

Dredging Update

The Suffolk County dredge has finished deepening and widening Cedar Beach, Deep Hole, Brushes and Little Creek. SoutholdVOICE member and Trustee, Dave Bergen reports that the Army Corp released permits for Jockey Creek Spur, Corey, Goose and James in late November. This leaves us only School House Creek which is lacking a permit. Dave goes on to explain:



Dredge vacuuming the entrance to Cedar Beach

“Once the rig gets done in Southampton, SCDPW and I will confer with regards to which Southold creek they go to next. Corey Creek has a window limit of December 15 while the others have a limit of January 15. I passed this information onto both Senator Clinton and Congressman Bishops’s office, thanking them once again for their assistance.”

SoutholdVOICE member and Treasurer, Doug Rose attended a meeting of the Dredging Committee on Wednesday, Dec. 5th and reports that the permit for Schoolhouse Creek has been released. The issue, however, is whether all of these can be completed before the dredge window closes. Other East End towns are also competing for the services of the single dredge.

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year

Report on Hearing Tuesday, Dec. 4

Through conflict comes drama, but this was not to be the occasion for it. The public hearing on Chapter 275 Amendments played out as a civilized and useful discourse between Environmentalists, Property Owners, Attorneys and Expeditors, in a packed Town Hall where every seat was taken, and more listened in the hall.

Result: The Public Hearing was closed, both for oral testimony and written statements, but no vote was taken. At the time of writing, the Board was deliberating whether or not to vote tonight or table the vote for two weeks to allow for further consultation with Trustees, with a view to making changes in the light of some persuasive arguments made during the course of the hearing.

Impressions: The amendment really does - in the main - simply document what has always been the practice. With the exception of several definitional and a few other specific problem areas, that were identified by Members of SoutholdVOICE and recognized by Scott Russell and some board members, passage of the amendment will not change business as usual in the short term. What is changing is the realization that "business as usual" is being examined from new perspectives - and that those with these viewpoints have a VOICE. We need to hang in there and get ready for a protracted effort to achieve positive realistic long term results.

Al Krupski, Town Board, gave a brief history of the Wetlands Code, to put it into perspective for the audience. A separate and elected Board of Trustees first came into existence in 1893, but it was not until 1971, that the Town created Chapter 71, the first Wetlands Code. Over the course of the last 20 years, the Trustees have tried to determine what’s important in protecting the Town’s wetlands. In 2004, there was

Mission Statement

SoutholdVOICE 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.

§

major work done on the code, with a lot of input from the public at that time.

Dan Christianson, Mattituck resident, asked rhetorically, “It is a Thursday afternoon in the spring of 2008. The husband has walked from the home to the dock to check things out in anticipation of a visit, for the weekend, of his children and grandchildren. He finds that a 3 foot 2×6, which is part of the fixed dock decking, has deteriorated to the point of being a safety hazard and needs to be replaced in kind. Upon reporting the condition to his wife, he is informed that, “The kids will not be allowed on the dock until that plank is fixed.”

Other than paying taxes, they have had no dealings with Town Hall, beyond applying for “dump stickers” for their car. The husband has heard from a friend that upon asking about permission to repair his dock, the friend had been handed a 22 page package of forms to complete and submit.

The husband is capable of carrying out the replacement of the 3 foot 2×6 in about one hour total elapsed time. He has available:

- an 8 foot long [untreated] 2×6
- a circular saw capable of cutting off a 3 foot piece of the 2×6

(Continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)



The Board listens intently to testimony

- a crowbar
- a claw hammer
- a battery powered portable 3/8" drill with appropriate bits
- a supply of suitable deck screws

Assuming that proposed amendments to Local Law 275 have been approved by the Town Board and are now in force:

- What action(s) should the grandfather take?
- How long will the total permitting and



A packed meeting room spilling out into the hall

repair process take [total elapsed time]?

- What will the total out-of-pocket cost be, including appropriate permit, expediter, lawyer, survey, engineering and 'other' costs?
- List major expense elements.
- In light of the mandate to preserve our wetlands "for the use of our children and grandchildren," how do you justify any delay, beyond one hour elapsed time, in returning the water-dependent dock facility to full functioning status in time for the upcoming weekend visit?
- In light of financial practicality, how do you justify any non-zero out of pocket costs?

What might your action be in the above circumstances? [Be honest.]

Steve Ballavia writes on our website: So here is my view of the Town Hearing regarding Chapter 275 - wetlands code: If it were up to the Nature Conservancy people (whom I'm sure car-pooled to Southold in a single Toyota Prius), there would be a 200 foot buffer zone and 1000 foot set-backs. The developers and real-estate people (arriving in their monster SUVs) would prefer no restrictions at all. The simple property owners (like myself) just want to be able to repair their dock without 22 pages of forms, a lawyer and years of bureaucratic hell. I did not stay for the whole thing (it was very overcrowded and very hot) and left at 11 pm.

As the year draws to a close, we would like to wish all our members very Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year. Please raise your glass to thank the hard working volunteers who, in only a few short months, have accomplished a great deal on your behalf. Under the leadership of founder, John Kramer, a small group of volunteers have transformed an idea into a successful reality.

We have formed a 501 (c) 3 not for profit corporation, registered in New York State, and have had a remarkable growth in dues-paying members. We have developed a unique interactive website, www.SoutholdVOICE.com which, as of early December, has attracted 17,200 hits to 65 articles and 78 member comments on 60 topics.

We have just opened a "soapbox" on the website to encourage even further membership participation in the conversations.

This is the fourth monthly newsletter that we have produced and distributed both electronically and in printed form. We do not lack for material as this month's coverage of the December 4th wetlands meeting illustrates.

So, we raise a glass of cheer to our present and prospective members and look forward to continued growth into 2008.

Bumper Sticker

Want a bumper sticker? Free to all members who send a stamped self-addressed #10 envelope to our PO box. Become a member. Show the flag!



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

I don't have e-mail. Please mail material.

If your property address is different than your mailing address, please fill out the information below:

Property Street Address

Property City

State

Zip Code

Colophon

Published by SoutholdVOICE, Inc.
a 501 (c) 3 not for profit corporation
Volume 1 no. 4 • December 2007

Officers, Board of Directors

John Kramer, Chairman,
Douglas F. Rose Sr., Treasurer,
Joanna Lane, Winter Secretary
Paul Birman, Summer Secretary

John Betsch
Dianne Castaldi
Barbara Christianson
Dan Christianson

Committee Chairman

Trustee Liaison	John Edler
Membership	John Kramer
Webmaster	Douglas F. Rose
Newsletter	Joanna Lane
Fund Raising	Paul Birman
Natural Disasters	Dianne Castaldi
	Dan Christianson
	Barbara Christianson
	Christianson
Area Coordinator	John Betsch
ZBA	John Kramer
LWRP	John Kramer
PR and Marketing	Joanna Lane