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Description automatically generated**Peconic Estuary Protection Committee**

**Meeting Summary – April 5 , 2023**

**Held at Cornell Cooperative Extension Offices**

**Griffing Avenue, Riverhead**

**ATTENDEES**

**Committee Member Representatives**

Suffolk County | Camilo Salazar

Town of Riverhead | Drew Dillingham (Committee Chair)

Town of Riverhead | Jason Blizzard

Town of Brookhaven | Veronica King (Committee Vice Chair)

Town of Southampton | Tom Houghton

Town of Southold | Michael Collins

Village of Sag Harbor | MaryAnn Eddy

**Additional Participants**

Joyce Novak | Peconic Estuary Partnership

Corey Humphrey | Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District

Scott Curatolo-Wegemann | Cornell Cooperative Extension

Derek Stein | Office of Legislator Krupski

Peconic Estuary Protection Committee | Patricia Aitken, Coordinator

Eileen Keenan, guest

The meeting was called to order at 10:10, attendees were reminded that the meeting was being recorded for purposes of transcribing the minutes, all attendees introduced themselves.

1. Minutes Review – minutes from February meeting will be posted to the website.
2. A joint Protection Committee will be held in May of 2023 in the evening and will be held via Zoom. Pat reviewed some of the topics, which include Living Shorelines and Nitrogen monitoring, and will keep the committee informed as to the final agenda.
3. At the request of Drew Dillingham, a Zoom link was set up by Scott Curatolo-Wegeman to allow Dawn Thomas and Anne Marie Prudenti, Deputy Town Attorney of the Town of Riverhead to join the meeting.
4. Corey Humphrey reminded the group that Suffolk County will no longer use Google for meetings, etc., and that Suffolk County will require that RFP responses will be required to be sent as hard copies and will not be able to share files.
5. The appointment of an Advisory Committee was discussed. Members of the committee would be non-voting and would not pay dues. It is recognized that Scott Curatolo-Wegemann of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Corey Humphrey of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District and Joyce Novak of the Peconic Estuary Partnership usually attend meetings, and this would recognize the relationship and formalize it. Others who attend only sporadically would continue to be designated as “guests” on the meeting summaries. Eileen reminded the Committee that there was discussion when the Committee was formed to limit the attendance to municipalities and representatives only, however under Open Meetings Law, that would not be allowed. Corey requested that a letter be sent to the potential advisory committee members inviting them to participate on the Advisory Committee.
6. It was decided after discussion that the Committee would not change its name as such a name change might entail a revision of the Intermunicipal Municipal Agreement. An informal straw vote was taken with all agreeing to leaving the name as Peconic Estuary Protection Committee with the exception of Joyce Novak who thought a change would be advisable.
7. The Town of Southampton will remain as the fiscal sponsor, with the recognition that contracts and payments may be slower. Pat thanked the Town and Tom for his work on behalf of the committee.
8. Eileen Keenan’s contract will become effective on April 1, which will be Eileen’s official start date. There will be a time period when Pat and Eileen will overlap as Coordinators. Once Eileen’s contract is signed, Eileen will submit bills to the Committee with a start date of April 1. Eileen said she is looking forward to working with the Committee on the MS4 permit, grant applications and conducting municipal trainings, such as IDDE and pollution prevention and good housekeeping. PEPC members will share project suggestions with Eileen who will share them with the Committee. Tom said that in reviewing the website, he found that most of the activities discussed over the past year seemed to focus on MS4 issues, rather than water quality improvements, etc. so it seems that the Committee has been focusing on a smaller aspect of the broader mission of the Committee.
9. There was discussion regarding the Signage project. Pat will post the completed and approved posters in Google Drive and to the website.
10. There was discussion regarding setting up an email through the PEPC website, versus using gmail for the Committee. Eileen and Pat will explore options and develop a solution.
11. Coordination and identification of potential projects to apply for grants was discussed, as well as reviewing Subwatershed management plans, LWRPs, etc. Resiliency and wastewater projects could be applied for as well.
12. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 7.