**Peconic Estuary Protection Committee**

**Meeting Summary – December 1, 2021**

**Held Via Microsoft Teams**

**ATTENDEES**

**Committee Member Representatives**

Town of Riverhead | Drew Dillingham (Committee Chair)

Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Committee Vice Chair)

Town of Southold | Michael Collins

Town of Southampton | Tom Houghton

Village of Sag Harbor | Mary Ann Eddy

**Additional Participants**

Joyce Novak | Peconic Estuary Partnership

Valerie Vigona | Peconic Estuary Partnership

Scott Curatolo-Wegeman |Cornell Cooperative Extension

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee | Patricia Aitken, Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 10:05

**I.**  **Minutes Review**

Minutes of the October 6 meeting were reviewed and approved.

II.  **Outreach**

The committee reviewed the three signs that have been designed by Paul Singer – Brookhaven: What is a Watershed; Riverhead – Best Management Practices; Southampton: Raingardens/Permeable Pavement. It was the consensus of the committee to roll out the posters as they are completed for use by the committee. They can be posted on any member’s website or social media feeds. It was decided that all the signs will be fabricated at one. Tom Houghton mentioned that Fisher Signs of Flanders is under contract to the Town of Southampton. Pat will doublecheck with John Sepenoski about a vendor that did signage for one of his projects that he was very unhappy with. Tom asked Paul to get specifications for the signs. Pat said she met with Peter Green of Shelter Island who was very enthusiastic about doing a sign for Fresh Pond. MaryAnn Eddy of Sag Harbor will also be in the next round of pictures to be done. Pat mentioned that there will be a couple of tweaks made to the Brookhaven poster.

All the illustrations used on the posters are in the public domain. Pat mentioned that the PEP had an excellent infographic, which she will share with the Committee, as well as some images that were found on Pinterest. Pat will ask Paul if he can do infographics.

III. Planning for 2022

Pat mentioned that she thought we could do some planning for what can be done in 2022 – so much uncertainty about when the permit will come out, and what the situation will be with Covid. Pat will continue working on the signage project for now, and in February can further discuss.

**IV. Member Updates**

Michael mentioned that it is possible that the 303(d) list will be out by February of 2022. He also mentioned that by late spring/early summer the Census Bureau should release its list of urbanized areas. The Bureau has made major changes by which they calculate urbanized areas by switching from a population based calculation to a housing unit density. This may radically alter areas that have large percentages of second homes, such as Southold and East Hampton.

In response to a question from Pat regarding the revisions to the DEC Shellfishing areas, Michael said that the Town of Southold was negatively affected, with more areas closed, and seasonal closures extended.

Maryann asked advice from the Committee regarding other municipality’s procedures for getting a building permit when a permit is requested for a property within 150’ of a wetlands. Maryann mentioned the various boards and approvals currently required by Sag Harbor, and hoped to find a precedent in other municipalities that would require that a Harbor Committee or a policy that would require consideration of setback from wetlands first. Veronica said that in Brookhaven, the most restrictive code would apply to permitting, and that applications are handled with staff coordination internally. Tom said Southampton has code that if an application involves wetlands, that the application has to go to the Conservation Board first. Maryann will follow up directly with him.

**V. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35

Next Meetings:

February 2, April 6, June 1, August 3, October 5, December 7