

The Centerport Harbor Civic Association
General Membership Meeting, March 26th, 2025

Present: Jim Walker, Michael Regan, Bob Berding, Judy White, Anne Wesp, Betsy Cambria, George Pullis

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by George Pullis

Treasurer's Report: The CHCA has a current balance of \$13,764.34

Spring Cleanup Update: The event is on track to be held on April 5th, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon at Heron Park. April 6th is the rain date.

Brick Campaign Update: We have sold 62 bricks with a gross income of \$6,360.00. This will cover the cost of the Memorial Stone Project for Gloria Wertheimer. April 5th is the last day to order a brick.

Jellyfish Update: Back on February 5th, the Planning Board did approve, with minor conditions, the current proposal for Jellyfish. Barring any further action, the developer can proceed with the project. Our previous article 78 filing was denied, and counsel has advised us that an attempt to file another article would also be very likely to fail.

Steep Slope Update: We (the CHCA) had received an 11th hour notice that the Town Board was proposing to amend the code for the “The Steep Slopes Conservation Law” and that they were holding a Town Board meeting at 2 pm on March 20th. CHCA members Jim Walker, Anne Wesp and Bob Berding were there to voice our concerns. Upon arriving, we were told that the resolution had been withdrawn. We were, however, allowed to speak. We let them know that their plans to allow for easier building on steep slopes was in contradistinction to the Legislative intent of the original law. In addition, we had a particular concern with 198-61 (D) which stated: “This article does not apply to previously developed land on non-residential properties”. It was our position that this created an arbitrary class of properties and that it was antithetical to the legislative intent by failing to require reasonable and necessary assessments of current environmental conditions prior to issuing a permit. We have contacted Sal Ferro (who introduced the resolution) and will be meeting with him to discuss it further.

Guest Speaker: Kevin McDonald, the Policy Advisor for The Nature Conservancy, gave an exceptional presentation focused on the deleterious effects of Nitrogen contamination in our waters. After outlining the problem, he proposed solutions with emphasis on innovative alternative Septic Systems. More importantly, he went into a detailed cost analysis of these systems and what grants were available to pay for them.

- The Suffolk County Septic Improvement Program (SIP) has a \$15,000 base grant and an additional \$5,000 grant for low to middle income eligible applicants.

- The NY State Septic System Replacement Program (SSRP) has grants for up to \$10,000
- The average cost for installation on a nitrogen-removing treatment unit, leaching system, and removal of the existing system is approximately: \$34,000 within the east end towns and \$28,500 in the west end towns (difference is due to soil type, access, depth to groundwater, etc.)
- Required Operation & Maintenance: the current average cost of an O&M contract renewal for 3 years is approximately \$1,500 (\$500/yr.). This is the same or cheaper than a sewer fee.

Next General Membership Meeting: April 30th.