

SouthholdVOICE held its second annual general meeting, Saturday morning, July 19th at the Peconic Recreation Center. Attendees heard reports from John Betsch, Executive Vice Chairman, who described the mission of SouthholdVOICE, and introduced its volunteer officers and board members.



John Betsch

Doug Rose, Treasurer and the officer responsible for membership development, reported that Southhold Town has 160 miles of shoreline and approximately 3900 properties that line that shore. He estimates that with 600 founding members, the organization accounts for only 15% of the potential members. Doug reviewed what has been accomplished in the 12 months since SouthholdVOICE organized:



Doug Rose

1. Formed a not-for profit corporation, adopted a board structure and bylaws.
2. Created an interactive website, [www.SouthholdVOICE.com](http://www.SouthholdVOICE.com).
3. Published and distributed 11 newsletters in electronic and paper form (this is the 12th issue).
4. Reported on the Trustees' meetings and their news.
5. Obtained a seat on the town's LWRP Coordinating Council.
6. Published the Trustees' video "Stewards of our Shoreline" on the SouthholdVOICE website.
7. Provided a forum for Southhold's local election candidates to address issues affecting members.
8. Sponsored the sold-out winter "Defrost Dinner."
9. Rallied residents for the Chapter 275 hearing and fostered changes to that

law.

10. Has produced several on-web videos on subjects of interest.

John Kramer, Chairman, spoke about our storm water runoff initiative, which will place medallions on road catch basins reminding everyone that the water and all the fertilizers, oils and toxins it contains will eventually reach the creeks and bays of Southhold's waterfront. He spoke of our current plans and projects and invited participation by the membership. He told of the meeting with Steve Resler, who urged the town officials to take control of the water "half-way to Connecticut," and impose draconian restrictions on its use. Boats, in his view, are dirty and noisy.



John Kramer

*"When you get down to it, about the only [riparian] right a property owner has is the right to pay taxes; all other uses are at the pleasure of the town." - Resler*

Attorney Pat Moore, who specializes in permit applications [and is a member of the SouthholdVOICE board] took the microphone to explain the process of



This photo of Pat Moore, and all the other meeting pictures, are courtesy of Dennis Lane

dealing with the town's authorities.

Ms. Moore detailed the problems homeowners face in an environment she characterizes as a "regulatory night-

## Mission Statement

SouthholdVOICE is a not-for-profit organization of waterfront property owners and others interested in the use, enjoyment and preservation of Southhold'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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mare." If you're a waterfront property owner, she cautioned, "Don't do anything without the Trustees' permission." Ms. Moore explained that permits no longer "run with the land" anymore, that is they are not automatically transferred to a new owner when a property changes hands. Now, she said, existing permits must be individually transferred to the new owner. If not done, when you want to do maintenance on the deck or dock or float you bought, a whole new permit process must be started, a lengthy and expensive process.

Complaining about the adversarial role taken by officials, she declared, "There is a disconnect between you as property owners, and our government." She noted that by the stroke of a pen, the buildable land has in many cases dramatically reduced and in some cases eliminated by the arbitrary placement of the "Designated Coastal Erosion Area," so when you want to do something, anything, you have to go to the ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeals) and beg them for a variance. So many actions require variances that the ZBA is completely overwhelmed. Its calendar is backlogged 3-4 months. 90% of the town is non-conforming, she noted. "There is something inherently wrong with our zoning code, if every action requires a variance." Ms. Moore urged

SoutholdVOICE members to aggressively lobby their elected officials to put some common sense back into the code. "You have to be aggressive," she said. "You have to protect your property rights. Don't sit back and think that it doesn't affect you, because it does."



The audience at the Southold VOICE annual meeting

Pat Moore and other members of the board then fielded questions from the

audience. Steve Kram noted that Southold is about six to nine years behind California in losing property rights. He urged SoutholdVOICE to become an advocacy group. *[Editor's note, we do not as a group, take positions on any issues, we provide a forum in which individuals can have their voices heard on either side of a waterfront-related issue]*

One questioner urged SoutholdVOICE to keep a scorecard on town officials, pro rights and anti rights so that the voters can know about the positions of their elected officials.

Christine Rivera of the West Mattituck Beach Assn, reported that it took \$65,000 from 19 families to reaffirm the common law that beachfront owners own to the mean high water mark. They took it to the NYS Court of Appeals, where, after 18 months, they prevailed. She urged owners to check their deeds.

## It is party time.

SoutholdVOICE invites you to a BBQ on the Bay, Thursday August 21st., 7-11 pm. On Claudio's Dock-on-the Bay, Greenport. Enjoy a sunset and starlight evening by beautiful Peconic Bay with family, friends and neighbors. Food, drinks music and dancing.



MYSTIC HIGHLAND PIPE BAND, FOUNDED IN 1970.

Entertainment will be by the  
**Mystic Highland Pipe and Drum Corps.**

Non-member tickets \$65.00. Members \$55.00. Not a member? Join today (\$35.00) and take your discount on the tickets to this special event. Ticket requests to P.O. Box 996, Southold, NY 11971. Tickets also available on-line at [www.SoutholdVOICE.com](http://www.SoutholdVOICE.com) at Claudio's, and at the law office of Pat Moore Esq. 51020 Main Rd. Southold 765-4330. For more information, telephone 765-9501 or 516-313-6684

## 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

Published by SoutholdVOICE, Inc.  
a 501 (c) 3 not for profit corporation  
Website: [www.SoutholdVOICE.com](http://www.SoutholdVOICE.com)  
Volume 2 no. 8 • August 2008

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