Mattituck-Laurel Civic Association

Minutes of Meeting

March 25, 2019

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

began at 6:31 PM, - 38 people were in attendance.

President Charles Gueli opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and talked about the success of the litter pickup and the help of 2 high school students, the membership drive which will happen in May, with the new membership cards, and the upcoming MLCA elections.

He then introduced the panel of Jamie Richter, John Seponoski, and Bill Ruland.

**TRAFFIC STUDY** - Jamie Richter started speaking about the traffic study. The town's consultants, the firm of AKRF Engineering, did an excellent job of convincing the NYSDOT to take a serious look at the alternative solutions for the intersection of Love Lane and the Main Road. The study was then sent to the Roundabout Dept. up in Albany for further review. A favorable decision is expected.

Once received, the town will have meetings with the community about what is proposed and get feedback about the details of the project (i.e. crosswalks, bulb-outs, plantings, etc.). Mr. Richter did not know when the study would be returned from Albany but said he knew they were currently looking at it. The town is aware that the solution must include traffic conditions extending in both directions from Love Lane to Factory Ave. to the west and past Wickham Ave. to the east. Mr. Ruland explained that the roundabout could be somewhat oval shaped to make it fit properly. An added benefit would be that a roundabout would physically impede tractor trailers from turning into Love Lane.

There were questions about crosswalks, duration of construction, and size of the roundabout, all of which were details that would be addressed at a later date. There were also comments from the audience about being thankful to see some movement forward after the years of studies that have been made. It was mentioned that the potential for new parking spots along the shoulder of the Main Road would be a traffic-calming measure.

Factory Ave. was brought up as a problem area and the town is aware of the conditions. They will be looking at the addition of sidewalks and other ways to make the street safer at night. A provision for a bike lane might be part of the solution.

The DOT has information about traffic counts along the Main Road that will be available soon. Funding for these projects can possibly be provided through the offices of LaValle and Palumbo under the heading of "Safety Enhancement".

The use of a Traffic Control officer on Love Lane was discussed to better inform the people who park there about parking within 18" of the curb. This would also curtail the making of U turns on Love Lane and any double parking. Mr. Richter said he would consult with the police chief about doing that. The town is also considering using spaces in the parking lots to be color coded to designate different time limits. A color for 1 hour, another for 2 hours, and a 3rd color for long term parking.

**DEAN PARKING LOT** - Mr. Richter indicated that the drainage problems throughout the parking lot were essentially resolved, with minor work remaining. When laying out the parking spaces, the emphasis was on maximizing the spaces. They now show 80 spaces, which is an increase of 23 spaces.

The plan brought to the meeting did not show any trees or locations for dumpsters. Several people in the audience voiced reasons why trees had to be included and Mr. Richter indicated that they could still be added, but that was not his decision to make. Mr. Ruland added that the most practical locations for trees were around the perimeter of the lot. Mr. Richter implied that dumpsters would not be put on Town property.

Charles Salice spoke about having talks with the town that were moving forward, slowly, and he now has an additional 48 spaces (12 at the train station) designated for his building on the corner of Love Lane and Pike Street.

Several sidewalks were indicated on Mr. Richter's drawing and questions arose about the need for these sidewalks. It was apparent that further discussion was needed to finalize details regarding the lot and that the town's Tree Committee should be brought in to discuss which trees would be appropriate and where.

**WALKING TRAILS** - John Sepenoski gave us the following information:

There are 24 locations in Southold Town with hiking trails

There are 25 miles of trails covering 1395 acres

Maintenance is typically handled by the entities who own the trails: Town, Suffolk County Parks, NYS Parks, the Nature Conservancy, Peconic Land Trust, and Greenport Village.

There is a project to connect the Bay to the Sound by walking trails. Beginning in 2007, when the Town, Greenport Village and Suffolk County agreed to partner on the project, and funding was obtained through grants, there has been 234 acres made available for public use. 6.5 miles of trails were added. 7 miles of bike trails were added to the Greenport Village bike trail system and the Town's Seaview Bike Trail system.

Phase 2 was made possible by a grant of $245,000 from the NYS DOS of the Environmental Protection Fund in 2017. This added 2.1 miles of new trails and 78 acres of additional open space ready to be opened to the public. 29,250 pounds of trash and junk were removed. Volunteers have conducted trash clean ups throughout the area.

Still coming in Phase 2 are 2 wildlife observation blinds, 5 boardwalks, 2 trail head parking areas, 2 kiosks at Skipper Horton Park for educational materials, and approx. 1.2 miles of new tails opening up an additional 35 acres of open space to the public.

Future phases include another 2.3 miles of trails on 60 acres of Town land. The Town and the County are discussing another 1.3 miles on County park land. There are also opportunities to expand the trails onto privately owned land. There is no projection as to when the work will be completed as the scope of the work is subject to change.

The trails at Laurel Lake Preserve were asked about and Mr. Sepenoski acknowledged that the trails there need work. He is not responsible for that location at this time, but could get involved once the bay to sound project is complete. He also said that there has been some vandalism committed along trails at the Husing Pond Preserve and that any information about who is doing it would be appreciated. He mentioned that he has an app showing the locations of all the trails and he would send that to our Board member for distribution to the membership.

Charlie wrapped up the meeting with information about ticks, saying that they do not jump like fleas and you would have to brush up against them in order to get one on you and ticks are easily discovered if you wear light colored clothing. Therefore, they should not be a problem.

He then mentioned that our scholarship fund is only $187 short of our goal and he asked for help to reach it. Lastly, he told the audience that the first meeting to organize charrettes for the Walkable Hamlet project will take place on April 2nd. He will keep any interested parties updated on any developments.

The meeting was then adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Gueli