleski regarding a Village composting garden.

SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATION BY NYSERDA

Present for NYSERDA presentation were Margo Local and Scott Rose. Margo Local began, she is with Newport Ventures, not directly NYSERDA but supportive role to municipalities. They are assisting communities interested in NY Stretch Code. It goes a bit above the base energy code. Stretch code will achieve 10 to 12% better energy code. It will only cost 1-2% more in construction costs and a payback of 9-11 years but adds value to new homes. All that is needed to comply is currently achievable and practical. All the materials, practices and tech are easily attainable, possibly not due to COVID, but under normal conditions. Town of Southampton adopted Stretch, so Village could adopt similar to the Town to be uniform code. It continues with the same rating and certified rating for new residential building. ERA index of forty-five is current for energy efficiency and will raise to fifty, larger will have HERS of 35. Commercial building offers more flexibility for compliance and requirements as well. Code applies to renovations or additions to existing, the same as current requirements. CEC grants are available.

Andrew Manitt, from Molloy College, noted that they would be eligible for the action grant for passing Stretch which is \$5000.00. It would give points for work completed and earns toward points-based grants. Currently, there tasks the Village has completed that would earn points. There are fairly easy and inexpensive things to accrue points.

Chair asked how much training is required for staff of Building Department and understand the requirements. M. Local has addressed training, they have designated a company to offer to municipalities for training. They have a hotline for help on Stretch Code as well. It follows the same format as energy code. M. Lieberman noted that the HERS rater will handle the conformance. S. Rose stated that all buildings have HERS rating, it is not new, and he would imagine that there will be more documents or hurdles to pass the code. One of the biggest things is insulation, windows, geothermal and solar panels to help with energy code. A. Manitt noted that with a mortgage, the extra amount is less than what is saved in energy bills.

Calculations on commercial is a little different, the community benefits more. Create energy code, recognizing that HERS does not exist for commercial and Stretch Code covers it more. On the commercial side, the code official would have more responsibility but not materially different, simply different tables and numbers. M. Lieberman thanked M. Local, A. Manitt and S. Rose.

Chair feels it is important and they need to involve local stakeholders. Chair added they will have to look at the square footage and ratings and possibly have tiers, M. Lieberman noted it has to be easy and fluid. The contacts for information regarding Stretch are MThomson@newportventures.net and AManitt@molloy.edu.

Dieter Vonlehsten, Chairs the Sustainability Committee, he would like to address that by adopting the language it keeps up with the standard of the region and has builders comply. The key is uniformity in

going forward. Please take a good look at what is there and not complicate it because they are familiar with it. His hope is that they will join.

Evan Mason, she is an urban planner, she wanted to note that homeowners are potential stakeholders, educating them is important so they do not view the laws as heavy handed.

Joseph McLoughlin, Trustee, he thinks that given the time constraint, he would prefer to put a time frame on it to come by March, so they can act timely. Chair noted they can reach out to the Town attorney for public hearings noticing. J. McLoughlin also noted that there is legislation regarding the trees that was proposed, and it is possible to reform it.

S. Rose noted homeowners are concerned about placing solar panels, they currently do them on flat roofs. Some of the questions regarding putting solar panels on the ground and that do not go toward lot coverage on the property. They can plant around or leave them open; more flexibility would be helpful. Chair not sure that ground solar panels is viable, some large lots possibly.

MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES ON VILLAGE NEWS/DEVELOPMENTS AND TASK ASSIGNMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

C. Picot noted that these verticals possibly need team captains so they can come in with outcomes. Chair feels that work would be a good opportunity to discuss organization.

February 3, 2022, is next meeting date. Discussion with Trustee McLoughlin and new Village Clerk, as well as Jeremy Lynch.

MOTION by Chair, second M. Lieberman

To adjourn the meeting.

On Vote: Co-Chair Chiffert, Co-Chair Lieberman, C. Picot, R. Essay, E. Simioni, and P. Gilmartin

Respectfully Submitted by:

JoLee Sanchez

File Date: _____

Village Clerk