



Conservation Advisory Council

201 HOWELL AVENUE, RIVERHEAD, NEW YORK 11901-2596
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May 1, 2023

Noah Levine, AICP
Associate Principal, BFJ Planning
(N.Levine@bfjplanning.com)

Re: Questionnaire for Boards and Commissions

Dear Mr. Levine:

In response to your request for feedback from Town Boards and Commissions, the Conservation Advisory Council submits the following responses:

1. **Overview:** The Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is in charge of reviewing applications pertaining to development activities within 150 ft. of Town of Riverhead Freshwater Wetlands, as well as within 300 feet of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Tidal Wetlands, as called out in Riverhead Town Code Sections 293 and 295. The CAC meets once a month, on the second Wednesday of the month. The meeting is held in the Riverhead Town Board room at 5 p.m.
2. **Recent Projects/Actions:** While a majority of the applications that the CAC reviews relate to single family residential development and the construction of related structures, there have been several significant applications that the CAC has reviewed that have impacted the Town to some degree or another:
 - a. 48 Willow Street – This was an application submitted to the CAC seeking approval to construct a single-family residence on
 - b. Applications for development on the Peconic Bay – Generally, the CAC requires 10 ft. buffers along bulkheads on the Peconic Bay, in order to prevent the introduction of nitrogen-based fertilizers into the Peconic estuary as a result of landscaping maintenance.
 - c. 242 Pier Avenue – This was an application submitted to the CAC to develop a vacant parcel of land in Jamesport with a new single-family residence. The

application initially proposed to import approximately 1,200 cubic yards of material to the site in order to re-grade the property. Through the review process, the CAC worked with the applicant, and the applicant reduced the grading and land disturbance on the property, which resulted in a net import of 290 cubic yards being necessary.

3. **Issues:** The main issues facing the CAC currently are:
 - a. Enforcement of existing Codes.
 - b. Penalties for violations not being sufficient to deter violations.
 - c. Lack of codified standards. While the CAC has informal policies for review of applications, i.e. the 10 ft. buffer along properties which front on the Peconic Bay, the CAC feels as though it would benefit from formal standards, such as a minimum separation for sanitary systems from wetlands, non-disturbance buffers around wetlands, etc.
 - d. Application fees are currently low, compared to other Towns. Increased application fees could be used to help provide additional enforcement resources.

4. **Priorities:** The CAC feels that the Town must take a hard look at the resources of the Peconic Bay, and enforce existing regulations regarding fishing, clamming, crabbing, etc., and enforce requirements for local residency to fish in Town waters. Formal requirements for moorings in Town waters should also be created, as this would ensure safety for locating moorings, as well as create revenue for the Town.

Sincerely,



Greg Bergman,

Secretary for the Conservation Advisory Council