

**RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE**, continued from page 4

that, "After 10 years, the Village should revisit the Plan - considering once again its vision for the future and the issues and trends that either support or threaten the community's future. The Plan should be modified as needed. After twenty years, the Village should consider undertaking a completely new comprehensive plan."

The revisiting of the plan after 10 years has not occurred and it seems given the various pressures on our community, at the very least it is time to review and modify it as needed. Or consider undertaking a completely new plan.

Additionally, the 2002 Plan recommended that the Village and the Town form a "General Planning Coordination

Committee to examine issues of common concern and offer advisory recommendations for consideration by each legislative body." This has also not occurred and while the Town and Village appear to have an excellent working relationship, given the scope of our common challenges, it may make sense to formalize a common approach to dealing with them.

We encourage our members to read the 2002 Comprehensive Plan which can be found on the Village website. While it is lengthy, it is thoughtful and well written and provides a useful guidepost to the approach we likely need to take again in the very near term.

**THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 2015  
East Hampton, NY 11937

**PSEG-LI UTILITY POLE UPDATE**

By John L. McGuirk, III

The VPS has continued to support efforts to remove the PSEG-LI utility transmission poles, which have ravaged Village street trees, exposed our drinking water to leaching toxic chemicals, ruined important local vistas and diminished property values in affected areas. While talks began between Village government and the utility to estimate costs to bury transmission lines, no agreement has been struck, to date. Village government continues to act in good faith and reports dialogue with the utility has improved. However, a formal agreement has not been reached.

In early August, the New York State Supreme Court upheld the legal merits of a suit filed by East Hampton based, Long Island Businesses for Responsible Energy (LIBFRE) against LIPA/PSEG for private nuisance, negligence, trespass, and violations of the Environmental Conservation law, validating claims for damages, and injunctive relief, as a result of the pole replacement project.

This spring, a global ban of pentachlorophenol (penta) was unanimously proposed by the Stockholm Convention, the international agency responsible for monitoring toxicity in chemicals in worldwide use. Related efforts to limit the use of penta are working their way through the NYS Senate, although there are fears that this effort is stalled. Encouraging our elected officials to use their legislative authority to ensure these vital regulations are achieved is important. VPS is also supporting a movement to encourage the East Hampton Town Board to adopt policy that embraces sustainable electric upgrade standards. This would require burying of power lines and use of composite poles when

upgrades may be required. This would eliminate exposure to the penta-soaked poles PSEG is currently using, and will continue to use, unless otherwise influenced. The VPS continues to advocate for removal and clean up of the toxic utility poles and the burying of utility lines.

**DEER POPULATION CONTROL UPDATE**

By Polly Bruckmann

The Society continues to support the Village deer-spaying program. Initially funded by the Society's gift of \$100,000 realized by our Spay-A-Doe campaign in 2014, the program was launched to help control Village deer populations. We believe this is the most effective and humane approach to minimize impacts of deer forage on our suffering ecosystem upon which many other flora and fauna are dependent. Controlling the deer population will also help reduce vehicular strikes, the impacts on the transmission of tick borne illnesses associated with deer and the destruction of ornamental plantings. The Village will continue the program this fall.

**THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON**

**FALL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015**

the Village Preservation Society of East Hampton

**Be sure to look for the VPS Town Board Candidates Debate on LTV after October 8, 2015**

The unique format of our debate provides viewers with an excellent opportunity to understand what each candidate may bring to office. Check LTV for scheduled showings.

**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH TO SUMMER!**

By Missy Egbert Sheehan

We had our annual "Welcome to Summer" Cocktail Party for our members on June 13th at the Maidstone Tennis House. The weather was beautiful, and the party is always a great way to celebrate the beginning of summer and let

our members know what we have been working on as an organization. Our Chairman, Joan Osborne, welcomed the 125 people who attended and encouraged them to bring to us any concerns they may have about Village life. The hors d'oeuvres, made by each of our trustees, were delicious and everybody always enjoys them.

We look forward to having another wonderful party next June. Hope to see you then!



The lovely early summer weather provided a perfect backdrop to the beautifully manicured surroundings at the Tennis House.



Guests enjoy the delicious home made hors d'oeuvres and decor arranged by event Chairwoman, Missy Egbert Sheehan.



Photos by Karlireen 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, 2016 - December 31, 2016.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Visit our website at: [www.villagepreservationsociety.org](http://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, 2016 through December 31, 2016.**

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## STORIES IN STONE: ONE FAMILY'S IMPRINT

By Averill Geus, Town Historian

All East Hampton Hunting families can claim descent from the Rev. Nathaniel Hunting of Dedham, MA, the second pastor of the easternmost Long Island Presbyterian Church. Yale graduate in 1693, he was a learned man for his time. Rev. Hunting occupied the local pulpit for fifty years and kept invaluable records of his parishioners births, marriages, and deaths. He and his wife raised a family of ten children in their home on Main street, know for over two centuries as the Hunting Inn. Their eldest son, Captain Nathaniel, kept the tavern going throughout the British occupation of Long Island. Growing up in a tavern amidst the hubbub of war and the presence of British soldiers billeted on the family, were the Captain's eleven children.

A middle son, Abraham, born in 1773, married Mary Mulford, daughter of Deacon Abraham Mulford, a man designated as "the father-in-law of eastern Long Island" because his eight daughters married into prominent East Hampton and Southold families. Abraham and Mary Hunting built a large white house on the western side of North Main Street near the village center. Still on its original site, the house was almost destroyed by fallen elms in the 1938 hurricane. All but forgotten today, several Hunting children had, as adults, a major impact on the growth and development of East Hampton Town.

Could Frances Hunting, known to her neighbors as "Aunt Fanny" ever imagine that her 30-year diary would



Photo courtesy Sherrill Foster

*Abraham Hunting built this home around 1835, which also housed a general store, run by his sons J. Madison and Otis. The house escaped serious damage even as these two giant elms fell on it during 1938 hurricane dubbed, "The Long Island Express" for the speed with which it came ashore.*

become an important reference for local historians? A spinster who lived out her days in a boarding house located on the Rowes Drug Store corner, only steps away from her birthplace, she recorded Main Street life as she saw it from her window. Her bachelor brother, Otis, the youngest in the family lived in the same boarding house but went to work every day in his brother's store. His love of the Presbyterian Church and music led him to become the local choir leader and singing master in town.

He had a wooden pitch pipe, made by Nathaniel Dominy V in 1803, which is now on display in Home Sweet Home Museum. Otis worked diligently to raise the necessary funds to provide the new 1860 church with a pipe organ, the first ever heard in East Hampton.

Both Fanny and Otis Hunting were buried with their parents in the North End Cemetery. Near them is another Mary Hunting, who was the first wife of Otis's brother, J. Madison Hunting, who, unlike his siblings, cut a wide swath through 19th century East Hampton. J. Madison inherited his father's big white house. Ambitious and astute, despite a limited education, he proceeded to build a wing on the house, which became the town's first real mercantile establishment. He sold dry goods, groceries, hardware, and the necessities of life, which previously, local families had to purchase in Sag Harbor. The store became a gathering place for men in town, for packing fish and eels to be sent to the city, for cracker barrel politics. It was the beginning of East Hampton's commercial district. J. Madison prospered and became the private banker in East Hampton. Later in life, he branched out and founded the Sag Harbor Savings Bank, and served as its first president.

Always civic minded, he solved the dispute between townspeople over the construction of a new church or repair of the old one, when he purchased property on Main Street and donated it to the Presbyterian congregation.

He raised the money to build the new church and was its funds largest subscriber, while his brother Otis raised money to build the Session House. Both buildings are still

in use and are town landmarks today. Towards the end of his life, J. Madison built a mansion on the west side of Main Street. This imposing structure was surrounded by fields and barns and reflected the status of its owner. Unfortunately, J. Madison died the same year of its completion. The fields behind the house became the first tennis courts of the Maidstone Club and in the 1920s, a residential street was cut through the property. The new street was named "The Circle". The grand house itself, sandwiched in between Edwards Theatre and the old A&P store in the 1950s, was demolished. J. Madison's store however, survives. It was removed from the North Main house, transported to Gay Lane where it is a residence today.

Fanny, Otis and J. Madison Hunting are obscure figures today, the town has forgotten them, but their endeavors should not be overlooked. Fanny was East Hampton's first journalist, a forerunner of our local newspapers.

James Madison was our first Main Street merchant, banker, and civic improver. We live today with the landscape and church he envisioned. Otis brought the pleasure of music and singing into the lives of local citizens. His efforts built the Session House where meetings, Sunday Schools, parties and forums are still held today. This family trio, with quiet determination, placed the cornerstones a century ago, on which our present town was built. Their works transformed a sleep seaside village into a vibrant Long Island town.

## AIRCRAFT NOISE IMPACTS: NEVER WORSE

By Peter M. Wolf

During this past summer season, aircraft noise again escalated in all categories of aircraft using the East Hampton Airport, disturbing humans and animals in a wide impact area from the eastern regions of Southampton, far north beyond Noyac and Sag Harbor, and throughout Wainscott and a large part of western East Hampton including East Hampton Village. This in spite of two relatively inconsequential airport curfew regulations in effect all summer, that in effect, compressed the increased numbers of seasonal aircraft operations into a tighter timeframe, essentially intensifying disturbances for the aircraft noise affected.

On the noise mitigation effort, in which the VPS has been a community leader, there is little progress to report over the past several months. There are two lawsuits presently before the court. One is the Town's legal appeal using outside counsel to overrule a preliminary injunction granted against the municipality's newly adopted law that restricts the flight of noisiest aircraft to one round trip per week. The second suit, in which the Town has finally moved to intervene, is a challenge by aircraft advocates (Friends of East Hampton Airport) to the FAA's 2005 agreement to



Image courtesy of LTV

*VPS Aircraft Noise Committee Chair Peter M. Wolf speaks at the Town Board work session on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 asking the Board for better protections for the public from disturbing aircraft noise impacts.*

permit the Town of East Hampton a degree of control over the airport. The 2005 settlement is the basis upon which the Town's aircraft noise policy depends.

On September 1st at a Town Board work session a variety of noise mitigation advocates addressed the Town Board, asking for relief from aircraft noise. On September 3rd further pleas were made to the Town Board, including Village residents, following a public demonstration by noise mitigation advocates outside of Town Hall.

The Town's position at this time, as stated by Supervisor Cantwell, is to evaluate new data produced this summer to inform any additional action taken by the Town Board. Complied seasonal data will be released at public meeting to be held after the season, presumably sometime during the month of October. The outcome of the two lawsuits will be significant to the future direction of this effort.



Photo by Steven J. Kotz

*VPS Trustees Georgia deHavenon and Polly Bruckmann, join Naomi Salz and 25 other participants to show support for more aircraft noise abatement measures during the demonstration outside Town Hall on September 3, 2015 where residents gathered to protest aircraft noise impacts on our community.*

## OUR WATER – OUR PROBLEM

By Kathleen Cunningham

During the last decade, scientists have come to understand that everyday human activities have upset the delicate ecological balance of our surface water bodies like Hook and Town Ponds. Additionally, what pollutes the surface waters, also pollutes our drinking water as the cycle of filtration is inextricably linked to our sole source aquifer, our only source of water. Scientific analysis indicates septic systems are the main cause of the uptick in nitrogen pollutants, which are filtering into our bays, pond waters and drinking water. This affects not only drinking water purity, but marine life dependent upon the critical chemical balance of their natural habitat, disrupted both by the gradual infiltration of nitrogen from septic systems, and the sudden influx of water which occurs during rainstorms and snow melt.

The Village and Town of East Hampton are addressing a variety of filtration projects, some with County funding grants, meant to capture and clean storm water as it rapidly evacuates from road surfaces during storms before it enters the watershed system, a good step to improving water quality there.

Through its Hook Pond Watershed Improvement Project, the Village has a program conceived by Lombardo Associates that is addressing a variety of mitigation efforts. This is excellent news. Plans to install stormwater wetlands to treat runoff from the roads converging at Town Pond, permeable reactive barriers to be installed along the western edge of the stream by the Nature Trail, and additional mitigations for lands on the corner of Cedar and North Main Streets to Egypt Lane at Dunemere, will likely begin next spring. The Village is aggressively seeking funding grants to supplement the cost of these projects, as they are very expensive. However, this is a price we must pay to remedy a situation we've all had a hand in creating, however unwittingly. Mitigation is costly, but the price of doing nothing is even greater.



*Diagram by Dr. Christopher Gobler, Stony Brook University School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences. Used with permission.*

## RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE: PLANNING FOR GROWTH

By Curtis W. Schade

The perennial concern regarding the growth of the summer population and the negative impact on our community has taken on a greater sense of urgency this year; there is a growing sense that we have reached an inflection point where the very nature of our communities is being threatened. These issues affect both the Village and Town of East Hampton and the most urgent among them are the ongoing growth in air traffic at the East Hampton airport, the redevelopment of properties resulting in much larger homes on smaller lots in the Village, the explosion of visitation, night life and traffic in Montauk and water quality in Hook and Town Ponds.

How do we deal with these issues? Our local elected officials have worked hard to address many of these challenges individually. However, the issues are complex and interrelated and begs the question: do we as a Village need to step back and take a more holistic approach rather than react and play defense? Should we plan proactively for growth?

The Village last took this type of comprehensive approach to planning when it produced the Village of East Hampton Comprehensive Plan in 2002. This plan was the result of the coordinated efforts of the Board of Trustees, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Board, the Design Review Board, a Citizens Advisory Committee and an independent consultant. The result of that effort was a very thoughtful document that articulated a consensus vision for the future of East Hampton through a comprehensive plan to achieve that vision organized around seven major themes: preserving Village neighborhoods and historic character; protecting Village natural resources; supporting Village commercial needs; providing for Village transportation needs; providing residents with facilities and services; and working with the Town of East Hampton.

These themes were intended to address some of the same issues we are facing today: development and redevelopment, restricting commercial activity to commercial zones, car and truck traffic, and water quality. While the Plan was forward looking it could not anticipate how these issues might evolve in the future. Who knew that an app on your smart phone would summon helicopters on demand, or that land prices would reach levels that would compel private equity firms to finance the proliferation of production home builders or that Air BnB and VRBO (Vacation Rentals by Owner) would instantly expand unregulated commercial lodging activities in residential neighborhoods?

The Comprehensive Plan of 2002 recommended



*Headstone marking the final resting place of Abraham Hunting.*

*Continued on page 5*