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Carolyn Longan-Gluck, Chair
Wainscott Citizens' Advisor Committee
Wainscott, NY 11975

via email only

Re: Wainscott Citizens' Advisor Committee

Dear Carolyn and WCAC members,

As you know, I recently requested to rejoin the Wainscott Citizens' Advisory Committee ("WCAC") and provided background information per the nominating committee's request (attached). At the recent WCAC meeting (December 7), for the first time in its history, the committee voted *against* someone joining the committee even though that person had been serving Wainscott truthfully and with dedication since 2016 and continues to do so. Certain WCAC members (most) concealed their motives behind closed doors in deliberations immediately before the public vote. The WCAC then voted and singled out just one person (in its forty-year history) apparently of such poor character as to warrant refusing membership *without giving a reason*.

I need not remind the WCAC that it is a public body representing the views and interests of those who live in Wainscott. After all, the *Wainscott Citizens' Advisory Committee* represents *Wainscott citizens*. Therefore, its decisions carry a presumption of community support, and its decision to censure me in public at the Wainscott Chappel (that will have to be recorded in the public minutes) carries the weight of that presumption. Thus, besides the committee members who voted against me, it is presumed that *my fellow residents, neighbors, and friends* whose interests I have advanced over the years also agree with whatever the (undisclosed) reason is for the WCAC's public rebuke. It also raises the uncomfortable question of why the WCAC is so afraid to disclose its motive behind voting *against* a Wainscott resident.

It has been seven years since the Town Board effectively dismissed me from the committee (on January 2, 2018).¹ Then, Councilwoman Burke-Gonzalez (the outgoing WCAC Town Board liaison) and the Town Board refused to explain why it publicly reprimanded me; it left it to rumor and speculation that it subsequently stoked. The Town Board has *never* spoken with me about the matter. In my request to rejoin the WCAC, I explained that in 2018, "[t]he Town Board spoke with neither co-chair of the WCAC (Barry Frankle or Susan Macy) nor any other WCAC member. No one had spoken with me before or since publishing the approved WCAC membership list for 2018, with my name conspicuously left off. The Town Board dismissed me without cause, consultation, redress, notification, or the pretense of a plausible excuse. My dismissal was based on rumors." Now, seven years later, the WCAC continues what the Town Board started in 2018, but worse. This time, *my own community voted against me and is concealing the reason* for doing so. Thus, the WCAC, purportedly acting on behalf of the Wainscott community, my neighbors, and friends, continues to provide grounds for further rumor and speculation, which is prone to adverse influence.

The WCAC knows I cannot defend myself against undisclosed accusations it conceals. Now, there will always be an open question in the air—What did Simon Kinsella do to deserve to be thrown off the WCAC in 2018 and denied again *by his own neighbors* in 2024? As such, the WCAC's public rebuke, but with hidden motives, is abusive.

¹ See Town Board Resolution RES-2018-63, with my name conspicuously left off the list despite the fact that the Wainscott Citizens' Advisory Committee had nominated me to serve for another year (2018).

Although WCAC Chair Carolyn Logan-Gluck called me the night before, when I asked her (twice) why she would not support my becoming a member (which is her right), she refused to say. Carolyn indicated that she had spoken with other members when telling me she “is not alone.”

The WCAC’s vote sends a clear message that I am of such deficient character to be unworthy of WCAC membership, which causes harm.

Furthermore, the WCAC’s actions have a chilling effect on open public discourse and free speech. The natural and probable consequences of the WCAC knowingly concealing the reasons for its public decision, which denies me specifics I might challenge, leave unanswered questions that undermine my integrity *in my own neighborhood*.

In December 2016, the WCAC honored me with the Most Valuable Person award. In January 2018, the committee agreed to ask its new Town Board liaison, Councilman Bragman, to ask his fellow board members to reconsider their decision not to reappoint me. In other words, the WCAC supported me in 2018 when the Town Board did not. The WCAC has never questioned my years of service advancing Wainscott’s interests, nor has it disputed the accuracy of my many reports. Four reports on water quality (two on PFAS contamination and two on Wainscott Pond); one report on South Fork Wind that resulted in it changing the burial depth of its transmission cable (from 10 to 30 feet below the beach); a report on scenic vistas titled Vanishing Beauty that preceded Jeff Bragman’s brilliant work restoring our viewsheds; among other efforts, such as leading the opposition against the proposed car wash, now Rick Del Maestro Memorial Park.

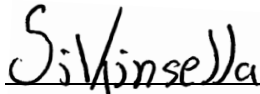
You will remember that *the WCAC* asked me to investigate water quality (2016) and assess the then-proposed offshore wind farm and transmission route through Wainscott (2017). Still, its recent vote undermines the integrity of my reports and casts a dark shadow over my years of work, signaling the WCAC’s reverse change in course. Its denial of my membership aids in hiding the town’s lack of progress in remediating the PFAS contamination at East Hampton Airport and supports landing more high-voltage transmission cables at Beach Lane for offshore wind farms, which are ten times larger than South Fork Wind.

Finally, the WCAC risks establishing a troubling new standard. Anyone who stands up for Wainscott and dares to question the Town Board can expect the WCAC to turn its back on them (and Wainscott) in favor of the Town Board. Thus, the Wainscott Citizens’ Advisory Committee has demonstrated it no longer represents Wainscott citizens and has no purpose.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Wainscott Citizens’ Advisory Committee publicly state why it voted *against* a Wainscott citizen for the first time in its forty-year history.

Please respond within the next five days (by Tuesday, December 17). In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,


Simon V. Kinsella