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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,

Please accept this letter containing background information as my application for membership to the Wainscott Citizens' Advisor Committee ("WCAC"). I appreciate your consideration.

Born and educated in Sydney, Australia, I moved to Wainscott in 2008 after living and working for ten years in London, England. My background is in professional and financial services. I started my career in Sydney with KPMG Peat Marwick, where I also worked many years later in London. Although beginning as a chartered accountant, my talents soon proved to be leading special projects with large international banks.

I proudly served on the WCAC for two years (2016 and 2017) and was appointed Chairman of its Environmental Subcommittee (November 2016). In December 2016, the WCAC honored me with the Most Valuable Person award "for what Mr. Frankel said is his 'energy, passion, and intensity[,]'" according to the East Hampton Star.¹ The Star also noted that "Mr. Kinsella had sent letters of concern about the possibility of chromium-6 in Wainscott groundwater to a number of government agencies last month." *Id.* The Star's comment appeared to be complimentary, not a criticism. See Letter marked Exhibit B.

In January 2018, the WCAC nominated me to serve another year, although the Town Board did not approve my re-appointment for reasons known only to it. I cannot tell you why because, after six years, I still do not know.² According to the East Hampton Press, "Mr. Kinsella ha[d] spoken out about a wide range of issues in Wainscott, most recently private wells that have been found to be contaminated with perfluorinated compounds [PFAS contamination]. According to a letter ... Mr. Kinsella was chastised by Town Attorney Michael P. Sendlenski at the beginning of last year [January 2017] for sending out a letter ostensibly from the 'environmental subcommittee of the Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee' that the town felt was inappropriate and beyond the CAC's scope of authority [see Exhibit E]. Another letter from Mr. Sendlenski, from October 2016 [see Exhibit B], tells Mr. Kinsella that samples he took from the Suffolk Cement property in Wainscott cannot be used 'in any meaningful way,'

¹ See Wainscott Committee Names Award Winners by Christine Sampson published in the East Hampton Star, December 8, 2016 (www.EastHamptonStar.com/archive/wainscott-committee-names-award-winners)

² The 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.

since the town had no way of knowing how they were secured.”³ To the extent that these letters might substantiate due cause for my 2018 dismissal or impede my 2025 re-appointment six years later, they are attached (marked Exhibits A–G) so you may judge them on their merits. Please remember, had I not written these letters (*specifically* Exhibit D), Suffolk County would have had no cause to test private drinking water wells, which are shallower than public supply wells, for emerging contaminants (PFAS chemicals) under EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule No. 3. The letters resulted in the first detections of PFAS contaminants exceeding regulatory levels in Wainscott’s drinking water downgradient of Suffolk Cement (Old Montauk Highway) and are the primary reason residents living in Wainscott are not ingesting contaminated drinking water today. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (World Health Organization) classifies PFOA as “carcinogenic to humans” and PFOS as “possibly carcinogenic to humans.”⁴ The US EPA also cites an increased risk of some cancers.⁵

I am proud of my achievements while serving on the WCAC. With the invaluable help of fellow committee members and residents, I was responsible for leading the opposition against the proposed Golden Car Wash, supported the WCAC leadership in successfully pursuing a business district moratorium, drafted the first Wainscott Hamlet Study (and wrote a significant part of the second), acted as Wainscott’s liaison to the Town Trustees. I testified before the NYS Senate Hearing on Water Quality, where I learned about the likelihood of PFAS contamination downgradient from airports (*see* Hannon Report).⁶ Investigated hexavalent chromium and PFAS contamination in Wainscott’s drinking water, successfully pushed to have Suffolk County survey private drinking water wells in Wainscott for PFAS contaminants, chaired the WCAC’s Environmental Sub-Committee, established the Wainscott Pond Project (which no longer exists), and raised concerns about the imminent loss of scenic vistas and open pastoral landscapes in my letter titled Vanishing Beauty.⁷

In 2018, I promised the WCAC that I would continue advocating for Wainscott, specifically clean drinking water, remediation of Wainscott Pond, and responsible development of onshore transmission for South Fork Wind. In March 2018, I published Report No. 2 on PFC (PFAS) Contamination.⁸ A month later (April 25, 2018), the Town permitted testing for PFAS contamination at East Hampton Airport, the source of such contamination, for the first time. Suffolk County Water Authority (“SCWA”) and the Town Board responded by installing

³ See Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee Member Is Dropped From The Board by Jon Winkler, published in the East Hampton Press, January 9, 2018 (www.27east.com/east-hampton-press/wainscott-citizens-advisory-committee-member-is-dropped-from-the-board-1443245/)

⁴ See American Cancer Society, PFOA, PFOS, and Related PFAS Chemicals (www.Cancer.org/cancer/risk-prevention/chemicals/teflon-and-perfluorooctanoic-acid-pfoa.html)

⁵ According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Authority, exposure to certain PFAS chemicals may lead to reproductive effects such as decreased fertility, developmental effects in children (including low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes), increased risk of some cancers (including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers), compromised immune response to fight infections (including reduced vaccine response), interference with the body’s natural hormones, and increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity (www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas).

⁶ See Hannon Report (January 3, 2017), NYS Health and Environmental Conservation Committees’ Hearing on Water Quality and Contamination (www.oswSouthFork.info/wcac-docs).

⁷ See Vanishing Beauty, Request for Moratorium by Si Kinsella, letter to the East Hampton Town Board dated September 6, 2017 (www.oswSouthFork.info/wcac-docs)

⁸ See Town Drinking Water PFAS Contamination by Si Kinsella, letter to the East Hampton Town Board dated March 26, 2018 (www.oswSouthFork.info/wcac-docs)

mains with access to clean drinking in record time (by December 2018).⁹ Although the Town and SCWA acted swiftly in providing access to safe freshwater from deeper public supply wells, I remain concerned contamination might reach those wells, which are within a mile of East Hampton Airport. Physical remediation of PFAS contamination at the airport has yet to begin (as of July 2024).¹⁰

Although my work on Wainscott Pond ended after my last presentation to the WCAC three years ago (April 2021),¹¹ there has been tremendous progress with the CPF (30-acre) Acquisition and Historic Landmark classification. I am grateful, as I do not doubt that we are all grateful for the Osborn family's stewardship for over three hundred years and the generosity of the Lauder family. I will continue to offer support if needed, but I'm pleased to see everyone is doing OK without me regarding the pond.

Finally, I will continue to hold South Fork Wind responsible for any environmental damage it causes by installing concrete infrastructure underground for two-and-a-half miles through Wainscott. Such damage includes prolonged environmental PFAS groundwater contamination and adverse impacts on our sole-source aquifer, among other adverse consequences.¹² Still, I believe and am hopeful that these issues can be resolved.

It would be a pleasure to continue serving Wainscott as a member of the WCAC instead of from the sidelines.

I appreciate the committee's consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,


Simon V. Kinsella

⁹ www.scwa.com/scwa_town_of_east_hampton_announce_completion_of_wainscott_water_main_installation/

¹⁰ See FPM Remedial Investigation: Phase II Data & Proposed Phase III Scope of Work for East Hampton Airport (May 9, 2024) and NYS DEC Approval of FPM Phase III Scope of Work (July 17, 2024) (www.oswSouthFork.info/wcac-docs)

¹¹ See WCAC April 2021 PFAS Meeting Slides by Si Kinsella (www.oswSouthFork.info/wcac-docs)

¹² See South Fork Wind, Update (Sep 24, 2024) by Si Kinsella (www.oswSouthFork.info/wcac-docs)