

VPS WEIGHS IN ON PSEG, *cont' from page 4*

season. We cherish that identity, embrace it in our cultural and educational institutions and have gone so far as to tax ourselves to create funds to counter intense development pressure to preserve open space, farmland and other scenic vistas that are a proud part of that identity and individualism.

The land we have paid collectively to preserve - our history, heritage, farmland, fisheries and important scenic vistas – are those which PSEG-Long Island’s plans have burdened by profound health risks, negative visual impacts and diminution of property values.”

Any approach to edifying our area’s vulnerability to power losses from extreme weather events would be best achieved by burying the lines. With only one main access route, downed overhead power lines are the biggest post-storm risk we face. The lines must be buried.

The VPS has supported the continued efforts of both Save East Hampton and LIBFRE, two groups of local residents fighting the utility project with a grant of \$1,000 to each group.

Contact New York State Governor, Andrew Cuomo with your concerns about PSEG-LI and its superficial treatment of ratepayer needs in our communities, by phone at: (518) 474-8390 or e-mail at <http://www.governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php>

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2015
East Hampton, NY 11937

Water Use and Conditions on Georgica and Town Ponds

By Kathleen Cunningham

The Society has been actively participating in the work of the Long Island Clean Water Coalition advocating for a special water protection district for Long Island, including the aquifers of the south fork, our sole water source. We have been closely following the work of marine biologist Dr. Christopher Gobler of Stony Brook Southampton, as he works with the Village and Town Agencies monitoring algal blooms in our surface water bodies.

Samples of water from Georgica Pond were found to contain some toxic algae due to the intense blue-green algal blooms there. As a precaution, the Town Trustees to suspended fishing and crabbing from that water body. While these algal blooms and toxins therein are naturally occurring, the concentration of the toxins is what motivated the Trustees to close the Pond for the harvesting of edible marine life. Town Pond is also suffering from unsightly algal blooms, which in some cases can be poisonous to some animals.

Group for the East End President, Bob DeLuca, will speak on our water quality use and the impacts on the health of both our drinking water, surface water bodies and the life they support at the Society’s Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the Tennis House on Maidstone Ln, East Hampton. Please RSVP to 631-324-3524.

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON

**FALL NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2014**

Mark Your Calendars!
Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 4 p.m.
Maidstone Tennis House on Maidstone Lane
Guest Speaker Bob DeLuca will discuss water quality and impacts on the health of Town Pond and other surface water bodies. Refreshments will be served after Mr. DeLuca’s talk. Please R.S.V.P. to 631-324-3524.



VPS members enjoy the lovely spring evening at the Tennis House

2014 WELCOME TO SUMMER PARTY – LOVELY!

By Melissa Egbert Sheehan

The Society held our annual "Welcome to Summer" Cocktail Party for the membership on June 14th at the Tennis House on Maidstone Lane with about 150 people in attendance. Always a great way to celebrate the beginning of summer, this lovely venue is the perfect setting for reconnecting with old friends and discussing issues of concern to our members. It was a beautiful evening, and the hors d'oeuvres were delicious and home made by our trustees, a highlight of the event!

Our Chairman, Joan Osborne, welcomed everyone and launched the Society’s "Spay-A-Doe" campaign, which was well received by our guests.

We hope you will be among our number next year.



SOCIETY HOSTS EXPERTS TO DISCUSS DEER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

By Kathleen Cunningham

The Society conducted an informational forum on deer population control August 14, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Emergency Services Building on Cedar St, East Hampton. Free of charge and open to the public, the event was attended by over 60 people who gathered to learn about the impacts of deer forage on East Hampton forests and about the upcoming deer spaying program to be conducted by the Village this winter.

Tom Rawinski a botanist of 32 years formerly with the Nature Conservancy and now with the US Forest Service, reviewed his findings from a recent field trip to East Hampton with Town Planning staff to assess deer forage impacts on local forests. He described some East Hampton

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Dr. Anthony DeNicola of White Buffalo and Tom Rawinski of the U.S. Forest Service answer questions from the audience gathered to hear them speak on deer impacts and population control methods.

Photo credit: Kathleen Cunningham

Please fill out, cut along the line and mail to THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY
P.O. Box 2015, East Hampton, New York 11937

Please enroll me as a member of The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton for the Membership Year from January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address: _____

Visit our website at: www.villagepreservationsociety.org

Number of Members in this Membership (please circle one) 1 2 3 Other

For year round Newsletters and information, please print winter address

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Contributors of \$5,000.00 will be listed as **Visionary** \$ 2,500.00 will be listed as **Advocate**
\$1,000.00 will be listed as **Benefactor** \$ 500.00 will be listed as **Patron**
\$ 250.00 will be listed as **Supporting Member** \$ 100.00 will be listed as **Friend**
Regular Membership (\$50)

The Membership Year runs from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

I would like to be active. My special interests are: _____

I (We) support VPS principles but do not wish to be listed as a member.

Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____



Two bucks and a doe relax like invited guests on Andree Dean's lawn during a "Let's Talk About Deer" cocktail party this August.

DEER FORUM, cont' from front page

forests as being decimated by deer. Of particular importance is the serious decline in old growth trees, which are consumed as saplings and subsequently will not replace the tall canopied trees indigenous to our local forests. Also affected by this dramatic reduction in tree cover are nesting birds and other flora and fauna dependent upon the woodland ecosystem to survive. Not all wooded areas are so suffering, but this is a clear indication that habitat cannot support the current deer populations in East Hampton. And, while the Village has its own herds with forage impacts, the correlation is easily drawn to ornamental plantings and the little existing forested areas.

Dr. Tony DeNicola of White Buffalo, the professional who has been contracted by the Village to conduct the first-ever deer spaying program on Long Island, reviewed his plans for a deer spaying project set to begin this winter. Enabled by the VPS "Spay-A-Doe" Campaign to supplement the inadequate sum allotted by the Village for this initiative by \$100,000, Dr. DeNicola can now plan to spay all the does to be found in the Village the first year of this program. Spaying even one doe eliminates at least 8 and as many as 20 animals, exponentially diminishing the numbers of the future herd. Spayed does consume less as their caloric requirements are vastly diminished when they are not pregnant and nursing fawns for the better part of a year. More territorial than bucks, sterilized does act as placeholders, helping to limit the population in a given area.

The notion of capturing an animal in the wild, anesthetizing it, performing a surgical sterilization operation on it and then returning it to its natural habitat is, to understate it, an unusual approach to deer population management. However, even with recently relaxed state discharge limits, the limited opportunity for hunting and the increased pressure on habitat the ever-expanding deer population presents for the Village, this is the only tool available.

LET'S TALK ABOUT DEER!

By Polly Bruckmann

The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton (VPS) has nearly achieved the \$100,000 goal set for our "Spay-A-Doe" fundraising campaign launched at the Society's "Welcome to Summer Party", on June 14, 2014. Developed to augment the deer-spaying program Village government will conduct this winter, these funds will substantially increase the number of animals that can be spayed.

Campaign Committee Co-Chairs, Polly Bruckmann, Andrée Dean and John McGuirk, with professional guidance from Executive Director, Kathleen Cunningham, designed the Society's "Spay-A-Doe" campaign to provide a vehicle for the Society to collect funds to make a one-time gift of \$100,000 to the Village of East Hampton in order to supplement an underfunded inaugural deer-spaying program set to begin this winter. In future, we expect the Village will properly fund continuing efforts without additional financial support from the VPS or Village taxpayers.

Any funds collected through this campaign will be used to fund the expenses of the deer-spaying effort being conducted by the Village through the professional services of Dr. Anthony DeNicola of White Buffalo. On August 14, 2014, Dr. DeNicola spent an afternoon with Village officials reviewing the details of the project slated to begin in late December. Mr. DeNicola expects to spay all the does living in the Village and use the outlying Town owned lands as a control area to measure the success of the sterilization program. Volunteer veterinarians and general helpers are being sought to help establish a local cadre of trained volunteers who can support the inaugural program, sustain it going forward and keep costs down.

The Society is grateful to those who have donated to this campaign and encourages continued financial support to provide a proper financial foundation for this important deer population control initiative.



Enjoying the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. William Sheehan at their lovely Egypt Lane home at the "Spay-A-Doe" cocktail party they hosted are (from left to right): VPS Spay-A-Doe Campaign Co-Chairs Andree Dean, John McGuirk and Polly Bruckmann with Board Chair Joan Osborne.

STORIES IN STONE

by Averill Geus, Town Historian



Photo credit: James Hutton

LIEUTENANT THOMAS BAKER, SOLDIER, 1745 – 1825

A white marble tombstone marks the North End Cemetery grave of Lieutenant Thomas Baker, who once lived in a saltbox house on Pantigo Lane in the 18th century. His father and grandfather were both militia lieutenants and he followed in their footsteps.

Born July 4, 1745, he was the fifth of eight children. When his service in the American Revolution commenced, he had fathered eight children with his wife of about ten years, Joan (also called Jenny or Jane) Conklin. Their family exemplified the child mortality rate of that time: of the first born, four died in infancy. One was killed when he fell off a log.

Lt. Baker signed the Association document in 1775 declaring his willingness to fight for separation from England. When a call for volunteers went out for men to serve in the military, Baker joined Col. David Mulford's regiment, then shifted to the Artillery unit of Col. Josiah Smith's regiment. He was among the first volunteers to enlist for six months service when the call went out during June and July, 1775, and served under Capt. John Hulburt traveling to Fort Constitution and Ticonderoga. He guarded British prisoners taken at the Fort before going to Philadelphia in October 1775. In the spring and early summer of 1776, he was called upon to serve with Col. Smith's command in Brooklyn, where he engaged in skirmishes of the Battle of Long Island. It is believed he was assigned to drive cattle found on western Long Island to a safe place where the British were not likely to find them.

Lt. Thomas Baker's name appears on numerous lists of the military during that tumultuous period. However, because the American command situation was so tangled, and the shifting of leaders and regiments so numerous, it was impossible to keep accurate records between August 22 and 29, 1776.

Lt. Baker later served in Col. Samuel Drake's Provisional Regiment and probably in Connecticut. It is thought he was also a private in the Third line of Malcolm's or Graham's Levies. After the British overran Long Island, Baker returned to East Hampton and joined the many frightened residents who removed to Connecticut as refugees. They did not return until April 1782. Jane Baker died shortly after, perhaps in childbirth as an infant died about the same time. Thomas subsequently married Polly Anderson, a woman from Connecticut, and settled down to a life of farming and fishing. As the father of six girls who survived childhood, Thomas became the ancestor of a multitude of descendants. Three daughters married brothers in the Hand family, while

another married Gen. Jeremiah Miller whose children went on to populate Plattsburg, NY. The oldest daughter, Jane, married Josiah Dayton of Hardscrabble and had a son whom she proudly named Josiah Conklin Baker Dayton. Although blind, Josiah C.B. Dayton served in the New York State Assembly and a generation later, his son served as Assembly Clerk and Clerk of the Senate for over 30 years. He built the house on Toilsome Lane where his great grandson C. Frank Dayton lived all 90 years of his life. In the mid 1950's, Mr. and Mrs. James Tyson moved the old Baker house on Pantigo to a new location off Further Lane, on the dunes.

Unfortunately, the white marble tombstone of Lt. Thomas Baker was vandalized this summer and broken off at its base. Next to it, marked by a red sandstone memorial, lie the remains of "Janey" Baker, as she is named on the stone.



VPS Aircraft Noise Abatement Chair, Peter M. Wolf addresses the East Hampton Town Board at its special aircraft noise meeting at LTV studios.

AIRCRAFT NOISE ABATEMENT UPDATE

By Peter M. Wolf
VPS Aircraft Noise Committee Chairman

Encouraging progress is being made with respect to the VPS initiative to address the ever-growing nuisance to our community caused by aircraft noise, especially the racket generated by helicopters. Due to substantial work done by a Town appointed Airport Planning Committee, consisting of three sub-committees, include a sub-group of the Business and Finance Advisory Committee, it has been agreed by all concerned interests that no additional Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) money will be necessary to operate our airport safely for years to come. This determination has been reviewed and acknowledged by the current Town Board. If no further FAA funding is accepted, the Town will regain its rights to limit access to the airport for the first time in over twenty years, after December 31, 2014.

Part of the Airport Planning Committee, is the Airport Noise Sub-committee, of which I am a member. The Noise sub-committee has been working diligently and nearly continuously to address the variety of potentials going

forward to abate the noise generated by aircraft. In this respect and with a focus on future regulation, the Committee has conducted extensive research into ways the Town can legally address noise impacts by imposing reasonable access limits at the airport.

The disruptive noise issue with the VPS identified early has only gotten worse in the interim. The number of flights in nearly every category is up dramatically over last year. More and more residents upset by this disruption to their lives, called into the airport noise complaint hotline, increasing those complaints by a large multiple. For example, for the weekend of 18 July through 21 July during 2013 there were 145 calls; whereas for this year 927 complaints were received, an increase of over 500%. The East End community is seriously alarmed.

Additionally, the southern or 'Sierra Route' over Georgica Pond has been bifurcated to alleviate the over abundance of helicopters frequenting that route. This new route now brings helicopters in west of the Village, near Georgica, and out over the eastern reaches of the Village, often over Hook Pond. Village residents generally suffered more jet noise impacts than helicopters, but this new route now concentrates both fixed wing and helicopter traffic over Village residents.

It is very important to the successful outcome of these efforts that aircraft noise disturbed residents call into the Town of East Hampton Airport Complaint Hotline every time any aircraft causes disturbance. The number to call is: 800-376-4817. You may also record your complaint electronically at: <http://www.planenoise.com/khto/>. The Town Board has asked to hear from residents. It seeks data that this is, indeed, a community wide concern.

Photo credit: Susan McGraw Keeber



VPS Trustee & Aircraft Noise Committee Chair Peter Wolf, his partner in the aircraft noise abatement petition, Ken Lipper, East Hampton Town Councilwoman Kathee Burke-Gonzalez and Quiet Skies Coalition Chair, Kathleen Cunningham were among the over 385 people who attended the Special Town Board meeting held at LTV Studios on August 27, 2014 to address aircraft noise. The Town Board convened this special meeting after communities all over the East End, and their chief elected officials requested an audience with the Board to express their frustration and concerns about the impacts of aircraft noise on their quality of life, health, welfare and home values. Mr. Wolf and Mr. Lipper engaged in a successful petition mailing campaign gathering over 300 signatures from affected East Hampton residents, which they will place into the record at a future date. A very successful night for noise abatement advocates!



Photo credit: Erica Thompson

VPS Executive Director, Kathleen Cunningham, addresses the Public Service Commission panel assembled at the Emergency Services Building to take comment from the public on PSEG's Long Range Plan.

VPS WEIGHS IN ON PSEG-LONG ISLAND UTILITY 2.0 LONG RANGE PLAN

By Joan D. Osborne

On August 26, 2014 at the Emergency Services Building, VPS Executive Director Kathleen Cunningham was among the over 200 people gathered to address officials from the Public Service Energy Group – Long Island (PSEG-LI) during a public hearing sponsored by the New York State Public Service Committee. This meeting was convened in response to public pressure to provide a local venue for East End residents to offer public comment on PSEG-LI's "Utility 2.0 Long Range Plan".

The plan was hastily written, had typographical errors that any spell check software would have picked up had it been employed, and the plans for our area seemed hurriedly improvised and lacked detail. The South Fork featured prominently as a future load growth pocket, but little detail was available for how that was determined and how it would be addressed.

The VPS representative offered excerpts from a comprehensive overview the VPS submitted of the plans deficits, including questions and comments, among them:

"Soliciting public input from all affected stakeholders is essential. Reliability and resiliency are key words throughout the Utility 2.0 plan, critical concepts to life in our area. These words resonate for us on the East End, as our way of life, different from that of communities to the west, is completely dependent upon our own ability to be self-reliant and resilient.

Our elected officials have codified these ideals in policy and governance, which supports and continues to shape the community character we value so highly: character developed by maritime and agrarian enterprise, strongly embedded in our character, which separates the East End from the western portions of Long Island. It's not as easy to live here in the off-