

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON

the Village
Preservation
Society of East Hampton

FALL NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2019

2019 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS

By Georgia de Havenon

Bronze plaques inscribed as the 2019 Village Preservation Award for Historic Preservation were presented to four recipients at the Annual Meeting. We feel these projects best represent our goal to promote the value of and appreciation for historic buildings and their contributions to community character. The careful restoration and stewardship of these homes and public buildings reinforce that important quality.

Two awards were presented to private homeowners. The first award went to the Hiram Sanford house at 13 Egypt Lane. This was the home of Hiram Sanford, the operator of the Pantigo Windmill from 1850-1865. At that time, the Windmill was on the southeast corner of Pantigo Rd and Egypt Lane. Passed down through 3 generations, this home has early 18th century characteristics, but during reconstruction, Dick Baxter of Strada Baxter Design/Build uncovered a foundation stone dated 1822. This project well demonstrates the intent of the Village's 2013 Timber Frame legislation allowing owners of

23 historic properties with structures built between 1770-1850, to construct a second structure on the property. Mr. Robert Strada accepted the award for the owners Eric Ellenbogen and Dominic Ramos-Ruiz.

"Nid de Papillon", at 31 Old Beach Lane, designed by Frank Eaton Newman in the Elizabethan Manor style and built in 1918, was the second private residence to be honored. Publisher Robert Appleton built this house that overlooks the dunes and the sea as his manor house for the nearly 100 acres he owned at that time. During Prohibition a basement speak-easy could be accessed through a hidden stairway behind a grandfather clock on the second floor. A century later, an adjacent garage structure was constructed, that preserves the integrity of the original design, even down to the handmade roof tiles, emulating an English thatched roof. Architect Alec Antonelli worked with Gretchen Johnson to assure that it would echo the scale and design of the stately original house.

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Georgia de Havenon gives Town Councilman, David Lys, President of the Amagansett U.S. Life-Saving & Coast Guard Station, the plaque honoring the restoration of that building



Georgia de Havenon, Historic Preservation Chair, looks on while award winners, Gretchen and James Johnson display their plaque honoring "Nid de Papillon".



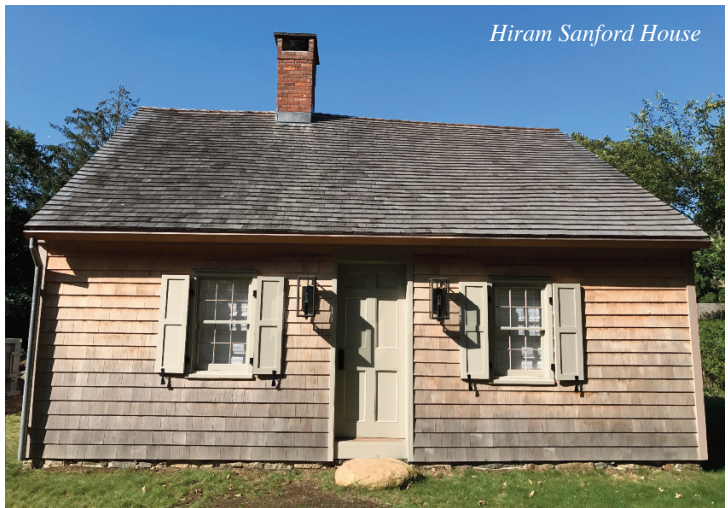
HISTORIC PRESERVATION *continued from p. 1*

The award was accepted by Gretchen and James Johnson who have owned the property since 1982.

Two awards were also presented for non-profit/government projects. The Amagansett U.S. Life-Saving & Coast Guard Station at Atlantic Avenue Beach is one of thirty-one lifeguard stations that were positioned along the coastline of the South Shore of Long Island. Erected in 1902, it is based on the “Quonochontaug Type” design from 1892 and is located in the same footprint as the original station. One of the few remaining lifeguard stations, it represents a century-long evolution of these stations that were manned by the volunteers of the U. S Life-Saving Service, predecessor to the U. S. Coast Guard. Notable in its history, is a WWII incident, when in 1942 Nazi saboteurs landed at Atlantic Avenue Beach from a U-boat. Coast Guardsman John Cullen, who had just begun to patrol the beach from this station, discovered them. Later that day, four boxes of explosives were found buried in the sand. Ultimately, one of the would-be saboteurs turned himself in to the F.B.I., and the others were apprehended and tried. This incident led to the establishment, only a month later, of the Coast Guard Beach Patrol, which grew to 24,000 men and was an important component of coastal defense during the War. Abandoned after the War, the station became the home of the Carmichael family who generously donated it to the Town in

2007. The renovation, organized by the Amagansett U.S. Life-Saving and Coast Guard Society, and financed by private donations, took 6 years. The Station now houses a museum and the East Hampton Town Lifeguard office. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2018. David Lys, the President of the Amagansett U. S. Life-Saving and Coast Guard Station Society, who shepherded the restoration project to completion, accepted the award.

The John Lyon Gardiner Mill Cottage and Museum at 36 James Lane, is a Colonial era timber frame saltbox, rebuilt by the Village of East Hampton to its 1880s appearance. Located on the Lion Gardiner home lot of 1638, the sole remaining home lot in the Village of East Hampton, the Town purchased the property in 2014 with Community Preservation Funds. The cottage formerly housed the operator of the Gardiner Windmill, which was one of the VPS’s first historic restoration projects. It is presently used as an art gallery, featuring the work of local artists and of Percy Moran (nephew to Thomas Moran), who lived there from 1902 to 1916. The reconstruction



of the Gardiner Mill Cottage on the original Gardiner Home Lot adds to the 17th century character of the Village and anchors its historic Main Street. The award was accepted jointly by members of the Town government for their role in purchasing the land, and by members of the Village government for their role in rebuilding the cottage. Representing the Town were Peter von Scoyoc, Town Supervisor, Sylvia Overby, Deputy Supervisor and Town Councilwoman. Representing the Village were Trustees Rose Brown and Arthur Graham.

This was our second year of awards and it is our hope that this recognition will help stem the tide of destruction, as so many historic structures succumb to development pressure. Each awardee has exhibited the goals of the Village Preservation Society’s mission to preserve historic structures, neighborhood character, and quality of life in the Village of East Hampton and its environs. Congratulations to the well-deserved honorees.



Paul Goldberger with VPS President Joan Osborne, center & left respectively, celebrate with award winners, from left, Village Trustees Rose Brown and Arthur Graham, Town Councilman David Lys, Mrs. Osborne, Mr. Goldberger, Town Councilwoman, Sylvia Overby and Town Supervisor, Peter VanScoyoc outside the Tennis House at the Annual Meeting of Members.

All photos attributed to Kathleen Cunningham

PAUL GOLDBERGER TALK REINFORCES VPS MISSION

By Georgia de Havenon

Paul Goldberger's inspiring talk "Why Do We Preserve? Notes on Holding Back the Tide", was given at the Village Preservation Society Annual Meeting on September 28. We were privileged to have Mr. Goldberger, a leading figure in architectural criticism, and Pulitzer Prize recipient, to speak at our meeting. He was the architecture critic for The New Yorker and Dean of the Parsons School of Design of the New School from 1997-2011, and lectures widely on the subjects of architecture, design, historic preservation and cities. The author of a number of books, his most recent publication is *Ballpark: Baseball in the American City*.

He laid out for us a series of observations about the state of preservation in East Hampton, first addressing use of the land, perhaps the most important area requiring continued vigilance. His admonition that "if we build too much, then the quality of what we build will still not save our town", is a key element of his preservation initiatives. He praised the Community Preservation Fund, possible through a tax on real estate transactions, for its impact on preserving open spaces throughout the Town.

Mr. Goldberger, a resident of East Hampton for close to 40 years, stressed that "Preserving East Hampton's magnificent townscape is, to me, the most urgent of all missions here". Although he found that the Village had preserved many of its

"fundamental visual qualities" since the early 1980s, in other ways such as the stores and their customers, the changes had been significant. Noting that the runaway economy placed retention of these qualities at risk, he compared East Hampton of the past to today's "overwrought new developer-built shingled houses that have become a plague". On a more hopeful note, he did acknowledge that the Village and its surrounding areas look much the same as they always have. But, he warned against falling into the "trap of becoming a kind of Shingle Style theme park" and to "find, and hold, a balance--to keep the very best of what we have inherited, and to care for it with love and respect, and not to replicate it endlessly across the landscape".

In closing, Mr. Goldberger summed up various additional views on preservation, including referring to the Historic Preservation awardees honored at the meeting as representing "pro-active, determined, interventionist, all in the service of keeping things as they have been and should continue to be. If the old speaks to the new, a village continues to live."

Our speaker's eloquent and provocative talk was inspirational. Although he described a number of possible pitfalls that could and are taking place on the East End, his final message was one of perseverance. It was well received by the audience.



HOOK MILL ROAD IN TRANSITION

By Gene E. Cross, Jr.

The extension of the Montauk Branch in 1895 and construction of the trestles over North Main Street and Accabonac Road imposed a dramatic change on the existing streetscape. Since that time and throughout the age of the automobile, the existing trestles have remained unchanged and have stood the test of time but for relatively recent accidents due to the limited vertical clearance.

While the obvious solution to the problem causing these accidents was to increase the height of these structures, some things are more easily said than done. Raising these trestles also necessitates raising the railbed between them as well as the railbed to the east and west over a gradual incline. To stabilize the additional fill within the limits of the railroad's 66 foot wide right-of-way, retaining walls have been constructed north and south of the railbed between North Main Street and Accabonac Road and east of Accabonac Road. Cassions have been installed to a depth of 75 feet to support

the new bridge over North Main Street and are presently being installed for the bridge over Accabonac Road. The design of the new single span bridges will allow the removal of the existing masonry piers located midway between the abutments which support the existing trestles. Indications are that the bridges will soon arrive overnight by truck and stored on



Methodist Lane until being installed in the coming weeks. A landscaping plan is forthcoming.

Photo by Gene E. Cross, Jr.

An impressive project both in scale and implementation, which will effect a change to the streetscape upon completion and remain unchanged for decades to come.

SURFACE WATER QUALITY AND SEPTIC PROGRAM UPDATES

By Polly Bruckmann

On July 31, 2019, the Village of East Hampton heard a report from United States Geological Service (USGS), Hydrologist and Water Quality Specialist, Shawn C. Fisher, PhD. A response to the blue green algal blooms that have plagued our surface water bodies, the Village engaged the USGS to create a snapshot in time of water quality there with the hope of determining where pollutants were generated, particularly fecal bacteria. Dr. Fisher's presentation was rather data dense and primarily a summary of the systems set in place for monitoring and mapping of Hook Pond to further enable water analyses and changes to the Pond over time. The study indicated that bacterial sources were largely bird and canine derived with human markers at Fithian Ln., which suggests septic contributions. Stormwater runoff adds unwanted substances. Unclear from the study is whether fish from Hook Pond are edible due to high levels of algal pollutants incompatible with human consumption. Dr. Fisher's report can be found at this link: https://www.usgs.gov/centers/ny-water/science/assessment-water-quality-hook-pond-east-hampton-new-york?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects.

The Surfrider Foundation, Eastern Long Island Chapter, has also contributed to the community's understanding of water quality standards and performs monthly sampling, year-round, on many surface water bodies in our community often in concert with other organizations and agencies. Surfrider found that Hook Pond's water quality failed the test for swimming this past season, as samples met water quality standards less than 60% of the time. Check out their website at: <https://www.theswimguide.org/beach/8469>.

On August 31, 2019, the Friends of Georgica Pond heard a report from Dr. Chris Gobler of Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences about plans for more sustainable remediation of Georgica Pond. Too much nitrogen entering the Pond generates water quality problems creating conditions for toxic algal blooms to flourish. As with Hook Pond, stormwater runoff adds to the problem. These algal blooms are starving the oxygen from the Pond, killing eelgrass, fish and other creatures. It is also toxic for animals to drink that water, like birds or dogs. Dr. Gobler reported that long term improved water quality could be achieved in less than 10 years, if action is taken to replace old septic systems with new, low-nitrogen technology. Septic systems account for 60% of nitrogen contributions to Georgica Pond.

In a related move, in order to speed up the rate at which homeowners can change out their old septic to new, low-nitrogen systems, also called Innovative/Alternative (IA) systems, incentives for property owners to change out their systems have been increased substantially. With funding

support from the State and the Community Preservation Fund, the East Hampton Town Board has increased the availability of financial incentives for those willing to replace their antiquated systems with new technologies. The incentives are now available to anyone, regardless of income standards, and the allotment has been increased to \$20,000 from \$16,000 from the Town paid directly to the vendor, eliminating a formerly complicated rebate process. For more on the Town's program, see: <http://ehamptonny.gov/584/Septic-Rebate-Program>. Suffolk County has also increased their financial incentives to \$30,000, bringing the installation costs down considerably. For more on the County program see: <https://www.reclaimourwater.info>.

AIRCRAFT NOISE UPDATE

By Peter M. Wolf

Village residents, as well as people all over the East End of Long Island, suffered another summer of increased aircraft noise and carbon emissions impacts, the worst on record. A mid-season report presented at the end of July to the Town Board by Airport Manager, Jim Brundige, projected a 10% increase in overall traffic for the 2019 summer season. Further, earlier this year, Harris Miller Miller and Hanson, the engineering consultant for the Town, reported a 50% increase of helicopter traffic from 2016-2018.

A recent helicopter crash in Manhattan, as well as other fatalities associated with helicopter travel, prompted exploration of safety issues and how the non-flying public is protected from equipment failure and the impacts of aircraft accidents. Review of Federal Aviation Administration guidelines with respect to safety training and insurance requirements for helicopter pilots as well as fixed wing operators yielded a rather shocking lack of requirements for insurance coverage, which would protect those on the ground from the impacts of crashes from above. Safety is emerging as an even bigger concern than noise and carbon emissions impacts. Clearly, as aircraft operations increase, so must safety risks.

Aircraft carbon emissions are of the worst sort and counter to the Town's commitment to both 100% renewable energy and to reduce the local carbon footprint. Advocates for alternative uses of the 628 acres of airport land have urged the Town Board to explore options prior to the day when the Board may legally exercise its right to close the airport in 2021. That is the long awaited year when the last set of grant assurances expire, binding East Hampton Town, the owner of the airport, to its FAA obligations. In the interim, aircraft noise disturbances should continue to be reported via AirNoiseReport.com or HTO@PlaneNoise.com; or 1-800-376-4817. Some of the noise-affected have successfully used the Plane Noise mobile application for mobile phones, which can be downloaded at: <https://www.planenoise.com/khtomobile>.



THE SEASON IS OPEN!

By Melissa Egbert Sheehan

Our annual "Welcome to Summer" Cocktail Party on June 15th at the Maidstone Tennis House was a fun evening for our members and a great way to start the summer season. The delicious hors d'oeuvres made by our trustees, which is a long-standing tradition, were enjoyed by all while listening to the wonderful music of the Jane Hastay Trio. It is always a lovely evening being able to enjoy each other's company and celebrate what the VPS does as an organization.

We look forward to having another successful party next summer.



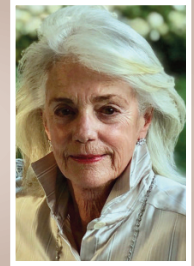
VPS Members and guests enjoy the lovely summer evening.

Photo attributed to: Melissa Egbert Sheehan

Welcome our New Trustee – Charmaine Miner Caldwell

by Georgia de Havenon

We are pleased to announce that Charmaine Miner Caldwell has been elected as our newest Trustee. She is a member of the fourth generation of the William H. Woodin family that began coming to East Hampton in 1912. She feels that East Hampton's beauty is unparalleled and has commented, "Maintenance and protection are paramount in order that we, as well as visitors, enjoy and value the historic beauty [of East Hampton], as did our ancestors." Welcome, Charmaine.



Please fill out, cut along the line and mail to **THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY**
P.O. Box 2015, East Hampton, NY 11937 • www.villagepreservationsociety.org

Please enroll me as a member of The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton for the Membership Year from January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Number of Members in this Membership _____

For year round Newsletters and information, please print winter address

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Contributors of:

\$ 25,000.00 will be listed as **Chairman's Circle**

\$ 10,000.00 will be listed as **Visionary**

\$ 2,500.00 will be listed as **Advocate**

\$ 500.00 will be listed as **Patron**

\$ 100.00 will be listed as **Friend**

\$ 15,000.00 will be listed as **President's Circle**

\$ 5,000.00 will be listed as **Champion**

\$ 1,000.00 will be listed as **Benefactor**

\$ 250.00 will be listed as **Supporting Member**

Regular Membership (\$50) _____

The Membership Year runs from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

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 \$ _____

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2015

East Hampton, NY 11937

www.villagepreservationsociety.org

PLASTIC POLLUTION IN OUR OCEANS

By Kathleen Cunningham

Our sister organization, The Garden Club of East Hampton, presented Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson as its Conservation Committee speaker at the Nature Conservancy on August 5, 2019. Dr. Johnson's presentation was excellent: an informative, forward thinking assessment of the invasive nature of plastics in our oceans. Micro-plastics, the final result of plastic, which breaks down in the seas where much of it is disposed, are ubiquitous in both seafood and drinking water. One way to cut down on their prevalence in the food chain is to minimize or eliminate our use of plastics as containers for drinks, take-out food, cleaning products and the like.

Dr. Johnson's research has led her to suggest that we need to manage our oceans as we do our land. She suggests that

oceans need to be zoned to control what kind of industry will occur in what areas: ie. fishing, boating, alternative energy, etc., just as we do our land uses. A science based ocean zone initiative, will help meet the needs of the fisheries. Addressing the threats of climate change, overfishing and pollution will require major changes in public policy and human behavior. For more about Dr. Johnson's initiative, go to <https://www.oceancollectiv.co>.

An informative TED talk is available at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNa2nKOBzxc>. Thank you to the Garden Club of East Hampton for bringing this information to us locally.



East Hampton Village Preservation Society
2019 Town Board Candidates Debate

VPS TOWN BOARD CANDIDATES DEBATE

Independence Party Challenger, Betsy Bambrick, left, debates with Town Councilwoman, Sylvia Overby, right, at the VPS 2019 Town Board Candidates debate at LTV Studios w/VPS Executive Director, Kathleen Cunningham, moderator, center.