

## Annual Meeting

SoutholdVOICE's second annual meeting will take place on July 19, 2008, 8:00 – 11:00 am at the Peconic Rec. Center, Peconic Lane, Peconic NY. Free, everyone is welcome.

### Who should come?

If you own property on or near the water in Southold it's only a matter of time before you will need a Southold Town Trustees' permit in order to:

- \* Install or repair a dock.
- \* Alter vegetation within 100' of a wetland.
- \* Perform maintenance on your dwelling within 100' of a wetland.
- \* Install or repair a deck or other structure.
- \* Do anything which may affect runoff or drainage.

Come to the meeting and learn how SoutholdVOICE has been working on your behalf.



Enjoy a sunset & starlight evening by beautiful Peconic Bay with family, friends and neighbors

### SoutholdVOICE BBQ by the Bay

Thursday, August 21, 2008  
7 to 11 pm  
Claudio's Dock  
Greenport, NY

Ticket sales begin July 7th  
Go to [www.SoutholdVoice.com](http://www.SoutholdVoice.com) for updates!



Greenport Ferry 2008  
Photograph donated by Alex Ferrone

## Local Law 275 penalties, are they simply a way of creating an additional revenue stream?

There are sections in Local Law Chapter 275 that strike a tone of petulance and combativeness which works against the spirit of mutual cooperation and trust that is essential for successful voluntary compliance which is at the heart of negotiated rulemaking with all the stakeholders, including the rule makers involved.

Section 275-16 is one flagrant example of this. Granted that fines are in order for persistent, willful non-compliance but the whole 275 document is so complex, has been patched so many times, is annoyingly ambiguous in places, and difficult to even understand and interpret at times. There are also requirements within LL 275 that are judged by many property owners to be unfair and unnecessary. Given this state of affairs and until some of these things are fixed, it seems that the "knuckle-rapping" should not be stepped up. In truth it angers people, makes them dig in and it makes a mockery of the spirit of mutual cooperation and voluntary compliance.

*The penalty provisions of LL-275: "Any person failing to comply with the terms of a permit shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000. \$4,000 for each subsequent offense."*

Along these lines, it is not clear what the thinking was in elevating fines and penalties by as much as 300%! Has compliance with 275 been so devastatingly bad that this is deemed necessary? If that is the case we have a much bigger problem indeed, and even more work to do in fixing a flawed piece of legislation.

## Mission Statement

SoutholdVOICE is a not-for-profit organization of waterfront property owners and others interested in the use, enjoyment and preservation of Southold's extensive waterfront. The organization promotes awareness of issues affecting shoreline and marine resources to further cooperation between responsible use, regulatory protection, and the rights of riparian owners for the ultimate benefit of our community.

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We do believe the Trustees and/or the Town Board has an obligation to take the taxpayers/stakeholders into their confidence and discuss with us the reasons and rationale behind these draconian increases which otherwise will lead to increasing discontent, if not hostility between the parties.

**Finally, the other side of this coin is not pleasant to even suggest. That is are we creating the perception of using environmental protection mandates as a means of creating additional revenue for the town?**



## Storm water Runoff Initiative

SoutholdVOICE will be attaching medallions similar to the one illustrated above to storm sewers all around town. Our purpose is to remind everyone that material that makes it into the storm drains eventually finds its way into our creeks, the Bay or the Sound.

Oils, fertilizers and the like, are not fish friendly!

## Video on Demand

SoutholdVOICE provides an on-line venue to show videos to the public, including on June 24th, *Stewards of Our Shoreline*, a 30-minute documentary about Southold Town Trustees by the Cornell Cooperative Extension, produced by Peggy Dickerson and directed by Rory MacNish. Available on demand at our website, [www.SoutholdVOICE.com](http://www.SoutholdVOICE.com).

## "Science" or Fashion?

Jun 28th, 2008 by haroldhomeowner

Anna and I viewed the Town of Southold / Trustee 30-minute video on cable and on the SoutholdVOICE website. We found it visually gratifying, quite informative, and reasonably effective in presenting an appearance of balance between the various factors [factions?] involved.

While I would not expect otherwise, I was reminded that, all too often, the mantle of "science" [and often the "latest science"] is employed to cover a multitude of other factors involved in real decision making.

### Examples:

Intertidal detritus is good, but pet waste is bad [unless you have pet Canada Geese, swans or deer].

Stimulation of green growth via fertilizer runoff is bad, but stimulation of green growth by employing perforated plastic grid dock decking is good. [What fraction of the sun light gets through the new grid decking, when structure and sun angle are accounted for?]

Lawn grass clippings cause pollution, while the decay of salt grass meadows provide necessary nutrients for the food chain.

Why was a neighbor to the north required to build a "high" dock to promote green growth while a neighbor to the south was forced to build a "low" dock [to minimize visual impact?]

And why do docks inevitably result in "visual pollution" when so many works of art depict docks and other hard structures prominently in their aesthetically appealing compositions? [see the photograph of a dock on the bay that graces the first page of this newsletter]

Why did the verbal message relative to the adverse impact of bulkheading upon salt grass not mention Phragmites, although the visual employed seemed to provide evidence of the adverse impact of this invasive species?

Why is leaching from sheathing and decking not scientifically acceptable [other than "We feel that ..."]?

## Lawsuit on Behalf of Fishermen

NEW YORK, NY (June 23, 2008) -

Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo today announced a lawsuit against the federal Department of Commerce for violating federal law with its new limits on recreational catches of summer flounder along the east coast. The suit charges that their regulations will harm New York's anglers and the recreational fishing industry, without benefiting the long-term health of these popular sport fish.

In May 2008, the NMFS adopted state-by-state limits for regulating summer flounder catches for the current season. In violation of the laws governing state-by-state regulations, the new regulations subject New York anglers to the strictest catch limits of any other state, including neighboring states. For example, New Yorkers can keep four fewer fish per day than New Jersey anglers. New Yorkers are also only allowed to keep fluke over 20.5 inches -- two and a half inches longer than those that can be kept by New Jersey anglers -- barring New Yorkers from keeping most of the fish they catch. The suit filed today seeks to invalidate the new federal regulations and to direct the NMFS to adopt the alternative "coast wide" approach for managing recreational east coast catches of summer flounder. The lawsuit was filed in the United State District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

**Want a bumper sticker?** Free to all members who send a stamped self-addressed #10 envelope to our P.O. box.



## 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](mailto: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

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