

Visit our Interactive Website: www.SouthholdVOICE.com

One of our new organization's first activities was to establish a presence on the web. The idea was to create a forum in which all users of Long Island's North Fork waterfront: boaters, property owners and beach goers might have a voice.

The website features reports from the officials who make the rules and ordinary citizens who must follow them. By prominently featuring comments, a dialog is possible between those who write stories and those who read them.

The site in the short few months since its debut, has attracted more than 8000 hits, visitors who can read postings on many subjects. A "tag cloud" on the right hand side of the web page displays visually the relative number of articles on subjects like dredging (the number one concern of posters) permitting, moorings, storm water runoff etc.

Activities that will surely affect the waterfront, such as the consideration of "amendment 275" by the town of Southold's trustees need to be carefully examined. The SouthholdVOICE.com website is one of the few places where you can

read the proposed changes for yourself and read the comments of officials who will be considering the language and voting on it.

The site includes a number of anecdotal postings by viewers who have encountered hazards to navigation, or have observed waterfront activities that they think the rest of us should know about.

As our membership grows, and members avail themselves of the communication facility offered by the website, we may expect to increase the impact our group will have on the decision-making process which has heretofore been cloaked in anonymity and accessible only to those who had the time to attend meetings—or dig through the official websites.

If you have not already done so, point your computer to the site and browse the articles, watch the videos, read the proposed rule changes and if you can contribute to the dialog, leave a comment for others to see and possibly react to.

We also maintain a Yahoo Discussion Group for interactive postings at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Southholdvoice/> Feel free to browse this site, too. □

Mission Statement

SouthholdVOICE is a citizen-run, non-profit organization of waterfront property owners and other stakeholders of Southold's extensive waterfront. Our mission is to raise awareness among the community of Southold Town regarding issues that impact shoreline and marine resources including dredging, erosion control, ecological land use, road runoff abatement and permitting. And, to promote among the general public environmentally sound policies regulating coastlines and waterways.

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Dredging Permits Released

As has been chronicled on our site and in the press, the ability of the town and the county to negotiate the requirements of the DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers and the attendant reports required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the required *Endangered Species Habitat* report, delayed dredging last year and threatened to do so again in the upcoming dredging window.

The problem was that neither agency would give any guidance on what the report should contain. In the words of Southold Town Supervisor, Scott Russell, "The Federal and State agencies do not play well together."

Southold Town Trustee, David Bergen asked our congressional delegation, Senators Schumer and Clinton and Representative Tim Bishop to become involved. Together they wrote to the Army Corps of Engineers and requested a schedule. Their letter and Dave Bergen's reports are available on our website.

Anticipating some progress in obtaining
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Center in Peconic on July 21st, 2007. All are volunteers who have lent their skills and experience to launch the organization, establish its mission, set up its structure and compile lists of potential members.

Photo from left to right: Standing - Paul Birman (Summer Secretary), Douglas F. Rose Sr. (Treasurer), Dan Christianson, John Betsch, Dianne Castaldi. Seated - Joanna Lane (Winter Secretary), John Kramer (Chairman), Barbara Christianson.

Who Are We?

John Kramer (seated center) introduced the first Board of Directors at the second public meeting of SouthholdVOICE, held at the Peconic Recreational

(Dredging continued from page 1)

ing the necessary permits, the five East End towns met to draw up a list of priority dredging projects.

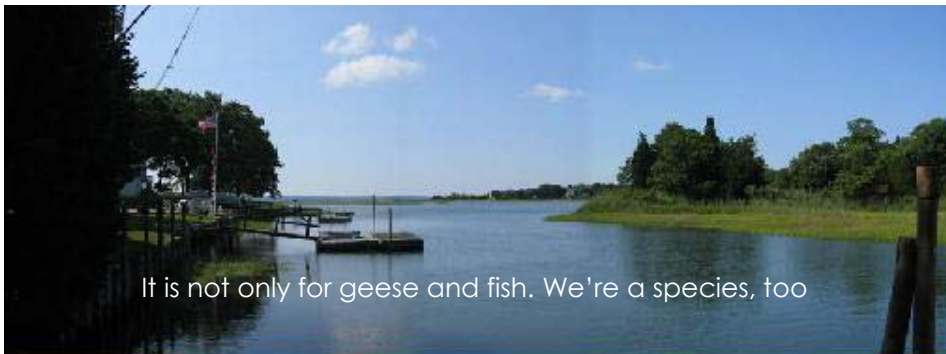
On September 4th, Southold Trustee Dave Bergen posted: "The Southold Trustees are happy to inform you that the Army Corp released permits for five locations today, two of which are in Southold. Released were Cedar Beach Inlet and Little Creek. Also released were North Sea Harbor in Southampton, Fresh Pond in Southampton, and Miamogue in Riverhead. We expect the DEC to follow suit and to be up and rolling for the start of the dredging season next month. Thanks to Congressman Bishop, and Senators Schumer and Clinton for all of their hard work." □

Proposed Amendments to Local Law Ch. 275

Chapter 275 details the restrictions on construction along Southold's waterfront. A public hearing is to be scheduled and when the date/time is known it will be posted on our website. Readers and particularly waterfront property owners whose ability to construct and repair structures will be affected are urged to read this document (all 7 pages are posted on the website) and leave comments. Your comments will be conveyed to the town officials. □

Questions for the Candidates

SoutholdVOICE will direct a series of questions to candidates for office in Southold Town concerning a host of waterfront issues that are important to our members. The answers will be published in this newsletter and on our website. □



It is not only for geese and fish. We're a species, too

Your Town Trustees at Work

(The August 22, 2007 meeting, reported by the Trustee Liaison Committee)

The Trustees start their meetings with:

- (1) Administrative Permits for such actions as: replacement of shingles, insulation and garage doors to existing dwelling; new fence posts for a fence; replacement of sanitary systems; and landscaping within Trustee jurisdiction. If you are by the water presume you need their permission to do anything.
- (2) Two mooring permits were issued in West Creek.
- (3) Amendments/Extensions/Transfers reviewed: In addition to reviewing modifications to existing permits, on Transfer of permits, the Trustees take this opportunity to bring some permits into current requirements: One transfer required the applicant to create a buffer area.

Word of Advice: *This is an important process if you are buying or selling property - the transfer may disclose a violation or condition of a permit which the seller never fulfilled. Before you invite the Trustees to your property to inspect read your permit carefully to be sure that you do not have outstanding issues.*

Read the full posting on the website. □

Why should you belong to SoutholdVOICE?

So you are not alone in having a say about what happens to our valuable Southold waterfront.

Join SoutholdVOICE

Download a membership application online or fill out the form below and mail to SoutholdVOICE, PO Box 996, Southold NY 11971

E-mail: southoldVOICE@gmail.com

Annual Membership Dues:

\$35 per year

*Those who join now are **Founding Members** and their dues will be good until June 2009!*

Are you presently on our mailing list?

First Name		Last Name	
Mailing Address (include PO Box if necessary)			
City	State	Zip code	
Contact Phone #			
E-mail			
If your property address is different than your mailing address, please fill out the information below:			
Property Street Address			
Property City	State	Zip Code	



Founder and Chairman, John Kramer addresses the meeting of July 21, 2007