

# THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON

the Village  
**Preservation**  
Society of East Hampton

SPRING NEWSLETTER  
2023

• CELEBRATING OUR 40TH YEAR •

## VPS Welcome to Summer Party!

**Save  
the Date!**

Saturday, June 3, 2023 • 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
at the Tennis House on Maidstone Ln.

**Save  
the Date!**

**Reserve Your Tickets Now!**

## STOP THE WAINSCOTT COMMERCIAL CENTER

*By Sara Davison, Executive Director, Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation*

By now you have heard about the 50-lot industrial development planned for the former 70-acre sand mine in the heart of Wainscott just 500 ft. north of Georgica Pond. Located on the most heavily used portion of Montauk Highway on the western edge of the Village, traffic on the already burdened highway and nearby residential roads will come to a grinding halt, not just in the summer or on weekends, but every day.

The project is twice as big as the Bridgehampton Commons shopping center and three times larger than the existing Wainscott business district.

A tidal wave of community opposition from Amagansett to Southampton has rallied against this proposal that threatens not only Georgica Pond, but our drinking water and quality of life. Thanks to the Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation, the community is making its voice heard and having a real impact. We have won a few battles, but the war is still on.

Working with a coalition of other groups and individuals

([www.stopwainscottcommercialcenter.org](http://www.stopwainscottcommercialcenter.org)), Friends has led the charge in educating the community and participating in the SEQR process to oppose the subdivision plan and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). It would be the largest commercial/industrial development on the South Fork. We've hired one of the top environmental lawyers in

New York to guide us through the planning and zoning hurdles, and through his diligence, many deficiencies in the DEIS were found and more time was added for public review. This is a highly technical process and expert legal support is an absolute necessity.

We hired a traffic expert (the former head of the New York State Regional Department of Transportation) who analyzed the developer's 2017 traffic study and found that the mitigations the applicant is pro-

posing will NOT protect us from more horrendous traffic.

Our science advisor, Dr. Christopher Gobler of Stony Brook University, one of the world's leading experts on



Credit: MP Architects

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# THE STATE OF THE VILLAGE

By Joan D. Osborne

East Hampton Village is at a pivot point unseen in recent memory. With continued development pressure felt throughout the Town and the relaxation of formerly careful review of expansion of preexisting nonconforming uses, particularly in Historic Districts, incompatible changes have been permitted in our community. With unprecedented investment pressure and the rapacious appetites of investors looking to turn a quick profit, many historic buildings and businesses in the historic districts have been pushed beyond reasonable boundaries, simply to make a quick buck.

The present Administration's commitment to promote growth, at the expense of proper review, challenges decades of gradual regulatory process, which, while admittedly in need of some revision, has led to a rash of projects that do not meet parking regulations or other important zoning requirements. Not to mention the virtual abandonment of Historic District standards and review.

The systematic dismantling of the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association is the latest assault on community character by a Village Administration that seems committed to fixing things that are not broken. Our local Emergency response teams have always been volunteers, with the recent addition of some paid professionals, in order to meet demand, particularly in the summer months. The Ambulance Association has met or exceeded expectations, especially during the COVID pandemic, sacrificing the health and well-being of themselves and their families because they feel a responsibility to their community to serve. But the present administration, in what can only be described as a power play to control a formerly independent organization with which there have been no genuine conflicts to date, has muscled out the elected leadership.

Over ¼ of the present volunteer force has resigned rather than be pressured by the Administration into accepting leaders chosen by Village government rather than by the process which has served the Corps these last 45 years, which is to elect its leadership from its members. It is clear that this is the bureaucratization of an institution simply to broaden Village infrastructure and control every aspect of the Fire and Ambulance Corps. Creating an entirely new department as part of the Village infrastructure is no small initiative and the question must be asked: what will this cost the Village taxpayer? One wonders if a budget for this department has been proposed and assessed before the legislation was adopted - over long and loud objections by the community, it must be noted. And what will the growing need for EMT personnel cost now and over time?

Even if there was a legitimate reason to subsume the Volunteer Ambulance Corps into Village Government, the process was incomplete and incomprehensible. This is a

remarkable government take-over and what is likely to become a major line item on the Village budget as the need for more paid Emergency Medical Personnel grows. The great loss however, is our sense of place and the irreparable damage to the commitment and pride that the Volunteers have built over many decades. It is an incalculable loss. Personal relationships, small town feeling and the peace that being tended by one's neighbors and friends brings during crisis is irreplaceable. And, what's more, it's also priceless.

## CALL FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

by Georgia de Havenon,  
Historic Preservation Committee Chair

The past president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Richard Moe, has observed,

*"There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here and there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody".*

It was with these thoughts in mind that in 2018 the Village Preservation Society established their Historic Preservation Awards, which with every passing year become more important in efforts to conserve our village. You can assist us in this process by recommending candidates for the award in both public and residential architectural projects. In addition, this year, we are also including landscape projects as possible candidates, an important category considering climate changes that are taking place around us every day.

As in the past, the awards will be presented at The VPS Annual Meeting in September. At that time plaques that can be displayed on the properties will be presented and a distinguished speaker will be present to participate in the ceremony. The awardees will be publicly acknowledged. A reception will follow the presentations.

*Recommendations can be emailed to the VPS Executive Director, Kathy Cunningham, at [kathy@villagepreservationso-society.org](mailto:kathy@villagepreservationso-society.org). Be sure to include the address of the property.*

the Village  
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# THE EAST END AND THE CIVIL WAR, PART I

By Averill D. Geus, Historian

In April, 1861, a week after the shelling of Fort Sumter, Sag Harbor's town newspapers hurled their readers into the Civil War. "Never in the history of our place has such excitement and enthusiasm been manifested", declared the Examiner. "Show your colors! Deal with the Traitors!" shouted the Corrector. East Hampton first realized a conflict was near when Rev. Stephen L. Mershon, pastor of the East Hampton Presbyterian Church, returned from a visit to New York City and preached a service with the text, "There is a sound of war in the camp." Mershon bluntly told his congregation that if war was declared, everyone would be involved.

The following Sunday, preachers in the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches held forth in their pulpits with patriotic fervor. Action was demanded of congregations, both at home and on the battlefields. Newspapers described the excitement in the streets the next day when on every corner could be found crowds of excited men discussing the approaching war. Many called for a municipal meeting that night to discuss what they should do. The towns blossomed with flags on every house, hung from windows, doors and rooftops. A band paraded through the streets playing martial music, and "stirring the hearts of every true American". By evening, the enthusiasm became uncontrollable. In Sag Harbor, hundreds filled the benches of Washington Hall, the largest public gathering place in Town. No standing room was available forcing many to stand outside. There were prayers and speeches, oratory and hymns. A committee was formed to receive donations for equipping volunteers and providing for their families while they were away. After the last resolution was read, the entire audience arose and solemnly pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor for the protection of the Union. At that moment, the Stars and Stripes were raised high, sending an electric like shock of patriotism through the assembly. The flag was then raised aloft in front of the altar bringing forth a tempest of cheers. Cannons were fired in salute outside, as fireworks exploded in brilliance overhead. The Civil War for the East End of Long Island began with a volley of cheers and hurrahs from every man, woman and child in Sag Harbor.

Through much of the 19th century, Sag Harbor was the center of the universe for Eastern Long Island villages. It was the mercantile center, a hub of manufacturing, shipping and transportation. It was only natural that Sag Harbor should become a big recruitment center for Eastern Long Island. After the first big rally, Col. Edwin Rose of Bridgehampton was

given the Governor's nod to organize the 16th NY Volunteers Regiment. It was his idea that the regiment would be comprised of all Suffolk County men and he proposed that each Suffolk town should contribute one company. Recruiting for this Long Island regiment continued throughout May and June, 1861, but in the end, with only ninety men signed on, the attempt failed. The group was combined with another small group, Ellsworth's Avengers and a third group of men from Syracuse, to become the 81st NY Vols.

While the 81st Regiment was being organized, enlisting was underway for the Revenue Service which patrolled the

coast. Among the men signing up were many Arctic whalers and seamen. By September 1861, when it was recognized that the war would not be over in two or three months, the Revenue Service was disbanded. Many of these men then went into the Marine Artillery, and over thirty local men agreed to take part in a secret mission. They became the masters and crewmen of The Stone Fleet. To block Confederate shipping, the Federal Government brought up an armada of old whaling ships left rotting in Connecticut and Long Island. These ships were barely seaworthy but the plan was to load them with stones, get them to the harbors of Charlestown and Savannah, and then sink them to form an impassable barrier.



Three whaling vessels from Sag Harbor, the *Emerald*, the *Noble* and the ship *Timor* took part in the exercise. They were in such poor condition that they were named the Rat Hole Fleet by the local men who sailed them south. One ship was manned by Shinnecock tribesmen. Those who sailed these ships had a rough cruise. The ship *Timor*, leaking badly and her canvas in shreds, was forced to turn back. The *Emerald* ran aground on Tybee Island, well to the south of her destination and was lost. Only the *Noble* was sunk in Charleston's Moffat Channel on January 26, 1962. Although England and France protested the sinking of the ships and said it was "indefensibly barbaric" to ruin a fine harbor, the sunken vessels began to break up after a year or so and float away, piece by piece, leaving their stones to eventually settle on the bottom.

Many other East Hampton men, who had grown up on the water, were also drawn into the Navy. Some served on gun boats and others on the monitors such as the *Montauk*. Several took part in the Battle of New Orleans with Admiral Farragut and some, like Edwin Worthington, never came home again because their ships exploded.

## STOP THE WAINSCOTT COMMERCIAL CENTER *continued from p. 1*

harmful algal blooms, spoke at the public hearing and exposed the flawed science and assumptions used by the developer's consultants. Many other environmental leaders also made compelling statements about why the project isn't needed and what harm it will do.

We advocated that a "Special Permit" was necessary for this Planned Industrial Development to which the developer vociferously objected. Thanks to the coalition, the Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously agreed with us. Even the generally pro-development Suffolk County Planning Commission unanimously agreed that the DEIS and subdivision plan did not adequately address the environmental impacts and sent it back as incomplete.

Both the East Hampton Town Supervisor, Peter Van Scoyoc and the Mayor of the Village of East Hampton, Jerry Larsen have come out against the project along with hundreds of citizens.



*Credit: MP Architects*

The developer is trying to push through this 50-lot grid subdivision saying it's just a plan on paper. Don't be fooled. At full build out, this development would include 1 million sq ft of building coverage, in excess of 824 parking spaces and will generate more than 2 tons of garbage every day.

You can help prevent this existential threat to our community by following the SEQR process and speaking out against this ill-conceived project during the next round. Much better alternatives exist such as a proposal in the East Hampton Town's Waincott Hamlet Plan which envisions a large park and some mixed uses including commercial business that would complement and

build on making Waincott a more inviting business district.

Together we can protect the progress we've made at Georgica Pond, safeguard our drinking water, and preserve our quality of life.

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## EAST HAMPTON AIRPORT UPDATE

*By Peter M. Wolf*

The Town of East Hampton perseveres in its long effort to exert control over its publicly owned airport, the property of the people of East Hampton. At the direction of the New York State Supreme Court, in recent months a Scoping document, which will outline and guide the Town's Environmental Review process, has been adopted. Among the considerations that the Town must evaluate are impacts of the proposed regulation to transition the airport into a Prior Permission Required (PPR) facility on neighboring airports, particularly Montauk. In order to run a PPR airport, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) must consider which types of aircraft will be permitted and on what basis they will be granted permission to land. Operational criteria being considered are time-based permissions or curfews; operator-based permissions, which would consider reducing or eliminating commercial operators; permissions based on noise outputs, which would regulate aircraft based on noise signature; and permissions at the discretion of the Airport Director to allow certain aircraft operations such as banner towing, sky diving and the like, oddly also including Stage 1 or Stage 2 jets. The Scoping document was prepared with public input that occurred over several public sessions at the end of last year.

The Town Board adopted the Scoping document at its

April 6, 2023 meeting. The next steps will be for the Town's Planning Consultants in conjunction with the Town Planning Department to conduct detailed analyses of the various areas of concern identified by the public and required by the State Environmental Quality Review process (SEQR).

While the pandemic had an impact on air traffic to and from the airport, residents are still negatively affected by the noise and carbon emissions from this facility. Two years ago, the Town Board wisely declared a Climate Emergency in East Hampton. Subsequently, there can be no reason why a facility that generates extremely high levels of carbon emissions; stores aviation gas in containers directly over our sole source aquifer; and continues to rain down noise and discomfort on the residents of this community should be open to traffic all-day, every day all year long. It must be regulated in the public interest.

At this point, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will include relevant data regarding aircraft operations including complaints. It's been a long haul, but the end is in sight. Please continue to record your complaints at: <https://www.planenoise.com/khto/>, or <https://airnoisereport.com/complaints/new>, or by calling 1-800-376-4817.

# WATER QUALITY

By Kathleen Cunningham

Water quality is our primary quality of life issue. Without clean water, what quality of life can we possibly have? Town Pond is a real-time visual assessment of how well we are managing our water resources and the pollutants that affect them. To its credit, the Village had Town Pond hand-sifted of the algae that had been crowding the pond's surface, but the problem is deeper than that surface remedy suggests. To start, residents need to stop using nitrogen fertilizers which are deposited in our surface water bodies during rain events. Rain events now are much more forceful, due to the warming atmosphere, and more rain means more runoff. Runoff contains all manner of waste elements, including Volatile Organic Compounds from vehicle exhaust, spillage and other compounds that are on our roadways.

One of the most important steps that residents can take to improve water quality, is to install a low-nitrogen or Innovative/Alternative (I/A) septic system at their homes. The State Legislature and Senate continues to find means to support replacement of old septic systems with new low-nitrogen systems by adopting a new 1/8% sales tax that must be approved by referendum this fall. At least 75% of the

collected funding will be used to rebate homeowners to install new low-nitrogen systems. The legislation will also establish a county-wide wastewater management district for Suffolk County. Presently there are roughly two dozen such districts, but funding is sourced individually. This tax revenue would also create funding for new sewage treatment infrastructure alongside individual system replacement.

Many residents in the Village of East Hampton already live within areas of rapid recharge which means that sewage enters the water table as quickly as 6 months after it is discharged from the septic system into groundwater. These properties are eligible for rebates and the process is often accelerated for those properties within these rapid recharge areas because the impact of a septic upgrade on clean water is so immediate. The way we use our water resources and the way we treat our waste water are inextricably linked and there is an urgent need to change that paradigm.

To find out more about where your property is and how you can replace your old septic system with a new one, please visit: <https://ehamptonny.gov/584/Septic-Incentive-Program>



**Please fill out, cut along the line and mail to THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 2015, East Hampton, NY 11937 • 631-324-3524 • [www.villagepreservationsociety.org](http://www.villagepreservationsociety.org)**

Please enroll me as a member of The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton  
for the Membership Year from January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023.

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, 2023 through December 31, 2023.**

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](http://www.villagepreservationsociety.org)

## ROBERT B. LOUGHEAD

July 19, 1928 – August 23, 2022

*By Kathleen Cunningham*

The VPS wishes to acknowledge the passing of Robert Brierley Loughead, Jr. last summer at the age of 94. Bob was an active and dedicated member of the VPS Board of Trustees, leading the organization as Chair and President for several years and was a founding member of the East Hampton Healthcare Foundation, when the VPS formed that group in 1998. An active community member, Bob volunteered time at St. Paul's Church in Westfield, NJ, while his children were young and served on the Vestry for St. Luke's Church when he and Betty moved to East Hampton full time.

Born and raised in Washington, DC, Bob attended Valley Forge Military Academy and went on to earn a BS in Engineering from the US Naval Academy in 1951. Upon graduation from Annapolis, he transferred to the Air Force in 1952, where he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant, stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. He worked at Tactical Air Command as an operations analyst and in Bombing Navigational Systems, specializing in the B-47, B-52 and B-66 aircraft. An active alum, he wrote articles for Shipmate Magazine, the United States Naval Academy's

graduate publication. Bob received an MBA from the Air Force Institute of Technology, by authorization of Congress and became a licensed engineer in the State of Ohio. Bob retired

from the Air Force as a Captain and worked at Savett Aerospace, Lockheed Aircraft and Lockheed Electronics. After leaving Lockheed, he founded LHL Industries, manufacturing precision parts for the aerospace and military industries. He retired in 1990.

In 1951, he married Betty Ann Simon, who predeceased him only last year. They had two children Mary Margaret Loughead Brenizer, who survives with her husband, William and their three sons, and Robert Brierley Loughead III, who died tragically in a car accident as a young man.

He was an active dad, coached many of his children's teams, supported their many school projects and was a generous, intelligent and intuitive person. He was beloved in this community and was never without a smile. Dependable, and forthright, he loved East Hampton and worked hard to preserve its history while bringing the needs of the community to fruition. He is sorely missed.



*Bob enjoying the VPS Welcome to Summer Party, June 2022*

*Photo by Kathleen Cunningham*