

PSEG-LI UPDATE

By John L. McGuirk, III

The Village is continuing negotiations with Public Service Enterprise Group of Long Island (PSEG-LI) to bury upgraded electric transmission lines installed within the footprint of the Village. Two years ago, PSEG-LI installed new, large penta-soaked utility poles and attendant transmission lines on Village streets, damaging ancient trees and introducing a toxic chemical into the ground at the base of the poles.

The Village has been negotiating with PSEG to bury the transmission lines along a 1.25-mile route within the Village boundary and expects an agreement will be reached this spring. The benefit area still needs to be legally established. The transmission lines will be buried, but the distribution lines will remain on the poles. The poles will be cut down to

the former height. There will be no soil mitigation for the penta, in part because the EPA & DEC still haven't banned this chemical, even though the World Health Organization (WHO) has done.

Ratepayers within the boundary will be assessed a surcharge for the Village half of the line-burying project. Based on past projects, this will cost between \$4-\$6 million per mile, 50% of which will be assessed to the Village ratepayers. PSEG representatives will present their plans to continue pole replacement, without mitigation of environmental risks, throughout the Township to the East Hampton Town Board on April 19, 2016. This information was unavailable at press time, but the meeting can be viewed at www.ltvch.org.



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, 2016- December 31, 2016.

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Number of Members in this Membership _____

For year round Newsletters and information, please print winter address

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Contributors of:

- \$ 5,000.00 will be listed as [Visionary](#)
 - \$ 2,500.00 will be listed as [Advocate](#)
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- 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 \$ _____

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2015

East Hampton, NY 11937

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AIRCRAFT NOISE UPDATE

By Peter M. Wolf

Overall traffic and complaint data were both up by 4%. Nevertheless, last summer aircraft noise sufferers enjoyed limited relief during parts of the nighttime by the imposition of two curfews at East Hampton airport. The first closed the airport from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. to all traffic except emergency and military craft. The second closed the airport to all traffic deemed "Noisy" from 8 p.m. to 9 a.m. A critical third limitation on "Noisy" aircraft – the 'once-per-week' rule is hung up in court.

This is the first time in the history of the facility that it has ever been closed. While this was welcome, the unintended consequence of the curfew was to compress into the new hours of operation all the traffic accustomed to 24 hour a day, year long access.

The Town Board commissioned an analysis to determine the efficacy of these rules guided by Peter Kirsch, of Kaplan, Kirsch & Rockwell (KKR), the Town's special aviation counsel and conducted by Ted Baldwin of the engineering firm Harris, Miller, Miller & Hanson. The results of this analysis were presented during a public meeting on Friday, March 18, 2016 at Town Hall. The consultants report can be found at this link. <http://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentsPDF/Airport/UseRestrictions/March182016Presentation2015HTO.pdf>

The data generally mirrored what many of the noise affected experienced anecdotally: helicopter traffic was generally the same or in some areas worse from 2014; seaplane traffic increased considerably and overall there was a general increase in aircraft landing and taking off, year over year. Because the additional operations were compressed into the new airport hours, noise impacts were intensified during times close to curfew hours.

Aircraft noise impacts from seaplane activity rose significantly, likely triggered by their unfortunate exclusion from

the list of "Noisiest" or "Noisy" aircraft and therefore unregulated by the more limited curfew for aircraft meeting that definition. It would appear that airport users took seaplanes in place of helicopters, most of which fit the definition of "Noisiest" and were therefore subject to the curfew for those craft.

Further burdening the Town's efforts is the defense of seven separate lawsuits brought by aviation interests, reinforced by national aviation business interests. Among these is the Town's appeal of an injunction against the critical 'once-per-week' rule, meant to offer meaningful relief to the noise affected. A ruling from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals is expected late this year, meaning yet another season during which residents of the Town will continue to suffer unless other measures are taken by the Town Board.

What has happened and not happened this past year underscored the importance of continuing to register complaints even as many all over the affected areas understandably report 'complaint fatigue'. Suggestions offered by the public to simplify the complaint procedure include creating a mobile application for cell phones to enable remote complaint submission and for the Town to publicize the noise complaint line and website through newspaper advertisements and public service announcements via local media. Collecting noise complaints to measure impacts on the public is a flawed method. But, it's the only tool currently available to the noise affected.

How the Town may fine tune its current access limits is unclear at this time, as only the most minor adjustments, if any, have been advised by counsel, until the appeal is decided. It is surely reasonable for those who have long observed this failure at remediation in the public interest to ask: Why has the Town Board not attempted to do more from the outset; and why has the Town Board continued to rely on counsel that has proven both costly and ineffective?

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON

SPRING NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2016

the Village
Preservation
Society of East Hampton

Save
the Date!

"Welcome to Summer" Party!

Saturday, June 11, 2016
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Tennis House

Reserve Your Tickets Now!

Save
the Date!

VPS ANNUAL MEETING & TOWN BOARD CANDIDATES DEBATES

by Kathleen Cunningham

During Town election cycles, the VPS traditionally hosts two events to ensure candidates running for Town government positions are well versed on issues of importance to Village residents. The Town Supervisor serves a two-year term and the Town Council a four-year term. The election cycle occurs every two years during odd-numbered years.

Last November saw an active election cycle, during which both the Town Council and Supervisor positions were heavily contested. The VPS Annual Meeting conducted on



Democratic Supervisor Larry Cantwell and Republican challenger, Tom Knobel, debate at the VPS Annual Meeting at the Tennis House last September.



Democratic Town Councilwoman Sylvia Overby, VPS Executive Director, Kathleen Cunningham, and Republican challenger Lisa Mulhern Larsen discuss issues of importance to the Village during the VPS Town Board candidates debate filmed at LTV last October.

September 26, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. hosted the Town Supervisor Candidates, incumbent Democrat, Larry Cantwell and Republican challenger, Tom Knobel. The candidates answered questions during a debate held at the Tennis House moderated by Executive Director, Kathleen Cunningham.

The Town Council candidates faced off in the Society's traditional LTV-TV debate pairings. Voters have found this format informative in the past. Each candidate answered the same series of questions matched with one of their opponents.

continued on p. 4

LAWRENCE S. MUNSON

JANUARY 20, 1920 – MARCH 3, 2016

By Kathleen Cunningham

The Trustees and Members of the Village Preservation Society of East Hampton mourn the passing of founding VPS Trustee and longtime Chairman, Lawrence S. Munson. Larry's vision, enthusiasm and dedication to the people of East Hampton, most especially the Village, helped shape the Society into the positive force it is today. His leadership, creative thinking and good will facilitated the manifestations of many of the Society's early initiatives, yielding real and lasting quality of life improvements in our community.



Larry Munson in 2000 making a toast at his daughter, Kitty's wedding.

The Society's participation on the Mayor's Special Committee to Restore the Gardiner Windmill, now the jewel of the recently acquired Gardiner home lot, was led by Larry, raising \$150,000 for the historic restoration of the Gardiner Mill, a point of pride for the Society.

Larry understood the value of collaboration whenever feasible and fostered that notion within the VPS and the community at large. A prime example was the Society's first Quality of Life Survey, created by Larry in 1997, the results of which revealed members concerns over the availability of quality healthcare in East Hampton. In league with VPS Trustees, Henry L. Murray, Robert B. Loughead, Andrew Goldstein and the late Dr. Jerome DeCosse and John R. Kennedy, Larry guided a collaboration with Southampton Hospital and other groups that ultimately yielded the East Hampton Healthcare Foundation, which opened treatment facilities in East Hampton in 2002. The Society continues to use this technique to identify issues of concern and address them as productively as possible.

Larry was a kind person, positive thinker, genuine gentleman and loyal friend. We extend our condolences to his family. He will be greatly missed.

DEER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

By Polly Bruckmann

The second phase of the Village deer population management program continued this fall under the permitting and supervision of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), the agency with jurisdiction over wildlife in the State of New York.

New to the second phase was the percentage of bucks neutered as well as does, as reported by Village Administrator, Becky Molinaro. The contractor hired to perform this work, White Buffalo, was able to obtain permission from the NYS DEC to neuter bucks as well as does, a procedure generally believed to be much simpler.

The program was conducted in late October and November, due in part to a recommendation by the DEC that the surgeries be performed before the mating season to avoid any potential complication with pregnant does. To date, no complications from the surgeries have been scientifically associated with does pregnant at the time of the ovariectomy. However, it was considered prudent to perform the surgeries when there was no risk of pregnancy to eliminate that potential.

While it is counterintuitive to think of a sterilized doe being pregnant, because the surgery performed removes only the ovaries and not the uterus, it can occur. If a doe is pregnant at the time of the surgery, as was the case with a few does last winter, the pregnancy may go full term.

There is no known relationship between pregnancy and delivery complications from an ovariectomy, but the Village used caution in conducting the program before the rut to avoid any potential for complications during Phase II of its deer management program.

Habitat for deer continues to shrink as development continues throughout our community. Diminished habitat forces deer to over browse available food sources, often in wooded areas creating negative impacts on other flora and fauna also dependent upon these natural environs for survival driving some species out, such as ground nesting birds.

The Village Board has done well to do something to reduce the population so that all species of flora and fauna have a chance to survive until a reasonable balance between the natural and built environments can be established and, hopefully, maintained.

ADDRESSING OUR WATER PURITY CRISIS

By Kathleen Cunningham

As a member organization of the Long Island Clean Water Partnership, the Village Preservation Society contributed comments to the scoping session for the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan currently being conducted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) along with the Long Island Business Council. A public scoping session was held on February 2, 2016 at Suffolk County Community College in Riverhead where over 200 East End participants came to shape the state's proposal to manage and remove nitrogen from our drinking water and surface water bodies. The Society specifically requested measures be taken to actively engage stakeholders in this critical process, particularly on the East End of Long Island; develop an effective regulatory framework; define a responsible management entity to oversee the region's water quality protection and restoration needs; and evaluate a range of potential funding sources, essential for the plan to work over time. Our communities have an urgent need for approval and deployment of advanced

treatment wastewater systems until the DEC plan is developed as the problem worsens with each passing day.

Most East End residents draw water from wells, supplied directly from the aquifer, our only source of water. The aquifer lies beneath the terrain at different depths in different areas. In East Hampton, most of it is fairly close to the surface, making it vulnerable to a variety of pollutants. Almost 90% of East End residents also discard wastewater through septic systems and cesspools designed to remove pathogens, but not nitrogen. Nitrogen, a naturally occurring biological waste by-product of many living things, collects in our septic wastewater and eventually percolates into our aquifer, which is then cycled back into our drinking water and surface water bodies.

Even those that get water from the Suffolk County Water Authority are subject to the same diminished water quality, unless it is treated before it reaches the tap.

Increasing nitrogen levels from fertilizers along with pesticides used in agriculture and lawn care, and volatile organic compounds such as oil, gas and vehicular particulate emissions found on road surfaces are delivered directly into the aquifer and surface water bodies as stormwater runoff.

This November, voters will have the opportunity to confirm Governor Cuomo's extension of the Peconic Bay Region Community Preservation Fund until 2050. That fund financed preservation of over 10,000 acres of land throughout the five East End Towns. State Senator Ken LaValle and Assemblymen Fred Thiele and Anthony Palumbo sponsored a new provision to the Community Preservation Fund program that will permit 20% of the proceeds from the 2% real estate transfer tax to support water quality improvement plans. Each of the five East End Towns must pass this referendum for this potential funding to be available in all of them, but the outlook for this is good at present. If the extension is approved the ability to use CPF monies for water quality improvement will be available in 2017.

In preparation for this opportunity, the Village will need to have its own Water Quality Plan in place, something Village Administrator Becky Molinaro, Planner Billy Hajek and Engineer Drew Bennett are presently preparing. The Village also continues work on the Hook Pond Watershed Water Quality Improvement Plan, with grant funding from the County. Look for bioswales installations at Hook and Town Ponds to begin to treat stormwater runoff this summer.

It is critical for all of us to accept that we are the primary source of nitrogen contamination in our drinking water, however unwittingly. It is only through understanding our part

in this process that we can begin meaningful mitigation, which must occur immediately, if we're to save the maritime and agricultural way of life that defines our community.

The VPS continues to monitor and participate in meaningful enterprise to support rapid mitigation of this critical human health and safety issue.

OUR STREETS AND ROADS

By Averill D. Geus, Town Historian

For well over two centuries, East Hampton residents who preceded us were confronted during the wet season of the year with water. In the north end of town, water was still a problem in low lying areas well into the 1940s as storm runoff slowly made its way through dreens all the way to Hook Pond. Main Street water ran off into Town Pond and often covered the Village Green before receding. More flooding occurred as runoff made its way in the Toilsome Lane area through fields and woods and into Georgica Pond.

Sam Miller's house stood on the corner of Main Street where Guild Hall was built in 1934. His barns and livestock were frequently separated from his house by a lake. He kept a boat on the house side of the property to row back and forth from house to barn when his back yard was inundated. Too much water created too much mud every spring, which in turn created clouds of dust in the summer whenever a vehicle passed through the street.

This state of affairs was not conducive to promoting a new summer resort. Boarding house clients frequently complained of the conditions from the 1840s to the 1890s when their comments reached a wide audience through the local newspaper, The East Hampton Star. Road conditions led to the organization of a Women's civic club, named The Ladies Village Improvement Society. Through socials, clam chowder suppers and cake sales, they raised a bit of money to begin paving Main Street. Husbands helped out and through their combined efforts, eventually the road was paved all the way to the Main Beach.

Only a few roads existed in the Village at that time, besides Main Street. Newtown Lane was full of mud holes, and the road to Bridgehampton was called "the worst road on Long Island." The most used road out of town was the sandy Sag Harbor Toll Road. Others were merely grassy paths. With the influx of summer visitors, it was stated repeatedly that East Hampton needed "pleasant drives" for visitors. Local residents also learned that some boarders wished to buy land on which to build summer houses. This was great news to cash strapped farmers who began to look at the long fields behind their homesteads with new interest.

The family farms lining Main Street had originally been laid out in "long lot" fashion. Osborn Lane, Sherrill Road, Cooper Lane, Fithian Lane and Dayton Lane were all named for original East Hampton proprietors. Samuel Miller was one of the first to cut a road through his property in April of 1886. New residents buying lots from him wanted a better name for



VPS Executive Director Kathleen Cunningham offers comments at the NYS DEC Scoping session for the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan at Suffolk County Community College on February 2, 2016.

Photo credit: Lisa Finn

the street and one suggested "Dunemere", which it has been ever since. One local booster wrote to The Star and stated, "East Hampton needs all the summer residents she can get and all the building that would result from their settling here and no obstruction should be allowed to stand in the way of building up of the town."

Calf Pasture Lane became Ocean Avenue, and shed its rural roots as elaborate summer "cottages" were built. Mr. E.D. Terbell inherited 82 acres on Ocean Avenue and planned a road to be opened through it. It is still called Terbell Lane. West End Avenue was an old route to Wainscott in horse and buggy days. This beach road was lost when Rev. Heber Newton built a house on a dune nearby and objected to travelers passing through to East Hampton.

Many objected to naming streets "Avenues" and wished to do away with pretentious names considered "singularly inappropriate" for this place. In 1899, it was suggested that Lee Avenue be changed to Gardiner Road and Cottage Avenue to Mulford Road. The correspondent added, "The name Cottage Avenue smacks too much of a new suburban settlement with rows of little cheap bright painted spick and span houses".

In 1901, the village fathers caused Atlantic Avenue to be staked out. This was to be a new scenic road running from Egypt Lane to Amagansett directly along the oceanfront. It is still on the books, but the road was never built. As the years passed, houses and the construction of the Maidstone Club on the dunes prohibited any further consideration of a beach highway.

The development of roads continued in the early years of the 20th century as David's Lane was cut through Hunting farmland, as Hunting Lane was developed and roads became oiled and paved. By 1921 when the Village was incorporated, a Board of Trustees appointed a road commissioner to deal with the issue of water and paving. Small bridges and culverts were built over the running water in new streets named for the Fithian, Hunting, and other local families.

Not everyone saw the swamps and dreens along Egypt Lane as a nuisance. Mrs. Lorenzo Woodhouse, a great benefactor of East Hampton, created a beautiful Japanese Garden with lacquered bridges and teahouses. After the outbreak of the Second World War, the name was changed to The Water Gardens. Today it is simply referred to as The Nature Trail. The gardens were left to the Village of East Hampton for the public to enjoy. To be continued...

MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEE

The Board of Trustees of the Village Preservation Society is pleased to announce the election of their newest member, Gene E. Cross, Jr. Belonging to a family that has lived in East Hampton since 1753, Mr. Cross has worked as a planning consultant since 1980, and is thoroughly familiar

with the regulations for new construction and the process of integrating new buildings into the existing surroundings. From 1985 to 2015, Mr. Cross worked as the Planning Consultant to the Village of East Hampton with responsibilities that included determining compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act, continual upgrading of the planning process by the Planning and Zoning Committee, and preparing draft legislation. He is still active advocating cooperative planning to achieve mutual benefits for applicants, reviewing agencies and the community. As a hobby, he restores antique furniture. The Board looks forward to many productive years with Mr. Cross.



A lifelong resident of East Hampton, Mr. Cross and his descendants have lived in East Hampton, uninterrupted, for over 250 years.

The Trustees and Members of the
Village Preservation Society of East Hampton
Mourn the Passing of
Anne Gerli
Her support of Society initiatives were anchored in her great love for East Hampton, its natural environment and the qualities which make our community unique. Anne dispensed wise counsel, was a generous host and a good friend to many.
We extend our condolences to Anne's family.
She will be greatly missed.

VPS ANNUAL MEETING & DEBATES

continued from p. 1

The incumbents won in a landslide and Supervisor Larry Cantwell, Councilwoman Sylvia Overby and Councilman Peter VanScoyoc were sworn into office this past January.

Notable in this election was the presence of a newly formed political action committee (PAC), called the East Hampton Leadership Council, favoring airport expansion, which supported the Republican ticket spending sums of money never before seen in Town politics.

