



The Town of Southold Conservation Advisory Council



Presents a Workshop with the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** -National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and the Office of

Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

8:30 AM SATURDAY, MAY 10TH 2008 AT PECONIC LANDING

1500 Brecknock Road, ROUTE 25, GREENPORT, NY

FEE \$10.00

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND AESTHETIC IMPACTS OF

SMALL DOCKS AND OTHER SHORELINE STRUCTURES

The purpose of this workshop is to make available to the public the latest information from scientific studies, experience and expertise of coastal resource managers of NOAA. We of Southold Town are working together to address the challenges, needs, desires and rights of all, and to practice responsible stewardship of our great shoreline heritage. This is an opportunity to expand our knowledge and develop a long-term strategy for managing the process of shoreline development and protection.

This notice, coming after Southold Supervisor Scott Russell proposed banning all dock construction in the bay, prompted SoutholdVOICE chairman, John Kramer, to invest \$10 and see what they were up to. Here is his report:

The stated purpose of the workshop was to make available to the public the latest info, scientific studies, experience and expertise of coastal resource managers of NOAA. Because we of Southold Town are working together to address the challenges, needs, desires and rights of all to practice responsible stewardship and develop a long-term strategy for managing the process of shoreline development and protection, I attended to bring back a report of what it was about, and here is what I got out of it:

The presenters were two consultants who are paid to prepare and present info to help people who want to facilitate

efforts to ban, control, limit, and regulate small docks. While the NOAA representative said several times, "We are not here to take a position against docks, that is for the local political process to decide. ..." the 5 hours of negativity directed toward waterfront owners, boaters, (but not kayak and canoe boaters) dock owners was so tiring, that by the end, most attendees left. It would not surprise me if Steve Bliven, the consultant, is hired by the Town or outside group to promulgate dock policy for the Town. That is his job, that is what he was selling. Here is how he says we get this done:

Use Florida, South Carolina, as examples of over development. Survey the public with questions like "Do you think there are areas in Southold Town where there should NOT be docks allowed?" A poll result showing an overwhelming affirmative response indicates a mandate for regulation!

Mission Statement

SoutholdVOICE is a citizen-run, non-profit organization of waterfront property owners and other stakeholders in 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.

§

A graph showing nationwide dock applications increasing over the last 20 years reinforces the move of the population to the coasts, but the number of dock permit denials is a problem (because it is small) and a frustration of coastal managers.

We can base our opposition to docks on science: how they negatively impact vegetation, contaminate the water, causes more boat use, (a bad thing) and cause navigational problems, and are aesthetically displeasing.

A tool that we can use to gain popular support in our move against docks is a variation of the logical argument 'reducto ad absurdum:' there is free software available where we can take a picture of a local vista, for example Southold Bay, and insert a dock on every separate property. The result is shown to be an illustration of "total build out." This potential alone, it seems, is reason to support moratoriums and total bans. The emphasis was that we don't have an issue with a single dock; the issue is the "sprawl" of docks. (I think the "sprawl" in Southold comprised 6 applications, 2 approved, 2 denied and 2 withdrawn over the past 2 years.)

Other tools we can use to stop the sprawl: At the State level: Environmental reviews by the DEC is a useful

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

gauntlet; at the Local level, Zoning is a great tool. Just say "no docks" in a particular zone so everyone knows up front that the waterfront can't be used by the owner. Building codes could be expanded to make dock construction more difficult and discourage construction, Local environmental ordinances can be strengthened to further reduce to possibility of dock sprawl.

The community will have to decide how we respond to this positioning of an argument for further regulating docks, (and implicit in this is the old us against them mentality). My impression is that the concept of a waterfront property owner being a person passionate about the water in the same way a golfer lives in a golf course community or a gardener lives where there is room to have a garden; the idea that a waterfront property owner is such, because he is also a boater, sailor, clammer, fisherman, etc. and wants to use the waterfront, is totally foreign to the folks presenting this meeting.

We will have to educate them about what values we have, what is important to us, why it is important, and what it is we want. (Quiet enjoyment is not an option.) Failing that, expect a big public outcry to stop the "bad guys on the water from stealing their public access and polluting our maritime resources both environmentally and aesthetically." Any member wishing to read the two handouts which detail the meeting are welcome to them. Email me: southoldvoice@gmail.com

John Kramer

An Open Letter To Those Receiving This Newsletter Who Are Not Yet Subscribers

Dear Reader,

In less than a year, SoutholdVOICE has grown into a respected non-profit / volunteer organization that has listened to early subscribers and acted on their behalf. We have assembled an educational forum via our very active website, www.SoutholdVOICE.com. Our monthly newsletter has educated the

public about the important issues concerning our waterways. SoutholdVOICE created an answer to the missing vehicle: to listen, to discuss, to educate and to take action!

In less than a half-year, we have become an organization that is recognized and respected by the town of Southold and Suffolk County's governmental agencies.

Dredging was one of the most popular requests of early SoutholdVOICE subscribers. We have voiced our concerns to Southold Town administrators, local members of U.S. Congress and the U.S. Senate, and they have acted on your behalf! We now have 10 newly dredged waterways ready for the 2008 season!

But dredging is not the only concern of our members. Our committee members have been attending and reporting on the town board meetings, the town trustees' meetings, the LWRP Committee meetings and the Dredging Committee meetings. These reports have been printed on our website and in our monthly newsletter.

All this has been accomplished with minimal finances and a handful of volunteers! - Imagine what we can become with **your** support.

As the summer season approaches, we need **your** help. Your paid membership and active participation will support our continued growth and success.

Please join us in our efforts by becoming a **Founding Member**. Your \$35 dues, received before June, will support your membership through June 2009.

Thank You,
Douglas F. Rose, Sr.
Membership Chairman
SoutholdVOICE, Inc.

Bumper Sticker

Want a bumper sticker? Free to all members who send a stamped self-addressed #10 envelope to our P.O. 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
Website: www.SoutholdVOICE.com
Volume 2 no. 5 • May 2008

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
Pat Moore Esq.
Dunewood Truglia Esq.

Committee Chairman

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