Mattituck-Laurel Civic Association

Minutes of Meeting

May 28, 2019

TRANSPORTATION

The meeting held at the American Legion Hall on Wickham Avenue, and

began at 6:32 PM, - 46 lively people were in attendance.

President Charles Gueli opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting with a plea for 1 hour of volunteer help to cover various events that will be happening over the next several months. He also notified the crowd that the Dean parking lot will have asphalt work starting soon and it will probably take a month, so think about where you will park when you come to Love Lane. He reported that our current expenses are covered and that additional income would go toward future projects. He also informed the audience that the remaining 4 hats were available for sale at $20 each.

Just as Charles was finishing, Teresa McCaskey arrived and distributed flyers which explain how to file a complaint about airplane and helicopter noise. A copy of the flyer will be attached to these minutes so that those who couldn't attend will have it. There are 4 ways to file a complaint using your cell phone. The more people complain, the more likely we are to divert the air traffic to routes over the water. Everyone is encouraged to file complaints often. Teresa also indicated that the East Hampton Town Board is striving to accomplish the same thing.

Charles then introduced Scott Russell and Bill Ruland to talk about Transportation on the North Fork. Mr. Ruland began with reflections on transportation yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He described how his grandfather, as a high school senior in 1897, wrote about what he saw as the future of Mattituck. He spoke of horse drawn carriages, hitching posts on Love Lane, stables and how people didn't generally travel away from their local hamlet. Everything they needed was brought to them by rail, wagon, or ship. Produce was brought from New York City the same day by rail. His grandfather saw Mattituck as "the finest little city to live in." Love Lane hasn't changed much during the past 60 years, but the 2 main roads have gotten wider and busier and are more developed.

Now the roads are asphalt and things usually travel by trucks, on highways. There are fewer farms today. There are more versions of the same thing than there used to be. We now have buses and many more cars going to many more stores for shopping. There are fewer farms and a greater Increase in tourism.

The future might include self-driving cars, packages delivered by flying robots and digital access to all the information we could want. There might be more accommodating bus service that will go off the main roads. Each hamlet might develop its own shuttle bus service that will pick people up at their homes, like the bus service for seniors at the Human Resources Center. There will be the same services, but different versions of it. The biggest obstacle will be the money.

**Q & A –**

**What's the status of the intersection at Love Lane and the Main Road?**

Scott Russell explained that the study that went up to the DOT in Albany In January is still being reviewed, but that the Town is having another study made which is broader in scope and will include the potential Impact of future development. This study might take another 6 months. The moratorium will be extended for as long as it takes to complete the study.

**Are there any plans for electrical charging stations in the dean parking lot?**

Yes, they will be added - probably 2. There are already electric charging stations in 3 locations around the Town, and that will definitely be expanded with demand. Bill Ruland added that the Town has successfully gotten grants for downtown revitalization through partnering with the county and will organizations like ours. When you develop a track record of getting grants, you have a better chance of getting more In the future.

**Is it possible to restructure site plans at agri-tainment locations (and others) in order to keep traffic flowing?**

Agriculture has special protections, and the police are devoting more time to traffic control at these locations during the busy seasons. The land owners are being charged for any resulting police overtime. We are looking to change the review process so that turn lanes can be included in future site plans.

The one in Laurel has become a destination and the awful traffic keeps people from going further east to other farm stands, which are losing business due to the congestion. Another issue is safety. Emergency vehicles must be able to move, but we don't want to widen the streets any further. The basic problem is that our infrastructure is being overwhelmed by the amount of traffic and we have to institute ways to have parking hubs and shuttle services to diminish the number of cars.

There was a Volpe Study done several years ago that looked at combining trains with shuttle buses. The projected costs were $143 million. Even if the Town was to focus on the shuttle services only, the costs would still be prohibitive.

Ferries or water taxis were also looked at and it was decided that they would not pay for themselves. Also, the inlets are now residential in nature and those homeowners would not go for additional commercial boat traffic.

Land use definitely has an impact on traffic. We have to look at that Impact when future development is proposed. Enforcement of traffic violations and monitoring of congestion points are also things we have to do more of, but there are only so many policemen to cover 54 square miles of Southold.

**What's happening with the Brinkmann property?**

We can't talk about an ongoing litigation. The Brinkmann's filed for litigation last week. We have every intention of winning.

**Can we get a stop sign at the corner of Bay Ave. and Peconic Bay Blvd.?**

You have to call the highway department and ask them. They will look at it as see if it is appropriate.

**Other Comments From the Audience -**

The police chief has to focus on enforcement and monitoring of traffic.

We need turning lanes at the bottleneck locations. If that's the DOTs decision, then we should take pictures and get petitions signed to submit to them.

The DOT answers to the Governor's office. We should contact that office and ask them to make the DOT focus on the social and safety Issues of the traffic.

Too much tourism has a negative Impact on our quality of life.

The Town should get the word out better regarding buses and other existing facilities. Buses are cheap and reliable. This should be aggressively promoted at hubs - Greenport and Mattituck.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Gueli